

Hugo Recovery Shows Professionalism Pays Off

Wild Dunes Country Club was in shambles a year and a half ago after bearing the full fury of Hurricane Hugo.

But due to the massive rebuilding effort that followed the storm, the club now has a better course than before, according to Michael Fabrizio, course superintendent and treasurer for the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Meanwhile, a new course owned by the club, which had just begun construction when Hugo hit in September 1989, is now nearing completion, behind schedule but in top quality, Fabrizio said. "It was a pretty long year, but we had a lot of good things come out of it".

An example of commitment to quality and professionalism in the industry, Fabrizio led the \$1.5-million rebuilding of the club's Links course and Harbor course, both on the Isle of Palms near Charleston.

"We decided since we were closed, we would go ahead and do a renovation and try to make them better courses than they were before," he said.

Hugo tore up most of the greens, uprooted trees, smashed two maintenance buildings and ripped through irrigation

systems, Fabrizio said. Several holes had to be completely rebuilt, irrigation systems were re-installed, trees repaired, greens re-designed and rebuilt and two new maintenance facilities built.

And Mother Nature did not cooperate in helping Fabrizio and his staff undo her hurricane damage. Last summer, the Isle of Palms got 40 inches of rain during a 30-day period.

Despite all the setbacks, Links opened in July and Harbor was back in business by November.

Dunes West, the club's newest project a few miles from the other courses, should be open this summer, Fabrizio said.

From his vantage point as treasurer of the Carolinas GCSA, Fabrizio sees professionalism on the rise in the public's perception of golf course superintendents and in the superintendent's level of competence and skill.

"It's come a long way since I've been in the business," he said. "I've been in it since 1976. I think in certain areas, we still have a way to go. But we are doing a better job of being more professional, being more educated, trying to educate ourselves and keep up with the times."

He said environmental issues—particularly concerns about water conservation—are among the most serious issues facing golf course superintendents in the Carolinas.

The Links and Harbor courses use effluent water processed by the club's own treatment facility and now face upgrading the water plant to meet regulations from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The state Water Resources Commission is considering placing restrictions on water use in some coastal areas, but Charleston is not currently included in those proposals.

Fabrizio, who was superintendent of a golf course at Dataw Island in Beaufort before taking the helm at Wild Dunes three years ago, said a continued effort on education is vital to keeping the industry's image and professionalism moving upward.

"GCSAA has made great strides in giving us the opportunity for education and also trying to present us in a more professional manner in government relations, public relations and educational opportunities," he said.

—Ron Barnett, *Carolina Newsletter*

Nice Weather Brings Out Tree/Shrub Trouble

Spring is here. Trees and shrubs are sprouting. Crabapples are in bloom. It is a great time of year to be outdoors enjoying nature.

But, according to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturalist in Cook County, we are not the only ones that enjoy this time of year. Since many of the insects and diseases that attack our plants like this kind of weather too, many problems that show up later can be prevented by some attention now.

Foliar diseases such as leafspot, anthracnose and rust invade leaves as they open in spring. Apple scab and blackspot of roses, though they can occur throughout the season, are less severe if primary infections are prevented.

Fizzell suggests treating plants with a history of these problems with appropriate preventive fungicides such as trifenox, (Funginex), chlorothalonil (Bravo, Daconil 2787) or benomyl (Benlate). Be sure to follow label directions.

As soon as leaves emerge, insects that feed on them arrive as well. Eastern tent caterpillars make webs in fruit trees, willows and other ornamental trees. Clip out the "tents" when they appear, put them in a plastic bag and into the trash for pick up.

Masses of caterpillars on mugho pines are pine sawfly larvae. These insects will strip off the older needles on a shoot, but will not attack newly developing shoots. Strip the caterpillars off affected shoots with a gloved hand, or spray with malathion.

In the garden, there are insects just waiting for plants to arrive. Newly set broccoli or tomato plants that disappear or are cut off at the soil line are victims of cutworms that overwinter as hungry, immature larvae. Wrap stems with aluminum foil so the nighttime marauding pests can't find them. Slugs spend the night feasting on lettuce, petunias; earwigs prefer marigolds and chrysanthemum. Snail baits for slugs and carbaryl (Sevin) for earwigs will protect these varieties.

Take time now to do a little preventive work. You'll be glad later this season that you did.

—The Bull Sheet,
Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents