

Month

Beach Gardens, Florida

Hole Stats

Distance: 221 yards

Par 5

The Turf

Green: Tifeagle Ultra-dwarf Bermudagrass

Fairway: TifSport Bermudagrass

Raised greens and their many undulations are hallmarks of the Sunrise Course at the Country Club at Mirasol. This Tom Fazio-designed course has challenged pros playing in the Honda Classic PGA Tour event for the past three years.

"It's a very pleasurable course to play," says director of grounds Tad Altman. "It's challenging and aesthetically beautiful."

A medium par 3 at 221 yards, hole No. 11 confronts golfers with a surround green integrating many ripples and waves in the playing surface. With too much spin on the shot, the ball will likely hit a roll and trickle off the green.



A large bunker to the left circles halfway around the back of the green and a crushed-rock cart path on the right is flanked by 400 acres of preserve area.

Altman works closely with golf course superintendents Mike Thomas (Sunrise Course) and Scott Chastain (Sunset Course) to manage the 36 holes at Mirasol. Native grasses blowing in from the 800 acres of preserve, annual sedge, nutsedge and crabgrass are ongoing weed challenges.

A micro-program and biological control program supplement pre-emergent herbicide applications made several times throughout the year. Altman and his staff incorporate Basagran® T/O herbicide on a daily basis for spot-spraying any breakthrough weeds including yellow nutsedge and annual sedges.

"We have several staff members spot-treating with 2-gallon pump-up sprayers where the product is needed, including greens, fairways, tees and roughs," says Altman. "Basagran is a no brainer. I call it a workhorse — the weeds are gone in a week, and it's a staple for our facility."

To see past Holes of the Month, download a desktop image and more, visit www.turfacts.com.

Basagran® T/O herbicide offers superintendents reliable, cost-effective postemergent control of tough broadleaf weeds, sedges and more. For more information, contact your distributor or BASF at www.turfacts.com.



GOLFDOM'S HOLE OF THE MONTH IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

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I was motivated to revisit a free-verse poem called "The Superintendent" that I penned some 10 years ago after I received an e-mail and photo from superintendent Frank Sbarro of the La Gorce Golf Club in Miami. He said, "Life is stressful as a superintendent, but there are times like this Saturday morning that puts a super's life back in perspective."

Enclosed was a picture of a blazing-red sunrise reminder of the sometimes intangible rewards we often receive as we go about our daily grind. The dawning of a new year is a traditional time of reflection, so I took a fresh look at this homage to our many shared experiences as superintendents.

Certified superintendent Joel Jackson is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.

Ode to the Superintendent

BY JOEL JACKSON



OUR JOBS GIVE US A LOT TO BE
THANKFUL FOR, IF WE JUST ALLOW
OURSELVES TO NOTICE

*I can recall thousands of sunrises and too many sunsets I fear
I track the morning dew with flocks of turkeys and herds of deer
I play hide and seek with the owl and heron so regal
I watch in fascination the diving osprey and the soaring eagle*



*I surprise sunning alligators and turtles as they splash at my passing
I move serpents from harm's way or keep them from harassing
I yield the pathways to the squirrel and rabbit making a dash for cover
I say to those who complain, "Hush, for I too am a nature lover."*



*I am a student of my craft; on education is my reliance
I learn from peers and practitioners of agronomic art and science
I find solutions and ideas at national conference, chapter meeting
and the Web
I learn the value of networking and communicating does not ebb*



*I am a manager of resources and to results dedicated
I am counselor and disciplinarian to the chronically unmotivated
I am fallible also so I must pause and reflect
I am friend and mentor to those who earn my respect*



*I am the receiver of the proverbial buck; it always stops here
I balance demands and expectations with budgets and reality each year
I am challenged to please golfers from scratch to 36 handicaps on the
same day
I am the expert problem solver unless I differ from those who say nay*

*I have seen Mother Nature's random fury and destruction
I try to reverse her effects during grow-in and construction
I am held accountable for torrential rains and parching drought
I am expected to somehow in the end make it all work out*



*I bear red, scaly skin patches from my days in the sun.
I do not measure the work day in hours but until the job is done
I may have callused hands and boots that are muddy
I may lead by example but I am not always your buddy*



*I am a man. I am a woman. I am single and I am married
I have strengths and weaknesses. Like anyone I get harried
I have children growing up, and I have parents growing older
I often remain too silent when I should be bolder*



*I grow grass. It is what I do, but it is not who I am
I love being outdoors and a steward of the land
I am an artist creating a landscape with green verdant hues
I am a person of many colors from which you can choose*



*I love the profession, the people and the seasons
I do the best I can, with what I have and for all the right reasons
I am driven toward perfection even when the fickle fates refuse
I am understood only by those who walk in my shoes*

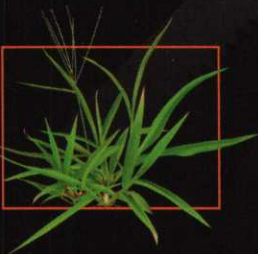
I am the Superintendent.



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This year's Golf Industry Show in Southern California comes with just one rule: If you're driving, only attempt to navigate the region between 10 and 2. That's 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Don't bother to stray farther than walking distance the rest of the time.

You'll thank me later.

As a lifelong resident, I've witnessed the traffic move from major inconvenience to a state of pure absurdity. Even with major road construction usually timed for nonrush hours, we still have plenty of two-mile trips that take 40 minutes. So on behalf of my neighbors, I apologize in advance should you get stuck in traffic while daring to take in some of the unique sights and sounds of Southern California.

But to get some flavor of the region, I suggest you stray from the Disney theme parks. Our region, contrary to popular belief, is rich in culture, scenery and, most importantly, great Mexican food.

With that in mind, I break up my recommendations by region and priority (well, my priorities).

First, some Orange County suggestions for those of you staying near the the Golf Industry Show's Anaheim base.

Culture: While not this area's strong suit, I'd recommend a visit to the Irvine Museum (www.irvinemuseum.org) to take in some classic California plein-air paintings. This great little collection, located in the ground floor of a swank office building, will take you back in time and show off California landscapes from around the turn of the 20th century. You'll wonder why painters like Guy Rose aren't held in the same regard as that Monet dude. Oh, and it's free.

Coast: Check out Balboa Island (www.balboaisland.com) for sure. This region of pricey homes and even pricier yachts still features a quaint, old California feel with family-run businesses serving up chocolate-covered bananas and an old-time amusement park (www.thebalboafunzone.com). A great place to take the family.

Mexican food: You'll have to head east but not too far from the Anaheim Convention Center

To Live And Sightsee in L.A.

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



I APOLOGIZE IN
ADVANCE SHOULD
YOU GET STUCK IN
TRAFFIC WHILE
DARING TO TAKE IN
SOME OF THE
UNIQUE SIGHTS
AND SOUNDS

if you want some fresh, flavorful food. Placentia's El Farolito (201 S. Bradford Ave, 92870) has been around for ages and features big portions, low prices and a rarity in Southern California — easy parking.

Now, if you should dare to venture up to the Los Angeles area, here are a few tips along the same lines.

Culture: If you want to see the city in a fresh way but still feel obligated to do the tourist thing, The Getty Center is your place (www.getty.org). The family will love the tram ride, views, inspiring architecture and affordable café. The art is pretty good, too. For an alternative, the recently reopened Griffith Park Observatory (www.griffithobs.org) is a stone's throw from the Hollywood sign and is wildly popular for the same reasons as the Getty.

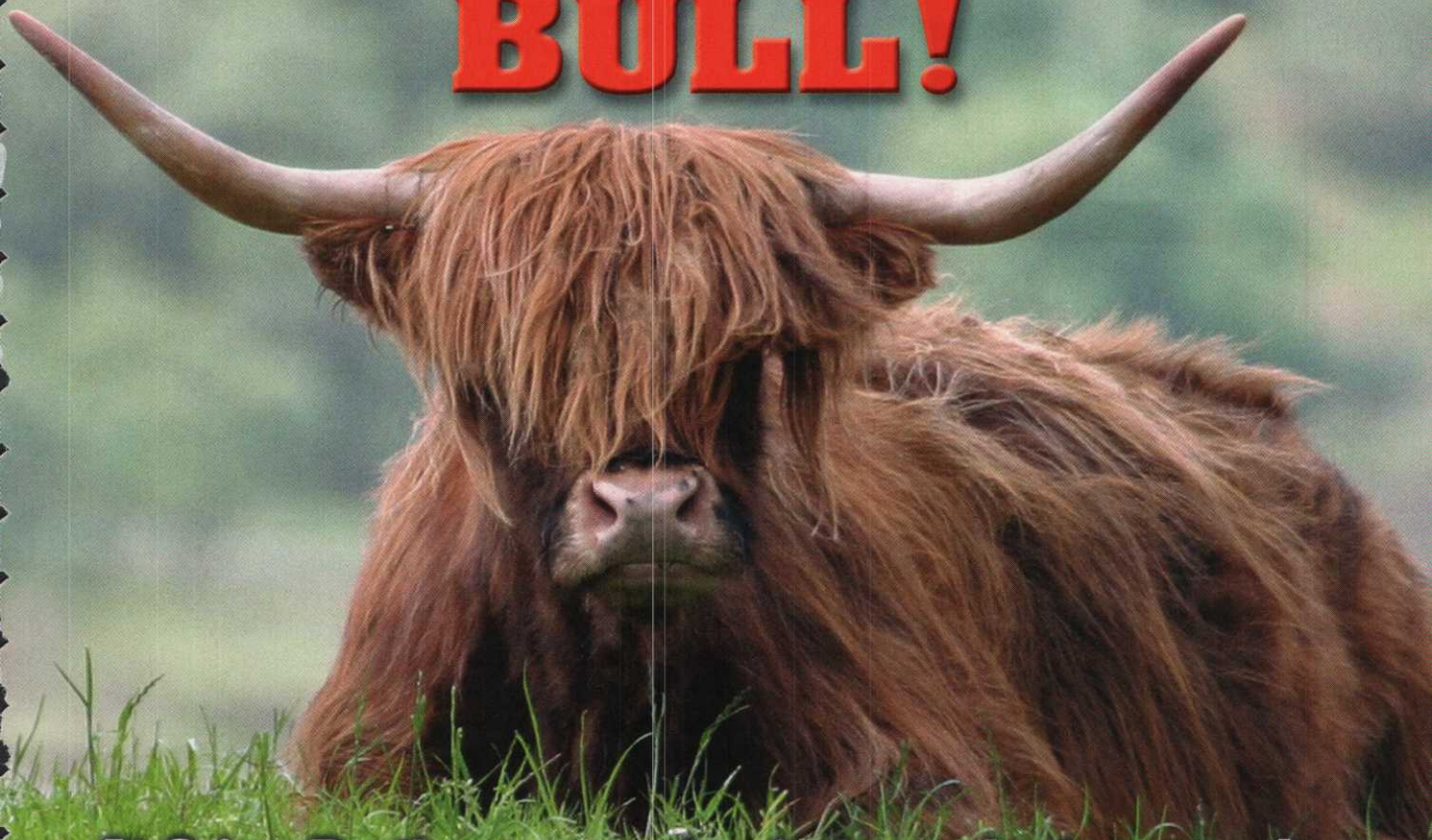
Coast: If you've brought the family, the Santa Monica Pier (www.santamonicipier.org) features an amusement park and great fun at all hours of the day. If you want something a little quirkier and more entertaining, Venice Beach (www.venicebeach.com) is just south of the pier and looks a lot like the Atlantic City boardwalk, with 10 times the madness (but all of the same T-shirt and luggage shops).

Mexican food: Located in multiple locations, La Serenata (www.laserenataonline.com) features dishes and tortillas you haven't had anywhere else. (But other than the cow tongue, it's all straightforward stuff with an emphasis on seafood.) El Cholo (www.elcholo.com) is also in three locations (Santa Monica, Pasadena and La Habra) and features classic, family-style cuisine at great prices. Just watch the potent margaritas.

And remember: 10 to 2! You heard it here first.

Contributing Editor and native Californian Geoff Shackelford can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com.

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A "SHOW" OF

BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR IN CHIEF

After taking it for a spin, Jim Nicol likes the way it drives. | *Handles well. Smooth ride.* | By the way, Nicol is talking about the Golf Industry Show, not the new Ford F150.

Back in 2005, when the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) merged their annual conferences and trade shows to form the Golf Industry Show (GIS), Nicol, the certified superintendent of Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., said he had to "test drive" the "new" bigger show before deciding if the merger was a good idea. After attending the shows in 2005 and 2006, Nicol says he's impressed with its performance. He says the show's increased size and scope hasn't hindered his personal agenda. He still attends the seminars he wants to attend, visits the same booths he wants to visit and sees the people he wants to see.

"I don't notice much difference," Nicol says, when asked to compare the Golf Industry Show to the GCSAA Conference and Show. "It's big, but it was always big."

This year, with the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) forsaking its own show to join the event, set for Feb. 19-27 in Anaheim, Calif., the GIS has grown as large as a Chevy Suburban. But Nicol, and others

for that matter, have no problem with the show's immensity. In fact, they believe the GIS, presented with support from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) and the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), signifies a show of strength, so to speak, on behalf of the several segments of the golf industry that have teamed together to stage it, including suppliers.

Club Car is one of a handful of companies that exhibited at the three trade shows staged by the GCSAA, the NGCOA and the CMAA. Mike Read, director of marketing for the Augusta, Ga.-based golf car and utility vehicle manufacturer, says the decision to consolidate the shows makes sense.

"There's a positive synergy building around the Golf Industry Show," Read says. "The idea of the key members of a facility's team being in the same place at the same time to facilitate decision making makes a lot of sense for exhibitors and attendees."

While terms like "merge" and "consolidate" are thrown about, the fact is the NGCOA and the CMAA have joined the GCSAA's show. Yeah, they merged all right, but the GCSAA was hosting the biggest party before the merger.

Hence, Nicol and other superintendents were concerned initially that if they had to share their show, it might lose its identity. That might have happened to a small degree, but it's not like superintendents are lost in the shuffle.

How much bigger will the show be this year? The show floor's net square feet will be about 298,000 square feet, and about 25,000

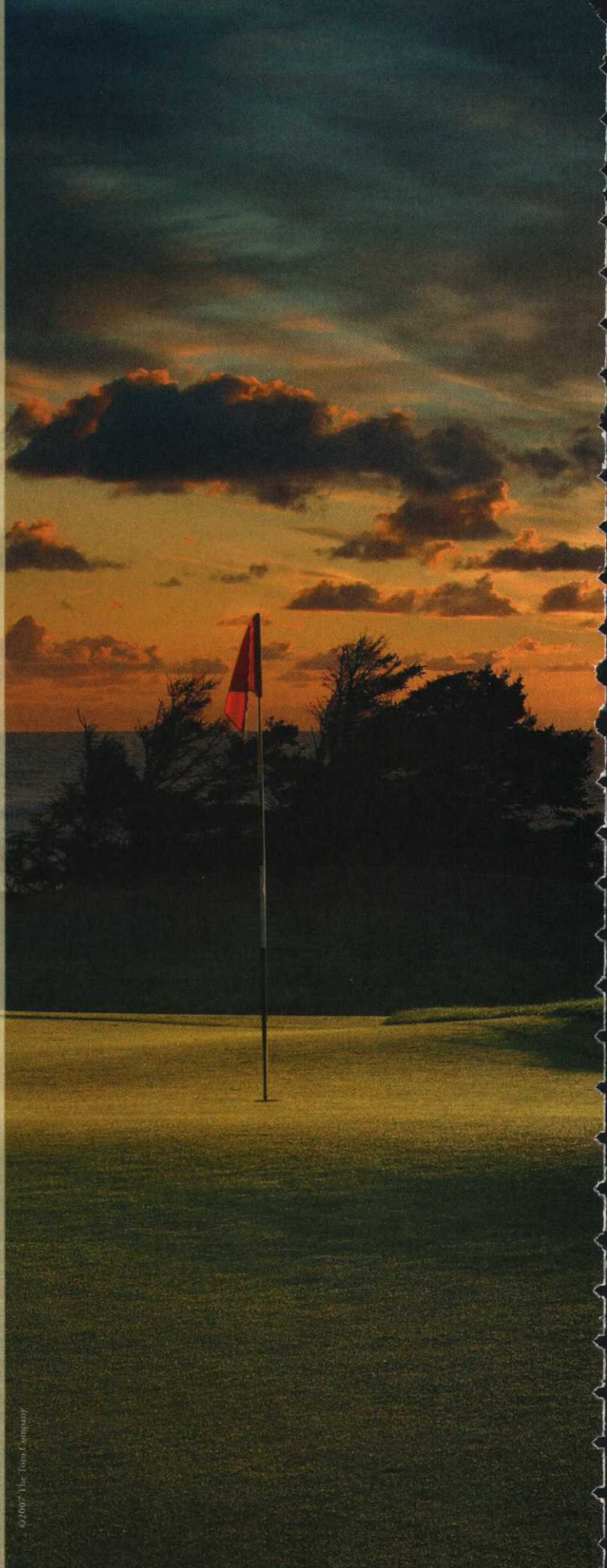
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"I don't notice much difference. It was big, but it was always big."

JIM NICOL | HAZELTINE
NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

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attendees are expected. The inaugural GIS in 2005 in Orlando registered 22,723 attendees and had 270,760 net square feet of exhibitor space. Last year, after the show was rescheduled from hurricane-battered New Orleans to Atlanta, the show attracted 18,900 attendees, and the show floor totaled 244,200 square feet. The decreases were expected because the show relocated.

Certified superintendent Kevin Smith, director of golf course maintenance at Bryan Park Golf & Enrichment Center in Browns Summit, N.C., is all for a bigger and stronger show. Smith says he has advocated drawing allied associations together for years. Joint meetings can help improve communication between different groups, he adds, among other things.

There might be growing pains, but they will subside eventually, Smith says. "It will be beneficial for the GCSAA and our allied associations," Smith says. "It will help us become closer and understand our challenges better."

Other superintendents share Smith's sentiments. Tommy Witt, director of golf course operations for Northmoor Country Club in Highland Park, Ill., realizes that some superintendents are hesitant about the owners and managers joining their show. "But as sensitive as it is for some superintendents, this can turn out to be a good thing," Witt says.

Todd Voss, superintendent of the Double Eagle Club in Galena, Ohio, wonders if the show is getting too big, but he likes the new concept. "The show has a lot of upside, like getting everybody together that's on the same team."

GCSAA CEO Steve Mona says many superintendents see the value of having owners and managers join their show. That's because owners and managers can see superintendents in their domain.

"Owners and managers are exposed to the golf course management profession and see how sophisticated it is and how serious our members are about their careers," Mona says.

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