

# The Florida Green

Spring 2008



Number 5  
Timuquana Country Club  
Jacksonville  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek





|                     |   |
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## SPOTLIGHT: RUNNING AWAY

Seth Strickland ran away with the GCSAA golf championship by shooting three rounds of 68, while long-time FGCSA Association Manager Marie Roberts ran away to Las Vegas to begin retirement. Architect Steve Smyers and FTGA Executive Director Casey Pace spoke at the annual Central Florida GCSA Research Tournament.

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## COVER STORY: TIMUQUANA COUNTRY CLUB

Nestled on the banks of the St. Johns River a few miles south of downtown Jacksonville, Timuquana has maintained its classic Donald Ross design for 85 years. Now members are investing heavily in upgrades so that superintendent Chris Neff can maintain the design with modern equipment.

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## HANDS ON: MAKING DO WITH LESS

If you are on a golf course in the South Florida Water Management District and have a Consumptive Use Permit to pump ground or surface water for your irrigation, you have been forced to reduce your monthly consumption by 45 percent under the current Phase 3 Emergency Drought Order.

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## INDUSTRY NEWS: DEALING WITH WATER RESTRICTIONS

In the USGA Update, agronomists John Foy and Todd Lowe discuss the various levels (or phases) of restrictions, what you have to do and how best to cope with doing what's required.

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## STEWARDSHIP: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

More than 120 Florida Golf Courses have been certified as environmental sanctuaries by Audubon International. They are listed in Stewardship, along with 11 certified environmental stewards who stand ready to assist any golf course work toward certification. Many are in the process.

## DEPARTMENTS

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# The Florida Green

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## CALL FOR ARTICLES

**Hands on Topics:** Share your best practices and tips for these upcoming topics. Photographs or slides are encouraged. Digital images that are 5 inches wide at 300 dpi or greater accepted.

**Summer 2008** - Ultradwarf and Seashore Paspalum Greens

**Fall 2008** - Improving communication

**Winter 2009** - Technician and Staff Training

**Spring 2009** - Balancing the Budget

Please submit articles via e-mail if possible. Attached articles should be saved in Microsoft Word or, if you use another word processor save it as a text file before attaching, or you may just copy and paste it into the e-mail text box. Try to limit articles to 1500 words or less.

**Digital photos** must be a minimum of 5 inches wide at 300 dpi for publication-quality reproduction.

**Conventional Photos:** Do not write on the back of prints. Attach a Post-it note with ID information. All slides and photographs should include identification of persons in the picture and the name of the photographer.

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## It's Clearly Time to Go on Offense

For years, now, I have heard many very wise members of the FGCSA tell us that we need to get on the offensive when it comes to environmental issues before it is too late. I always listened but did my own thing, never really wanting to rock the boat.

Maybe I just did not know how to "go on the offensive." Maybe I was on the offensive and just did not know it. Recently the need to go on the offensive has become very clear to me.

It is not too late, but most of us can see that things are really changing quickly with the environmental movement. The push that started out years ago is snowballing into a very large swell and I am afraid most of us are missing it.

My 8-year-old son watches cartoons that talk about man-made global warming, pollution etc. My high school son asks me questions about the same type of issues and when I read his textbooks, I really get concerned. My daughter, who started college this year, has turned "green" in the past six months, and is being inundated with propaganda.

They are being taught that global warming is man-made, how pesticides are polluting our waterways and how we don't need lawns. They say rock gardens are just as aesthetically pleasing, and that if you install native plants with drip irrigation, there will be no more problems.

In our area, Lee and Collier Counties and the City of Naples are enacting fertilizer ordinances which contain some restrictions that are not based on science but emotion. The big question to all of these counties and municipalities is, "Who is going to monitor these programs?"

For the longest time, I have been receiving e-mails from Joel Jackson recounting what happened at this city council meeting or that meeting. I read them but they usually dealt with the lawn-care companies and homeowners. Last week I got an email from someone requesting information about golf courses and our BMPs and who monitors us. Do we report use and other factors? The wise men were right; it did not take long after local governments had regulated homeowners and landscape companies' use of fertilizers to turn the spotlight on us.

Last week I was speaking to Shelly Foy with the USGA regarding Audubon International's

program for golf courses. She was telling me that a large number of golf course have signed up for the program, and continue to pay the fees each year but have never begun work on certification.

Here is the part where I don't want to sound preachy but at least cautionary: I understand how time flies by and that time is also very precious. Nevertheless, the Audubon program might be a great way for our profession to regulate itself. The alternative might be the local government in your area. I know the program is not for everyone, but why not? Having been fortunate to work for two superintendents who believed in the program, and having seen both programs for golf courses firsthand, I can tell you it is not that hard.

The Audubon program is very easy because most of the things required to become certified are things that many of us do regularly. The program gives you a format and the tools to document it. Do not say it; I know what you are thinking: "This guy comes from one of those high-budget clubs in Naples; sure it is easy for them." Well, many of the fully certified clubs in the state are not high-budget operations.

In the past 12 months have you reduced water usage by removing a sprinkler head and installing native plants? Are you in the process of designing new irrigation systems to increase efficiency? Do you use ET rates to calculate nightly irrigation run times or use mulch or pine straw in landscape areas to reduce water loss? If you answered "yes" to any of the questions, you are well on your way to fulfilling the requirements for water conservation, one of the five areas of concern for the Audubon program. As I said, most of the things in the program are things that we all do already.

OK! Done. No more. In the Stewardship section of this issue, I have included a list of current Florida stewards for the Audubon program. If you need any information or encouragement please contact any of them.

I procrastinated long enough about writing this Presidents Message. I wasted enough time thinking about what to write, and moved it forward in my planner again and again.

I didn't want to come across as preaching or giving you the same information repeatedly. I have tried to plead my case about something I firmly believe in and maybe some of those who read this will do something about it.

As I said, it's time to take the offensive.

Enjoy the rest of your season and let us hope for a quiet, rainy summer season.



*Matt Taylor, CGCS President*



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## CHAPTER ROUNDUP

## Events Pick Up Speed Following the Golf Industry Show

**CALUSA:** Stuart Taylor will host our March meeting at his Plantation Golf Club in Fort Myers. Our guest speaker will be FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson, who will discuss current issues facing Florida golf course superintendents.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA:** The chapter raised \$3,800 at the 20th Annual FTGA Research Tournament in January at the Interlachen County Club in Winter Park. The event has raised more than \$80,000 for turf research. Thanks to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and Club Manager Don Emery for the great golf, good food and gracious hospitality. Our next big outing will be the Superintendent/Vendor Tournament at Chris Cartin's Tusawilla CC March 31.

**COASTAL PLAINS:** Our external vice president Shane Bass, CGCS went to GCSAA headquarters in March to participate in the annual chapter leaders and executive meeting as FGCSA vice president. He will be joined by FGCSA secretary/treasurer Bill Kistler from the West Coast Chapter and FGCSA association manager Jennifer Innes.

**EVERGLADES:** We have joined other chapters in detailed discussions with the South Florida Water Management District to adjust the current method of allocating the amounts of water we can use during the busy golf season. No other industry has been cut back as much as golf, and we are not big water users



*Guests and speakers at the 20th Annual Central Florida FTGA Research Tournament were (from left): Executive Directors Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired, Florida GCSA and Casey Wohl Pace, Florida Turfgrass Association. Golf Course Architect Steve Smyers, UF Turf Student Justin Toy and CFGCSA President Gary Myers, CGCS.*

when measured against the other major water consumer groups. We are looking forward to our 2008 Spring Symposium April 17 at the Naples Beach Hotel with its usual star-studded agenda of top speakers.

**NORTH FLORIDA:** Fred Klauk has retired as head superintendent of the TPC course at Sawgrass; Tom Vlach, CGCS will be taking his place.

After the FTGA Regional Seminars and GCSAA Golf Industry Show in January, we will take a break in February to prepare for our annual Turf Research Tournament at Glen Klauk's Pablo Creek Club, and our 2008 Memorial Tournament at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville G&CC.

In May we will not have a meeting as we will be busy helping out at the TPC Sawgrass PGA Tournament.

**PALM BEACH:** We had a good response to our

Toys for Tots drive for the holiday, raising \$2,100 and 35 donated toys. We are heavily involved with other South Florida chapters with the effort to get the SFWMD to modify their water-restrictions model and percentage of cutbacks. We have shown statistically that we are facing disproportionate cutbacks compared to other industries and user groups. Help us by attending our chapter meetings and event so we can all stay up to date on the issues.

**RIDGE:** Will the real winner of the Jack Harrell, Sr. Ridge Invitational please stand up? After a scoring committee session that would send shudders through the halls of the USGA Golf House, Mark Hopkins was declared the winner. But the real winners were the players who enjoyed a fun golf course, The Club at Eaglebrooke,

prepared by Alan Puckett and his staff and a barbecue dinner prepared by Ray Cuzzone and last – but not least – the many local charities and turf research supported by the proceeds of the event.

**SEVEN RIVERS:** Bob Marrino had a nice write up recently in the *St. Petersburg Times* ([http://www.sptimes.com/2008/01/16/Sports/It\\_s\\_all\\_about\\_pin\\_pl.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2008/01/16/Sports/It_s_all_about_pin_pl.shtml)) about why superintendents move the cups around on the greens. Keith Kirchoffer and the Harbor Hills GC hosted our February Meeting with guest speaker Todd Lowe of the USGA Green Section. And in March, Mark Dixon hosted our annual Vendor Appreciation Day at the West End GC. Meanwhile we are getting ready to host our annual Jeff Hayden, Envirotron Classic in April to raise much-needed research funds for the projects we have under way



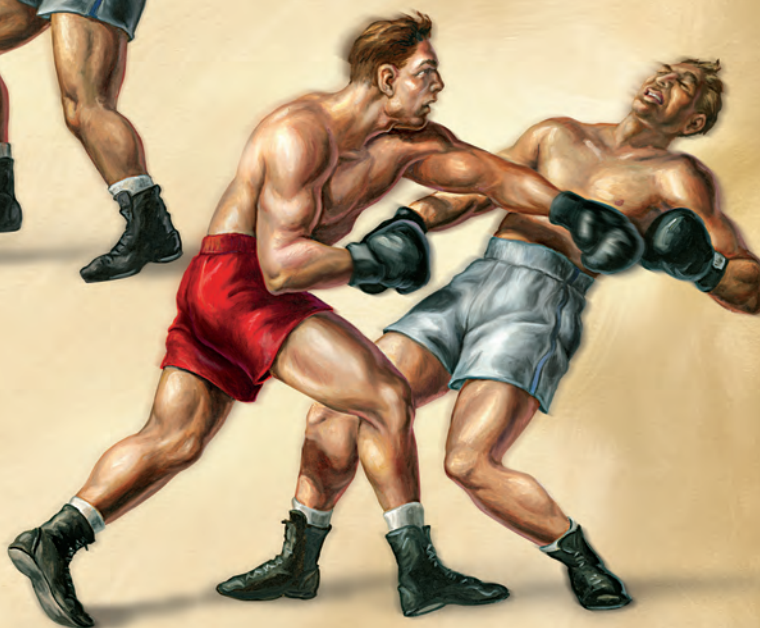
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Scott Scamerhorn (left) of the Ridge GCSA presents Mark Hopkins with a portrait of Jack Harrell, Sr. by David Pursell. Hopkins shot a 73 to win the Ridge Invitational at The Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland.

at the University of Florida.

**SOUTH FLORIDA:** What can we say? Seth Strickland, you are the man! As you may know by now Seth won the GCSAA National Golf Championship in January posting a 16-shot margin of victory. He shot three consecutive 68s to capture the title. Our traditional Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale REC is moving

to April this year due to school schedules. We expect another large turnout.

**SUNCOAST:** We celebrated our annual Superintendent/Vendor Appreciation Day at the Bradenton CC thanks to our host Renze Berg. We now focus on preparations for our big annual fundraiser, the Suncoast Scramble, to be held at Adam Wright's Laurel Oak

CC March 31.

**TREASURE COAST:** We will hold a budget survey meeting in March and we are busy lining up sponsors for our big bash, The Blue Pearl tournament in May.

**WEST COAST:** Our President Bill Kistler will be attending the GCSAA's Chapter Leaders and Executives meeting in Lawrence, Kan. in late March. And by the time this hits the news stand we will have completed our annual Benevolent Tournament at Andy Neiswender's Lake Jovita G.C., and Gerry Marquardt's hosting of our annual March meeting at his Largo GC.

**FGCSA:** The end of an era has finally come. 24-year veteran Association Manager Marie Roberts was honored, roasted and toasted at the FGCSA Reception in Orlando as she formally stepped down from the FGCSA, and went into semi-retirement. She will remain active, serving the Palm Beach and South Florida chapters.

If you have any FGCSA related questions, just look in the front of the magazine and you will see the contact information for our new

Association Manager Jennifer Innes. Jennifer hit the ground running last October and is our new Go-To Gal!

Executive Director Joel Jackson is a member of the South Florida Water Management District's Long Range Water Conservation stakeholder group, representing Sports and Leisure industries. The group will be submitting a list of practical water conservation measures applicable to various water user groups including the general public. Jackson was also on hand in Tallahassee in January when the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Group wrapped up its deliberations and voted unanimously on a set of recommendations for a model statewide fertilizer ordinance.

Congratulations to the following FGCSA members for receiving GCSAA 2007 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards: Fred W. Klauk Jr., TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, North Florida GCSA Chapter winner for Resort Facilities, and Jason M. Kubel, TPC Tampa Bay, Florida West Coast GCSA as the Merit Winner for Public Facilities.

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# 2008 Golf Industry Show Sets All Sorts of Records

## GCSAA Golf Championships

Seth Strickland superintendent from Miami Shores Country Club in south Florida kicked things off by shooting a three-day total of 12-under-par 204, the lowest winning score in the 58-year history of this tournament, and a stunning 16-shot margin of victory – also the biggest in tournament history. To put it simply, Strickland owned the Tom Watson-designed Independence Course at Reunion Resort. Strickland is now a two-time champion; he won the event the last time it was played in Orlando, in 2005.

In other GCSAA golf results, the Florida No. 1 and No. 2 teams tied for second place, two shots behind the winning team from the Carolinas GCSA. And our No. 3 and No. 4 teams were only three shots back.

Bob Harper and Roy McDonald tied for 11th place in the competition. All in all a good showing by our most prolific golfers.

### MONA FINISHES STRONG

This was Steve Mona's last Golf Industry Show as the CEO of the GCSAA. He deflected all attention from his departure and went about the business of GCSAA members in his usual professional manner. The GCSAA Board of Directors has narrowed down the search for Mona's replacement to three candidates. It will be interesting to see



*Seth Strickland (left) from the South Florida GCSA ran away from the field in the 2008 GCSAA Golf Championship by shooting three rounds of 68. GCSAA President Ricky Heine presented Strickland with the trophy at the GIS Opening Session in Orlando Jan. 31. Photo by Bruce Mathews.*

who becomes the next administrative leader for the GCSAA.

### GREG THROWS GAUNTLET

Greg Norman, a passionate competitor on and off the golf course, was named the recipient of the 2008 Old Tom Morris Award emblematic of a person who has contributed notably to the game of golf. Norman, who also serves

as chairman of the GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf, didn't waste any time in throwing down the gauntlet and challenging the golf industry to focus on playable golf courses versus lush green golf courses.

Many in the industry are on board with the idea and the reasons behind it. The true test will be to see if high profile players and organizations will walk the

talk to help convert the millions of golfers to accept that brown can be beautiful too.

### ATTENDANCE RECORD

Meanwhile overall attendance reached 25,737 beating last year's record of 23,099 set in Anaheim. Obviously the new GIS format and partnerships are working and bringing needed attendance. It



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## SPOTLIGHT



*Greg Norman (pro golfer, course designer, entrepreneur and environmental stewardship advocate) was named the Old Tom Morris Award winner for 2008 by the GCSAA. President Ricky Heine presented the award to Norman at the GIS in Orlando. Photo by Bruce Mathews.*

appears the new show partnership will be extended to 2014, definitely a good sign.

### **8000 SEMINAR SEATS**

In the education department over 8,000 seminar seats were sold, also a GCSAA record.



*GCSAA CEO Steve Mona (center) in one of his last appearances as administrative leader of the association talking about the future of the GCSAA with Golf Channel's Adam Barr (right) and GCSAA President Ricky Heine during the GIS Opening Session in Orlando. Photo by Bruce Mathews.*



## John Riley, GCS

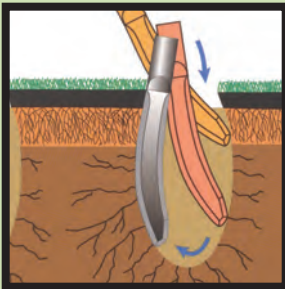
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# More than 900 say 'Farewell' to Marie

More than 900 FGCSA members, sponsors and guests bid Marie Roberts a fond farewell as she officially retired from service as the association manager of the Florida GCSA at the Florida Reception during the Golf Industry Show in Orlando Jan. 31.

Marie was joined by her daughters Suzanne Turner and Colleen Patterson and her son Mark as well as several close friends from the Stuart area to celebrate the occasion which was highlighted by some testimonial comments beginning with Past President Tom Burrows who originally drafted Marie into service back in 1984 by asking if she would mind typing a few letters for him. And the rest is a wonderful history and legacy of unselfish service to our association.

Matt Taylor (speaking for Tim Hiers), Paul Crawford, Greg Pheneger and Joel Jackson each paid tribute to Marie for various

aspects of her service and accomplishments on behalf of the FGCSA members. Jackson ended his "roast" of Marie with an ode to commemorate her tenure as association manager.

Thanks to the donations from the local chapters, Marie was given an all-expense-paid trip for two to Las Vegas. Special thanks to Gail Pheneger who rounded up dozens of family photos and pictures of Marie at FGCSA functions to create a Power Point slide presentation of the life and times of Marie Roberts.

While Marie has "retired" from FGCSA service, she will continue to provide executive administrative assistance to the Palm Beach and South Florida chapters.

She said, "I'm glad I have the chapters to work for. It would be too hard to just quit cold turkey and not be around all these great people I have met working for the FGCSA. Thank you all for what you have meant to me."



*The Belle of the Ball Marie Roberts escorted by FGCSA President Matt Taylor and FGCSA Reception Chairman Paul Crawford as the guest of honor at her retirement celebration in Orlando.*



*Entrance to the FGCSA Reception at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando Jan. 31. The first hour was dedicated to honoring Association Manager Marie, who retired after 24 years of service.*

## Ode to Marie

*A voice of conscience, of thought and reason.  
The glue holding us together, whatever the season.*

*Recorder of thoughts. Keeper of ledgers.  
Historian for all of our timely treasurers.*

*Confessor, counselor, critic and voice,  
To guide and remind us to make the best choice.*

*Professional, reliable and always steadfast.  
A beacon, a rock for these 20 plus years past.*

*Always willing and giving and doing your best.  
From early morning phone calls to last minute request.  
Serving us with decorum and with humor and jest.*

*Time has flown so swiftly, all the work and the fun.  
Marie, sweet Marie, you are our number one.*



THE 2008

# Florida GCSA Reception

- AND -

## Marie Roberts Retirement Celebration



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**Special thanks to all the Florida GCSA chapters  
who donated for Marie's farewell reception and farewell gift.**



## Celebrating Two Decades of Turf Research Fundraising

Interlachen Country Club's golf course superintendent Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and club manager Don Emery welcomed 34 teams of golf course superintendents and club officials to the 20th annual Central Florida Turf Research Tournament benefitting the Florida Turfgrass Association's Research Foundation.

Leventhal reported that over \$80,000 has been raised by the event which is a cooperative undertaking by the Interlachen Club and the Central Florida GCSA. The club donates the use of the course, golf carts, greens fees and clubhouse meeting and dining facilities and the Central Florida GCSA picks

up the food costs for the luncheon. All net proceeds from the event are donated for turfgrass research projects.

After introductions and comments by host superintendent Leventhal, Gary Myers, CGCS, President of the Central Florida Chapter presented a \$1,500 scholarship to UF turf student Justin Toy.

Casey Wohl Pace, executive director of the FTGA and Joel Jackson, executive director of the Florida GCSA reported on association and turf industry news and events. Following those presentations, the keynote speaker was golf course architect Steve Smyers, who discussed his



At the CFGCSA Research Tournament, Justin Toy (left) received a \$1,500 scholarship check from CFGCSA President Gary Myers to assist him with his turf science studies at the U of Florida. Justin was a summer intern on the Palm GC at Disney.

recent renovations to the golf course.

Smyers gave a slide presentation to show how subtle changes to the course were made to change views and shot making values. The greens were re-worked to improve drainage and create new putting surface contouring and fairway problem areas had additional drainage added as well.

Competitors in the two-person team scramble event got to see all the changes

first hand after lunch as they experienced the "new" Interlachen. Hal Richburg and Matt Payne from the Victoria Hills Golf Club in Deland successfully defended their Low Gross Winner's title from last year. The playing conditions and club hospitality were superb as always. Special thanks to the entire staff at Interlachen for making this another great event which raised \$3,800 for turf research.

### Golf Results

**1st Flight Gross:** Hal Richburg and Matt Payne  
**1st Flight Net:** Kevin Rotti and Alan Self

**2nd Flight Gross:** Alan Lichter and Rodney Reiffsnider  
**2nd Flight Net:** Steve Wright and Robert Anderson

**3rd Flight Gross:** Scott Fabulich and Harold Laymas  
**3rd Flight Net:** Jason Morris and John Andal

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— Jeff Taylor, Golf Course Superintendent  
Boca Pointe Country Club



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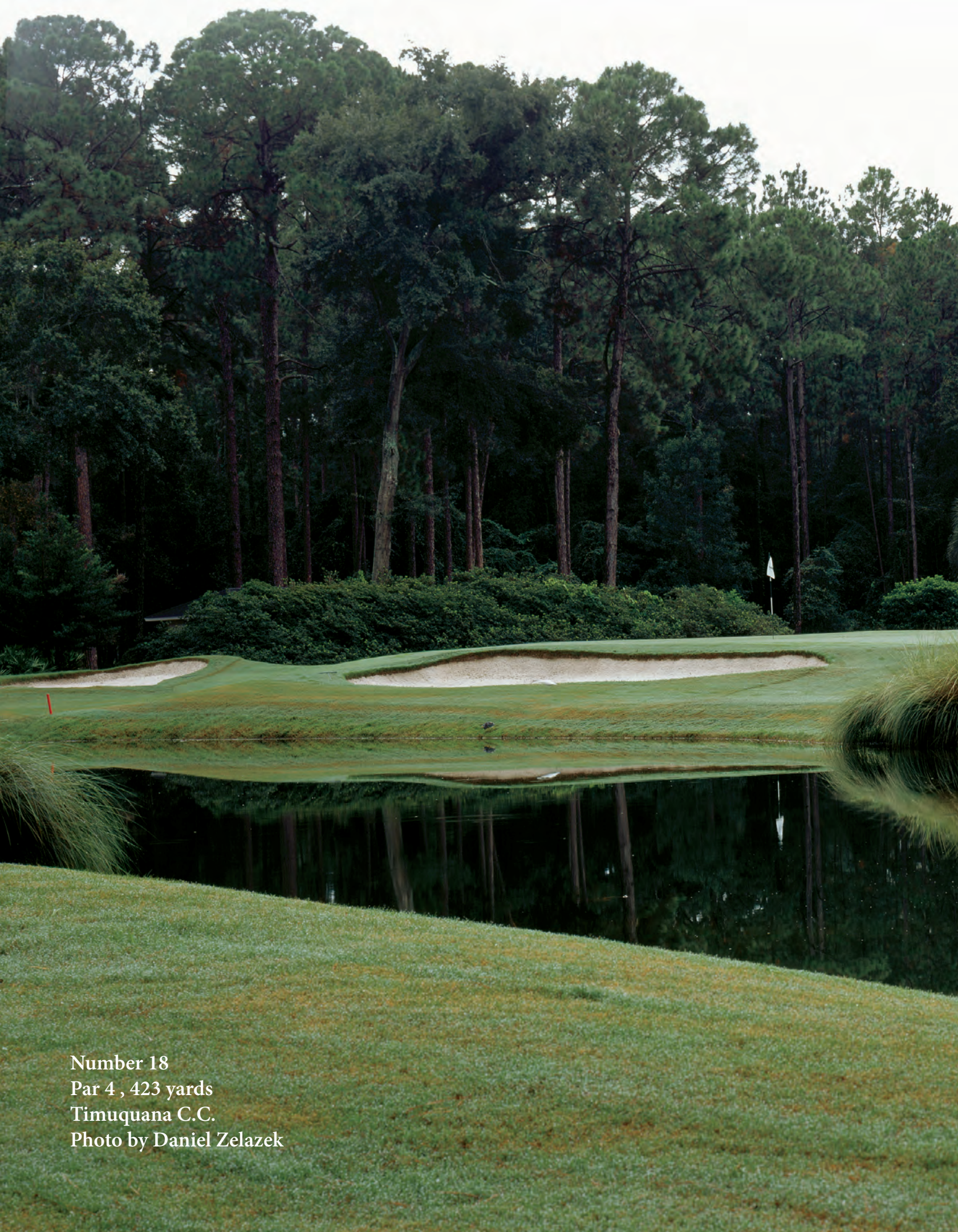
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Number 18  
Par 4 , 423 yards  
Timuquana C.C.  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek





## Timuquana Country Club Planning Ahead and Embracing Change

By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired

Nestled in the woods on the banks of the St. Johns River a few miles south of downtown Jacksonville lays the Timuquana Country Club. The course is a Donald Ross design and, according to club history, was established in 1923.

The course has maintained its classic design over the past 85 years, but the members aren't opposed to

making changes that will modernize the infrastructure and allow golf course superintendent Chris Neff to maintain the original look and feel, but with modern maintenance equipment and practices.

The members' desire to preserve the parkland look so prevalent in the 1920's is appreciated by golfers who enjoy getting a taste of the history of the game. I found an unsigned course review when I searched golfink.

com for background on Timuquana Country Club for this story.

The review reads: *In a city overrun with tricked-up, cookie-cutter designs, this Ross layout (and Weed re-design) represents a refreshing departure from fairway moguls and 650-yard par 5s. It is a classic course featuring tree-lined fairways and trademark Ross greens. Position off the tee is priority No. 1, and you'll be asked to hit more than just driver off the tee. Front nine par*



## COURSE FACTS



## Timuquana Country Club

**Location:** Jacksonville

**Ownership:** Equity membership

**Number of Holes:** 18; 6,849 yards; par 72; Slope/Rating: 125 / 73.3

**Design:** Donald Ross, established 1923. Redesign by Bobby Weed in 1996, construction by MacCurrach Golf

**Management:** Vince McCormack, president; Russell Skinner, green chairman; Deborah Johnson, club manager; Clint Avert, head golf professional; Rusty Nicholas, building supervisor; Chris Neff, Class A GCSAA Member, golf course superintendent

**Major renovations or ongoing projects:** Recent tree removal and pruning project to allow sunlight and air circulation for the health and sustainability of the putting greens and turf areas in play. Longrange plan to renovate greens, tees, bunkers and the irrigation system in the summer of 2009. A new landscape plan and practice facility will be incorporated in a new plan for the entire club grounds and high-visibility areas on the golf course.

**Total acreage under maintenance:** 80

**Greens:** TifEagle, avg 4,000 sq. ft., 3.0 A; HOC .125 winter .150 summer; overseeding: Cypress Poa trivialis at 10 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.

**Tees, Fairways and Roughs:** Tees are El Toro Zoysiagrass and Tifway 419, 3.0 A, HOC 7/16 in.; overseed bermuda tees only with Paragon ryegrass at 250 lbs/A. Fairways 27 A of "a Heinz 57 variety of 419, Tifway II and common, HOC 1/2 in., no overseeding. Roughs 41 A, HOC 2.0, no overseeding.

**Bunkers:** 82 bunkers, Florida Rock masonry sand No. 302; hand- and machine-raked with John Deere 1200A.

**Natural areas:** 40 A palmetto thickets and oak and pine wooded areas. Maintenance: Simple spot treating for weed control. Some "touch up" pine straw applications. Most areas are self-mulching under the native trees.

**Waterways:** 5 ponds with aeration fountains. Total 2 A; contract maintenance with Clear Waters company. Addition of aerators to offset nutrients from reclaimed water storage.

**Irrigation water source:** Reclaimed water from Jax Naval Air Station with secondary artesian well if needed.

**Irrigation equipment:** Syncroflo pump station, 742 heads, Rainbird Stratus II System; fertigation system: Apply N-Control, 28-0-0 and 4-0-8 with minor nutrients.

**Water Management and Conservation practices:** No restrictions currently since we primarily just use reclaimed water. We do not overseed fairways and roughs in the winter. I have to monitor pH levels due to reclaimed water.

**Staff:** 20 including superintendent (18 full time and 2 part time).

**Key staff members:** Assistant Superintendent Don Bryant; Equipment Technician Chris Shackelford; Pest Control Technician Jerry Weir; Irrigation Technician Chris Maynard; Landscape Foreman Billy Silvia.

**Communications/Meetings:** Weekly department head meetings; weekly staff meetings with assistants and technicians; daily morning meeting with entire staff; Monthly Green Committee meetings.

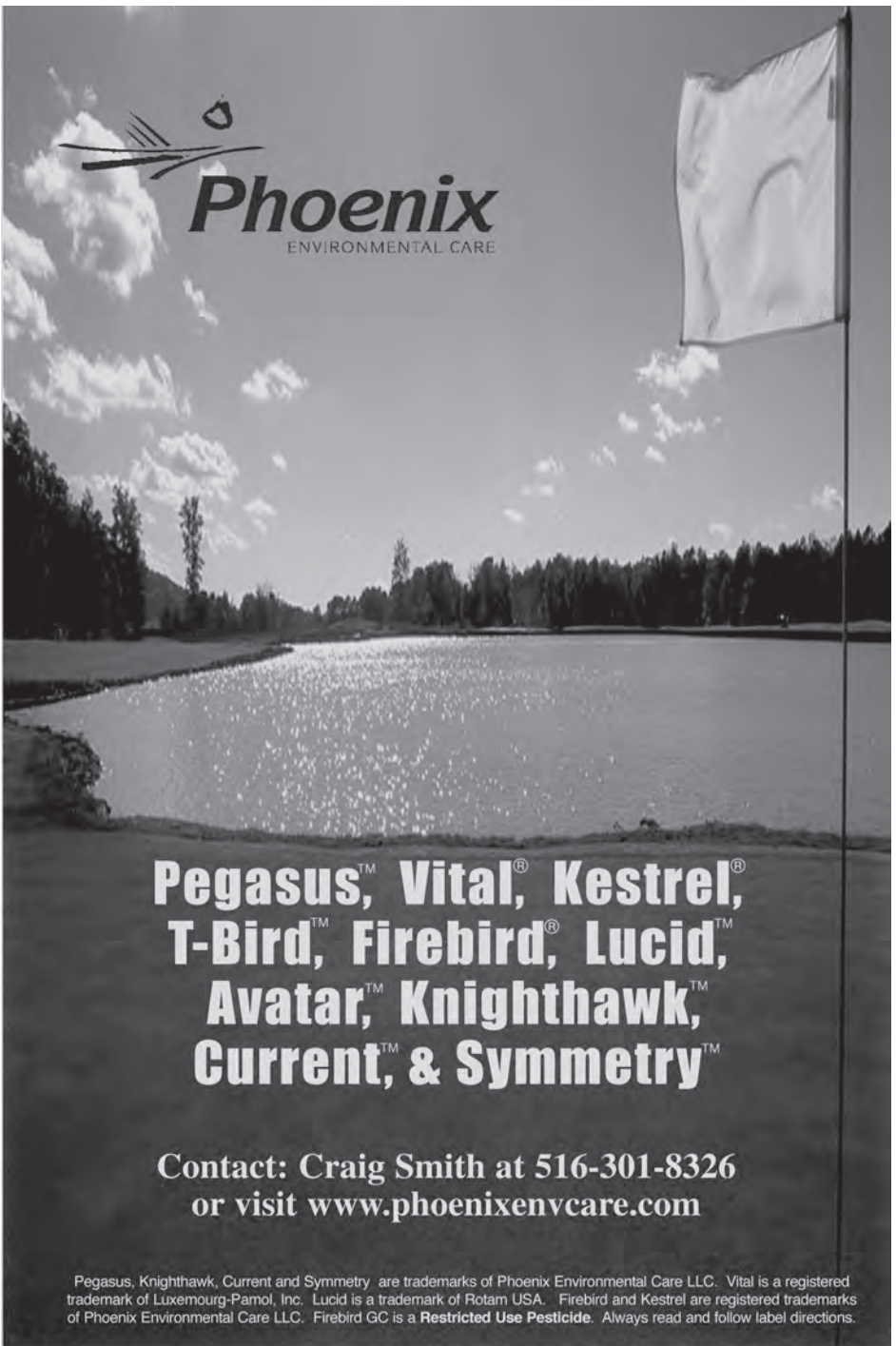



*5s (Nos. 4 and 6) are reachable in two, but greens are difficult to hit and putt. Course is always in immaculate condition.*

One of the best decisions the club made in 1996 was to partner with next-door neighbor, the Jacksonville Naval Air Station (NAS) to take as much of their treated waste water as they could to irrigate the golf course. With the concerns over water use, quality and availability now for the future, this agreement turned out to be a monumental decision and investment by the club to secure irrigation water for the future.

Neff works closely with the engineers at the NAS to discuss periodic water quality tests and other necessary system maintenance programs. Neff does his own independent water testing annually to check the levels of sodium, chlorine and other compounds that actually make it onto the golf course from his irrigation lake that stores the water coming from the NAS.

As mentioned in the review, Golf Course Architect Bobby Weed did a major restoration and renovation of the course in 1996 in conjunction with the irrigation conversion from well water to reclaimed water. Weed will be returning in 2009 to oversee a change-over to a new grass on the greens and some improvements to the tee and bunker complexes. At that time, the irrigation system will also undergo some technology improvements to



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## SUPERINTENDENT FACTS



*Superintendent Chris Neff is testing MiniVerde as the possible new turf for the Timuquana greens. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

### Chris Neff, Class A Golf Course Superintendent

**Originally from** Philadelphia, Pa.  
Moved to Kissimmee in 1984.

**Wife:** Billie

**Education:** BA in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida

**Employment:** 2001-Present, superintendent Timuquana Country Club; 1996-2001 assistant superintendent TPC Sawgrass; 1996 assistant superintendent Saddlebrook Resort; 1992 intern Isleworth Country Club; 1991-95; intern Gainesville Country Club; 1990-91 crew member Grand Cypress Resort.

**Professional Affiliations:** Member of the GCSAA. Active in the NFGCSA - past president in 2005. FGCSA board member 2006.

**How did you get into the business?**

I took a job on the crew at the Grand Cypress Resort and was hooked. Four people who helped shape my career: Tom Alex, Buck Buckner, Jeff Hayden and Fred Klauk. They instilled core personal and professional values in me that I have never forgotten such as: Be a hard worker, good communicator, and good listener and use common sense before you act.

**Accomplishments:** College degree, Set-up and preparation for five TPC Player Championship tour events, and USGA Senior Amateur event.

**Goals:** Working on becoming a CGCS. Finish long-range plan at Timuquana and achieve Audubon Certified Status for the club.

**Work philosophy and advice:** Work hard. Set achievable goals and once attained create new goals. Surround yourself with great people. You will only be as good as your staff.

**Memorable moments:** Working at a PGA Tour Event

**Hobbies:** Fishing and I love to read. I'm a real magazine buff..



*One of the best decisions the club made in 1996 was to partner with next door neighbor, the Jacksonville Naval Air Station (NAS) to take as much of their treated waste water as they could to irrigate the golf course.*

include new satellite controllers to provide true single head control and inner/outer heads around the greens.

The next big decision the club made was to allow Neff to begin a long range tree- and shade-management program. Removing any tree from a golf course setting can face a lot of resistance, even at the expense of healthy turf and manageable putting surfaces. However, the members relented and allowed Neff to proceed. Dense shade and poor air circulation were Neff's primary concerns and began on the 12th hole, which was the worst. Neff said, "Essentially huge areas of the roughs and fairway were thin, weed-infested areas with black scaly algae patches. The trees formed a solid wall blocking out sunlight and air movement. Selectively and judiciously Neff coordinated the thinning out of the wood lines.

In many areas the trees were chipped on site and used to mulch the understory. In some cases the mulch was used to augment the maintenance trails that connected the holes. In the end, palmetto thickets no one had ever seen emerged and views of adjacent holes became possible, adding to the beauty of the course. And of course once trees were either removed or pruned, the sunlight and air circulation worked their magic and the turf regained its color, vigor and playability. Today, the course looks so



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*A gray dawn breaks on the 503 yard, 4<sup>th</sup> hole. Footprints in the dew indicate golf course maintenance has already been here setting up the course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

***The next big decision the club made was to allow Neff to begin a long range tree- and shade-management program... huge areas of the roughs and fairway were thin, weed-infested areas with black scaly algae patches. The trees formed a solid wall blocking out sunlight and air movement.***

natural that everyone accepts that this is the way it always was.

Neff said that next on the agenda is an ambitious landscaping plan that will emphasize the use of native grasses and flowering native plants to enhance turf-to-woods transition areas and to provide appealing splashes of native color in high-visibility areas. The landscape plan will be one part of the goal to become a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by attracting birds, butterflies to the blossoms and seeds of the native plants.

All this planning, coordination and implementation of change doesn't happen in a vacuum. Neff told me that General Manager Deborah Johnson's prime directive for department heads and staff is that everyone working together is a must. An atmosphere of give and take is fostered. Neff said, "We

are all grown ups. We get to air our concerns but at the end of the day," Neff said, "We support everyone at the club. For me, Head Professional Clint Avert is the key to helping me get our programs done with minimum inconvenience to our members."

To minimize golfer inconvenience the club provides Neff with enough closed days and coupled with slower play days and seasons, the major cultural practices are accomplished without disturbing the golfer's enjoyment of the game. Neff keeps the green committee regularly informed of all major maintenance projects from aerifications to tree work and pesticide and fertilizer treatments. By doing the work during slow times and closed days, the staff can get the work done efficiently without interference.

Neff said other factors which have



Photos courtesy of El Camaleón, Mayakoba, Mexico  
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**General Manager Deborah Johnson's prime directive for department heads and staff is that everyone working together is a must. An atmosphere of give and take is fostered. Neff said, 'We are all grown-ups. We get to air our concerns but at the end of the day, we support everyone at the club.'**

aided the efficiency and appearance of the course has been the reduction of maintained turf from 120 to 80 acres. By instituting a fairway topdressing program and aerifying twice per year and by keeping a close eye on the irrigation, Neff says playing conditions have improved on the mixed-grass fairways and the heavier soils near the river absorb the rains much better.

Neff continued, "The club also chose to stop overseeding the fairways and roughs. It was a decision based on a request from the USGA when the club hosted the Senior Amateur Tournament in 2001. They didn't want us to have to struggle with transition for their event so we didn't overseed that year. We liked the results so much we stuck with it. That move alone helped with the appearance and management of the course overall. Our location next to the river keeps us warmer and prevents most severe freezes."

The fairways, a combination of

Tifway 419, Tifway II and common bermudagrass, would seem to be a prime candidate for replacement with a monostand, but Neff begs to differ.

"The cost to attempt to create a 'pure' monostand just wouldn't be worth it. There are plenty of examples of folks who have spent a lot of dollars and still end up with contamination. What we have done is to learn how to manage what we have so that we minimize stressful situations that will cause one variety to go off-color or get thin and stand out. Using Primo (growth regulator) has been very helpful in keeping the grasses more consistent. Frankly the blend of grasses is more indicative of the old classic courses which Timuquana proudly represents."

One turf change that will take place in 2009 will be the grass on the putting surfaces. Neff said the jury is still out on switching to an ultradwarf variety or staying with one of the proven, more stable Tifdwarf varieties. If the club

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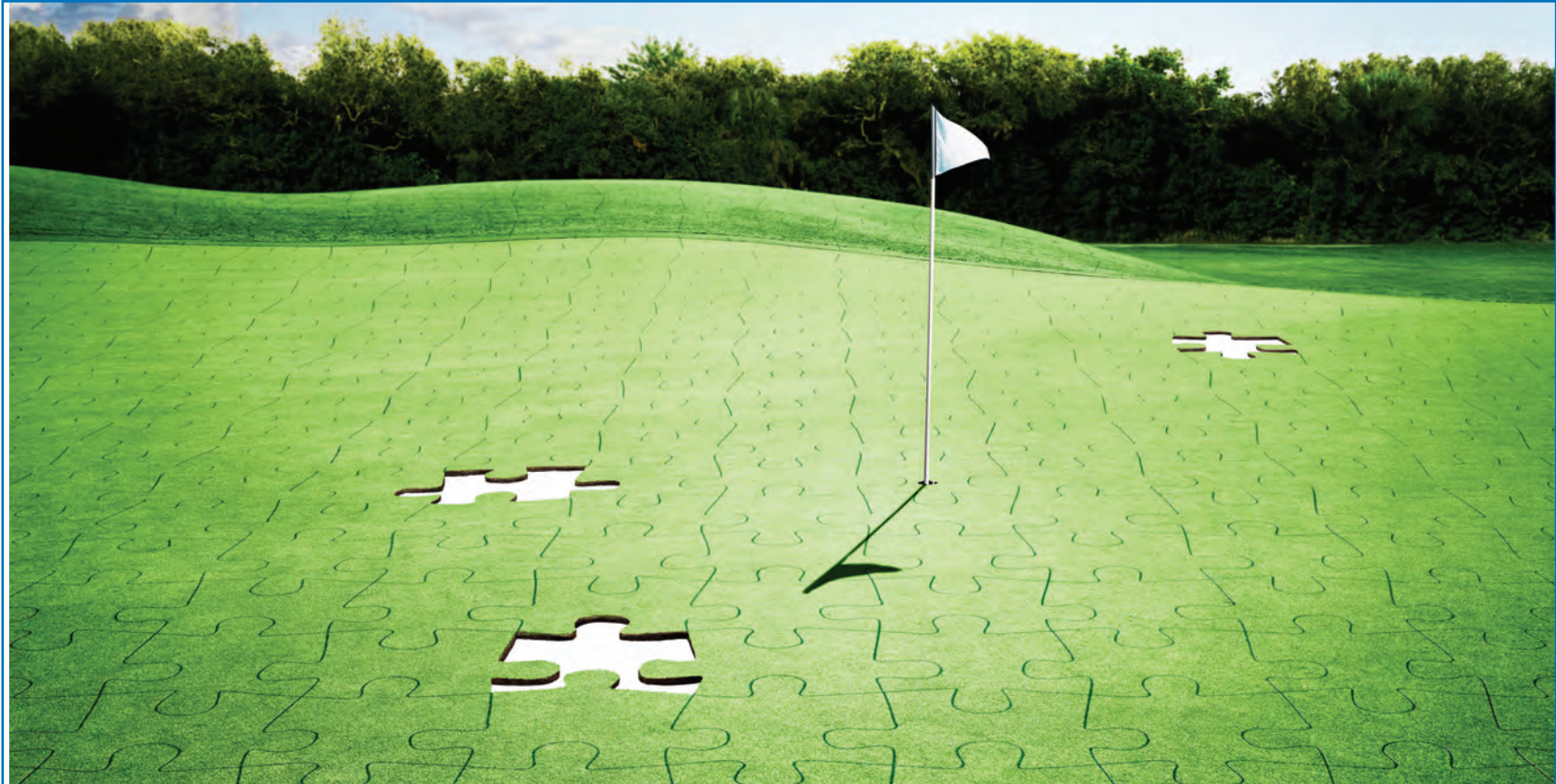
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*The sun shines on the 422-yard, second hole and in the spring the aquatic plants in the water hazard will bloom and add a splash of color to the scene. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

decides to go “ultra,” MiniVerde is the leading candidate. Neff has been running a side-by-side comparison with TifEagle and MiniVerde on the practice-area chipping/putting green. Neff said, “I have told our spray tech not to automatically clean up the green or give them any extra TLC. I want to see what happens to both grasses – how they handle stresses, etc.”

One source of stress Neff could do without is some nibbling nuisance from a local population of nutria. These semi-aquatic rodents are indigenous to South America and were imported into Louisiana in the 1930’s for the fur farming industry. It is not known if they were released into the wild intentionally or accidentally. They are herbivores and feed on wetland vegetation and have caused serious

damage to Louisiana’s coastal areas.

Neff said, “When I came here there were two nutria roaming the property, when we began the tree work, they migrated over to the Navy base. Now they are expanding some of their hangars to house all the planes being moved down here from a Maine air station that is closing. All the construction has flushed them back to our property. Unfortunately they are chewing up sections of our lake banks and playing havoc with our pond aerators.”

“We installed aerators in our ponds to increase the oxygen content to help the natural digestion of any excess nutrients from the decomposition of the organic debris on the bottom of the ponds and any extra nitrogen and phosphorus in the effluent water.

***The cost to attempt to create a ‘pure’ monostand just wouldn’t be worth it. There are plenty of examples of folks who have spent a lot of dollars and still end up with contamination. What we have done is to learn how to manage what we have so that we minimize stressful situations. . .***





*This lake on No. 6 is no longer murky thanks to the bubbling aerator, which increases oxygen levels to help digest nutrients in effluent irrigation water and in the silt on the lake bottoms. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Don Bryant, above, is the Assistant Superintendent at Timuquana and plays a key role in making the changes and improvements to the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

*Major improvements to the turf in the fairways and roughs began five years ago when the course began a master tree- and shade-management plan. The discovery of hidden palmetto thickets were also rewards from the project. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*A master landscape plan will be part of the 2009 course renovation. Superintendent Chris Neff hopes the new native plant areas will be a colorful kickoff to his goal of becoming a certified Audubon Sanctuary. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



## FUN FACTS

## Chris 'Hot Wings' Neff

**Vehicle:** 2004 Chevrolet Blazer

**Last good movie I saw:** Walk the Line

**I stay home to watch:** College Football – Go Gators!

**The book I've been reading:** No books, lots of magazines

**Favorite meal:** Chicken wings – Hot! Hot! Hot!

**Favorite performers:** U2 and Counting Crows

**Prized possessions:** My family – my wife and our two dogs and two cats

**Personal Heroes:** Fred Klauk

**I'm better than anyone when it comes to:** Talking  
**If I could do it over:** I would have done more traveling to this point in my life

**The one thing I can't stand:** is two things – Lying and tardiness

**If I could change one thing about myself:** I would be more patient

**Words that best describe me:** Cool, caring and funny

**My dream foursome would be:** Donald Ross, Jack Nicklaus, (but Chris that's only a threesome?)

**I'm still waiting** for my best fishing story and golf shot



*Grace, the friendly Labrador Retriever, takes a break from being the head game warden and pine cone chaser at Timuquana. She even let me share her golf cart while touring the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

It seems the vibration of the aerators attracts the nutria and they nibble and gnaw the heck out of the air supply tubing. The aerators have done a great job clearing up the murky water, but it is a constant battle replacing the damaged tubes.”

But not all the wildlife at Timuquana is a nuisance. There is ample cover and habitat for a variety of small animals like raccoons, squirrels and (not so helpful) armadillos and fish in the ponds. There are birds of all shapes and sizes from the common small perching birds and songbirds to cormorants, sandhill cranes and bald eagles.

Making the leap from wildlife to association life and the profession, I asked Neff to comment on being a volunteer in the North Florida chapter and how the role of superintendents is changing.

“When I began at TPC Sawgrass in 1996, the demands of the job as an assistant didn't really allow me to volunteer. But after I was here at Timuquana for only ten days, Glen Klauk called me and encouraged me to become involved. By getting involved in association meetings and events, the number-one thing I got from it was to be able to talk with my peers on a whole range of issues and challenges. By volunteering to serve on the boards of the local and state I saw how leading superintendents conducted themselves, led meetings, presented ideas and handled situations. The bottom line is that I learned technical

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*Ancient oaks and towering pines frame the par-3, 8th hole, reflecting the parkland look and feel of a classic Donald Ross design. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

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and professional things that helped me become a better manager and asset to my club.

"Regarding the role of superintendents, we definitely have to be more visible. We need to speak up for what we need and present our message in an organized and businesslike manner. We need to stay up on technology so we can offer the best advice and practical solutions to improve the management of the course. We need to be a reliable, trusted source and resource for the club.

I think I have built up a sound level of trust with the members so that when I make a proposal or respond to questions they know that my information is reliable and credible."

"The timing of our long range planning and the renovations we will be making in 2009 is fortunate. I explained to the members how the access to methyl bromide to fumigate

and re-grass the greens is rapidly dwindling. We will be refurbishing our maintenance facility to house the expansion of our crew size and new equipment that they have invested in. With our water source secure and our infrastructure improvements we can deliver proper conditioning of the golf course which remains the primary asset for attracting members."

Neff explained that the club itself is transitioning from a "golf only" facility to more of a total family-oriented experience as the times change. Now that the golf course is secure, long range plans for improvements to the club house and amenities will go forward on a practical timetable.

By taking care of the basics and keeping the club in a strong progressive position, I predict that Timuquana will be around a long time thanks to planning ahead and keeping pace with our changing times.

*By volunteering to serve on the boards of the local and state I saw how leading superintendents conducted themselves, led meetings, presented ideas and handled situations. The bottom line is that I learned technical and professional things that helped me become a better manager and asset to my club.* ■



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## TIMUQUANA COUNTRY CLUB

# CONGRATULATIONS

to Chris Neff and his club

for being selected by the North Florida GCSA  
as the Spring 2008 Florida Green Cover Story.

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## Can You Make Do With Less?

*When Todd Draffen was at Old Collier he routinely checked the operation of the inner and outer heads around the greens with a remote controller. Photo by Joel Jackson*

If you are on a golf course in the South Florida Water Management District and have a Consumptive Use Permit to pump ground or surface water for your irrigation, you have been forced to reduce your monthly consumption by 45 percent under the current Phase 3 Emergency Drought Order.

Courses that are using reclaimed effluent water are currently under no such restriction, but the possibility of placing restrictions on all water sources is being discussed as more municipalities seek to provide more reclaimed water for homeowner irrigation and take outside watering off of public-supply potable water. Courses using brackish water from the Lower Hawthorne aquifer on the West Coast and the Floridan on the east coast had to file variance to continue to pump adequate amounts of water.

Look for new course designs to have fewer irrigated turf acres overall and to use alternative water sources rather than the freshwater aquifers. There will also be a push for existing golf courses

to reduce irrigated out-of-play areas and convert them to more Florida-friendly plants which will require just enough extra water to get started and then exist on natural rainfall.

There will likely also be a push to get courses with older systems to modernize and upgrade systems to be more efficient. Hopefully, there may be some grant money available to help cash-strapped courses or perhaps tax rebates or other incentives to help courses modernize their systems.

Efficiency begins with the irrigation-system design that provides for optimum operating pressure throughout the course. More efficiency is attained in many cases by having more but smaller part-circle heads to deliver the water where it is needed. A good example is inner and outer heads around a green, so that the intensely managed putting surface can be watered as needed while the taller turf on the slopes can be watered less frequently. The old design of full circle heads watering both slope and putting surface is a prime example of inefficiency in

today's water-conscious world.

While efficiency and conservation should be goals of all water users indoors and outdoors, golf is one of the most visible, at least in media and public's perception.

I could counter that, while golf courses turn off their irrigation systems when it rains because too much water affects turf health and playing conditions, what is visible to me are the homeowner and municipal irrigation systems that run during and after rains. And the broken heads in these systems go unrepaired for days or weeks, while on a golf course inspection, repairs and timing adjustments are made daily.

Regardless of perception, the reality is that all water users – golf included – will be asked to get by on less water in the future. Bob Randquist, CGCS at the Boca Rio G.C. told me that last year when Phase 3 was in effect, he had to modify his approach to irrigation management and get more creative in how and where he applied the reduced amount of water he had to work with.

He kept his members well informed



of the trade-offs as he had to make sure he kept the greens and tees well irrigated for survival and perhaps let the roughs and fairways go into drought-survival mode. This meant discoloration and yellowing on parts of the golf course. Randquist tried to keep rotating modest amounts of water to the roughs to keep areas from dying out completely, which could result in costly turf replacement.

Speaking of money and economics, the public – and sometimes even our regulators – forget that the golf industry is a major contributor to the state's economy, especially during the busy winter tourist season. The most recent economic impact study revealed that golf was a \$4.4 billion industry employing about the same number of people as the state's theme and amusement parks. Higher property taxes for homes located on or near golf courses is a significant revenue source for local governments.

Environmentally speaking, golf courses serve as open-space, rainfall-recharge areas for the water table, absorbing four times as much water than they use for irrigation. It has been estimated that 2,500 square feet of healthy turfgrass produces enough oxygen for a family of four. That means that 100 acres of maintained turf for an average course provides oxygen for about 7,000 people. Besides being an efficient stormwater and dust filter, temperature moderator and erosion control, healthy turfgrass on the fairways and roughs acts as a "carbon sink," sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to mitigate global warming concerns.

According to repeated Florida Water Use studies by the U.S. Geological Survey, golf courses are calculated to be using only 3 percent of the water statewide. Recently the South Florida Water Management District announced that golf used only 2.3 percent in

its district. Golf courses make pretty positive contributions to the state's environment and economy for being a relatively small user.

Currently each district has its own set of criteria for drought restrictions. Since district boundaries cut across many political boundaries like city limits and counties, there are often two sets of restrictions within the same political jurisdiction. As the concerns over water supplies continue the water management districts may be considering standardizing water restriction guidelines on a more statewide basis.

Be sure you are discussing this issue with your owners and golfers. Good communication is a necessity. Next, read about how Terry Wood altered his irrigation practices to cope with the Phase 3 restriction to the Naples National Golf Club. Maybe there will be some tips and ideas you can use to help you do more with less water.

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*Photo by Joel Jackson.*



## Naples National Golf Club Deals with 2007-2008 Water-Use Restrictions

By Terry Wood

In April 2007 when SFWMD imposed Phase 2 water restrictions, we were concerned because we pump the most water in May. Summer rains begin in June.

Our irrigation source is 16 acres of lakes with five 40-foot recharge wells cased to 20 feet. We may recharge our lakes only by an amount equal to our withdrawals. The water is improved with acid-injection products. Reclaimed water is not available to us at this time.

We survived by increasing the use of wetting agents through the irrigation system and applying extra surfactants to mounds and other hot spots. Hot-spot irrigation was limited to the driest areas. We were able to perform our basic summer maintenance without any major problems.

The summer rains did not show up until July and our previous nine months showed a deficit of 15 inches of rainfall as compared to an average for that time of year.

We are essentially a drainage easement for Naples Heritage, the adjacent golf course, and we typically take on a lot of water in summer. Because of the rainfall deficit, the normal flooding of the non-turf areas did not happen and the upcoming season looked bleak, especially if we went to Phase 3 restrictions, which did take effect Jan. 15.

Concern increased when we realized, through the Blainey-Criddle model, how little water was going to be

available December through February. During a meeting with my green committee chairman, we recommended that the membership be notified of the water restrictions by e-mail

We have a weekly e-mail update from all departments to inform the membership what is scheduled for the upcoming week. We started by reviewing the summer projects and briefly introducing the water restrictions. Then, every three to four weeks we reviewed the previous month's report and offered insights on the effects of the drought, Blainey-Criddle, Lake Okeechobee water levels, and our daily water allotment compared to daily average over the last five years.

The e-mails are informative and not

overly technical. We included a list of courses with reclaimed water and information on alternative water sources and approximate costs for those projects.

We have only 50 acres of turf and no residential development. Everything is mowed at fairway height or less, so our 70 million gallons per year seems a little paltry compared to the typical course of 100 or more acres that has a combined permit for the common areas, residential and golf course.

We have two quick-coupling valves at each green and tee complex as well as three or four along each fairway. We typically had six or seven workers hand-watering tees, greens and surrounds and, for a time, that was all the water we had. Hand-watering could amount to



*The Naples National course is designed with minimal irrigated turf acreage, but Superintendent Terry Woods still doesn't have enough water allocated for use during the dry winter season. The pasaplum tee tops seen here are holding up, but the bermuda fairways are in drought stress.* Photo by Joel Jackson



150-200 man hours per week.

During the last two weeks of January, we were allocated only 40,000 gallons per day based on the Blainey-Criddle allocation model. With weekly reporting being required by SFWMD, we had to evaluate our daily water use closely because a full cycle through the sprinkler system on our 2.5 acres of Champion greens is about 21,000 gallons and our 4.5 acres of Seashore paspalum tees requires 70,000. When we run fairways also, the total cycle uses 330,000 gallons.

Fortunately, we have individual head control with our computerized irrigation system. This allows us to adjust each sprinkler's time to suit the area it covers. We have written programs for individual fairways as well as two hot-spot programs: one includes about 75 percent of the fairway heads and the second about 50. With the computer we have the ability to estimate the gallons required for the scheduled program, which helps us determine what we can water for the week.

The monthly allotment is broken down into weekly amounts, then daily, to make the best use of each gallon. Each Monday we plan our irrigation schedule based on projected temperature, wind, and rainfall. Applications of fertilizer, surfactants, and other plant protectants also are considered.

Most days we hand-water greens, tees, collars, approaches, green surrounds and, depending on the water availability, fairway hot spots.

Our staff knows how to look for slight variations in turf color, and how to use moisture meters as well as soil probes to determine where to water. Periodically, we include wetting agent tablets in the hand watering regimen to supplement some of the moisture-retaining or -penetrating products. Most of the hand watering is concentrated on the perimeters and high mounds of greens, tees, and fairways.

Overall the membership has been very understanding and supportive. I am amazed that the vast majority is very pleased with conditions. I never thought I would hear the words "brown is good". Hallelujah!

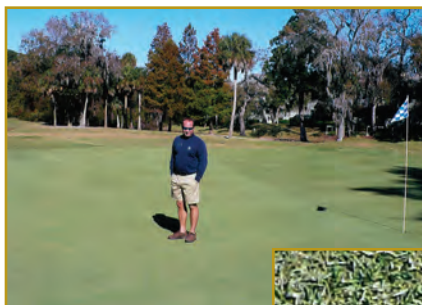


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## USGA UPDATE

# Dealing with Winter Conditioning, Consequences of Water Restrictions

By John Foy and Todd Lowe

The Florida winter golf season is in full swing, and courses are hosting peak seasonal play, although many courses are reporting fewer rounds relative to the past couple of years. There is intense competition to attract and retain members, and, naturally, without a full membership, operating costs must be reduced. The current economic slowdown is definitely impacting golf operations throughout the state.

The mild winter temperatures have prevailed, and throughout the central and southern part of the state, bermudagrass and seashore paspalum have maintained a green color character and some growth. The mild temperatures have been a positive since overseeding results have been less than satisfactory at many facilities and concerns about pending irrigation restrictions caused others not to overseed at all.

At least along the lower east coast, timely and adequate rainfall has softened the impact of mandated Phase III water use restrictions. During my TAS visits in early March, golf course superintendents are providing appropriate and good quality overall conditioning for daily play.

In contrast, at courses with moderate to heavy daily play, typical wintertime cart-traffic wear and damage is apparent. Golfers complain about tight fairway lies, loss of definition between the fairway and rough cuts, and clumpy and inconsistent rough.

At courses through the middle of the state, and along the west coast where a moderate to severe drought has persisted, cart traffic wear and damage has been greatly exacerbated. Over the

years, the importance of proper preparations during the late summer and early fall, along with aggressive cart traffic management, have been stressed for minimizing damage and surviving early winter season play in the best possible condition. The goal at courses in central to south Florida is to survive until early to mid-March when sustained growth



*Water efficient design. Smaller part-circle heads deliver the water only to the turfgrass on this tee surrounded by a naturalized unirrigated area. Photo by Joel Jackson*

and recovery begins in response to increasing day length and temperatures.

For the 2008 winter golf season, there also is tremendous concern about what lies ahead. As we move through the spring, increasing day length and temperatures result in a corresponding increase in turfgrass water-use rates and irrigation needs.

For courses in the South Florida Water Management District, the Phase III water-use restrictions require a 45 percent reduction in pumping allocations, which presents a challenging, but manageable, situation.

A big problem arises because the reductions are based on a monthly predictive calculation, and, at many facilities, it has been determined that

allocations are actually 60 to 70 percent less than actual irrigation use, based on the past five-year averages during February, March and April. If timely and adequate rainfall does not occur during this three-month period, many courses will have to limit supplemental irrigation to greens and tees, and significant portions of the fairways and roughs will go into drought stress. While bermudagrass and seashore paspalum have good drought tolerance, a much greater impact beyond off-color turf will be experienced.

Florida Region Web updates have offered drought management tips, such as raising heights of cut and mowing less frequently. At this point, however, while no doubt unpopular with golfers, an extremely proactive and aggressive cart-traffic-management program is needed. Along with strictly enforced cart-usage policies, directional control devices need to be put into place before excessive wear and damage occurs.

Some golf courses are lucky enough to have an unrestricted irrigation water source available such as recycled water. At these facilities it will be possible to maintain an overall uniform green color, which will only create more problems at facilities that must manage with a restricted water source. There is no doubt that abundant summertime rains will recur in Florida, but golfers need to accept that water conservation and use restrictions will be a fact of life in Florida.

## DESPERATE TIMES DESPERATE MEASURES

If desperate times call for desperate measures, then these must be desperate times for some water-management districts. It was mentioned recently that the Southwest Florida Water Management District will be implementing Phase III irrigation restrictions beginning in January. The supposed objective for Phase III water restrictions is



a 45 percent reduction; the supposed objective for Phase II restrictions is a 30 percent reduction, when actual irrigation allotments for many courses revealed nearly 70% reductions compared to previous years. Many courses are quite frantic over the outcome of the upcoming Phase III restrictions and how this will affect playing conditions and turf health.

The following are my observations of the restrictions and how golf course maintenance programs in Florida are impacted:

**PHASE I (15% reduction)** - Most bermudagrass playing surfaces can be irrigated as necessary to provide acceptable turf quality. Roughs become off-color and localized dry spots occur at times, but no change in maintenance is necessary.

**PHASE II (30% reduction)** - Primary play areas (greens, tees, fairways) are kept alive and generally green in color. Regular wetting-agent treatments are

necessary to reduce the severity of localized dry spots. Increased mowing heights and decreased mowing frequency are necessary to improve rooting and increase the turf's ability to take up water. Plant growth regulators also have shown some benefit in drought tolerance and can be applied on a regular basis. Cart traffic management is vital as the turf begins to lose color.

**PHASE III (45% reduction)** - Phase III will cause severe loss of turf color. Progression of brown conditions will begin from the outer roughs and work their way into primary playing areas. Since only a small percentage of water is allotted compared to previous years, greens and tees should be kept alive and the remaining water delivered to fairway landing areas when available.

Healthy bermudagrass is quite drought tolerant and courses should do everything possible to maintain healthy turf conditions.

It is important to restrict traffic as

much as possible. Clubs should divert traffic away from areas that appear stressed and off-color, as the additional stress can kill turf. Eventually, it may be necessary to completely restrict cart traffic to cart paths and designated areas. Some areas may die off from drought accompanied by other stresses like shade, nematodes and traffic. These may need to be re-grassed in late spring, if irrigation restrictions are lifted at that time.

Having an efficient irrigation system and design allows golf course superintendents to conserve water and apply it exactly where it is needed. It may be time to have your system audited by a professional irrigation consultant. If restrictions become a normal part of golf course maintenance in the future, it may also be necessary to consider decreasing irrigated bermudagrass turf acreage by installing or enlarging natural areas or utilizing drought-tolerant bahiagrass in outer rough areas.

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# Jack Harrell named to Environmental Institute's Council

Jack R. Harrell, Jr., CEO of Harrell's Fertilizer, Inc. of Lakeland, has been named to the Advisory Council for The Environmental Institute for Golf.

The leading producer of quality custom-blended fertilizers and a distributor of chemicals and grass seed for the golf course, sports turf, lawn and ornamental and horticulture industries, the company's production of fertilizer exceeds 75,000 tons annually. Harrell's is the exclusive eastern formulator and a leading world distributor of Polyon Technology.

Harrell is the 15th member to join the Advisory Council headed by World Golf Hall of Fame member Greg Norman.

"Jack will bring a new and unique perspective to this group," said Nor-

man, chairman and CEO of Great White Shark Enterprises. "He is a well respected entrepreneur with a wealth of knowledge and experience that has already been of great benefit to The Institute."

The Advisory Council provides guidance to The Institute's board of trustees in the areas of outreach, fundraising and strategic planning. The members were selected to enhance The Institute's ability to cultivate relationships with current and potential donors, as well as communicate the importance of the work conducted by The Institute.

The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the compatibility of golf with the natural environment. The Institute concentrates on delivering programs and services involving research, education



Jack R. Harrell, Jr.

and outreach that communicate the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course.

In addition to Norman and Harrell, other members of the advisory council include ClubCorp USA Inc; Tom Crow, founder of Cobra Golf and a retired trustee for The Institute; Dana Garmany, chairman and CEO of Troon Golf; and R.D. Hubbard, owner of Bighorn Golf Club in Palm Desert, Calif.

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## 2008 PLANTS OF THE YEAR

### *Sabal minor*

**Common Name:** Dwarf Palmetto

**Zones:** North, Central and South

**Mature Height and Spread:** 4' - 6' tall and 4' - 6' wide

**Classification:** Shrub, palm

**Landscape Use:** Mass, specimen, under planting

**Characteristics:** A durable, cold-tolerant, Southeast native, this palm is small and drought tolerant with fan shaped fronds. The foliage is green to blue-green. Long stalks of fragrant white flowers grow in late spring or early summer, producing small black fruits enjoyed by wildlife. It grows well in a wide range of soil types and light conditions. The dwarf palmetto usually appears trunkless due to its subterranean trunk, and adds a great native touch when a small-scale plant is needed.

**Propagation:** By seed



### *Quercus geminata*

**Common Name:** Sand Live Oak

**Zones:** North, Central & Northern areas of the South zone

**Mature Height and Spread:** Typically 20' - 30' tall and 15' - 20' wide; can reach 50' - 60' inland.

**Classification:** Tree

**Landscape Use:** Street tree, specimen, dune restoration

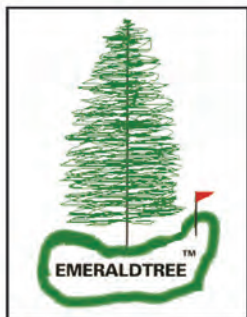
**Characteristics:** Similar to southern live oak but smaller in stature, this salt-tolerant and drought-tolerant, Florida native tree has an irregular growth habit and spreading canopy. Some forms are tree-like and some may form a thicket. The dark green cupped leaves are distinctly boat-shaped with a whitish grey underside.

The acorns are sought by wildlife. The Sand Live Oak has proven severe storm durability, making it an ideal tree for Florida's sometimes stormy environment.

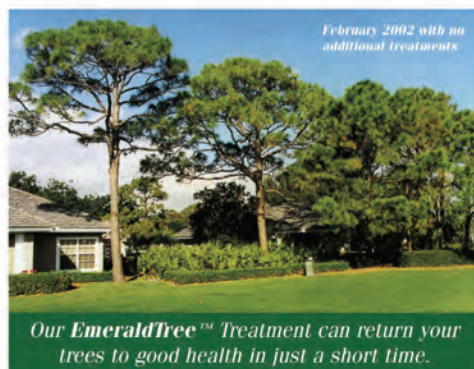
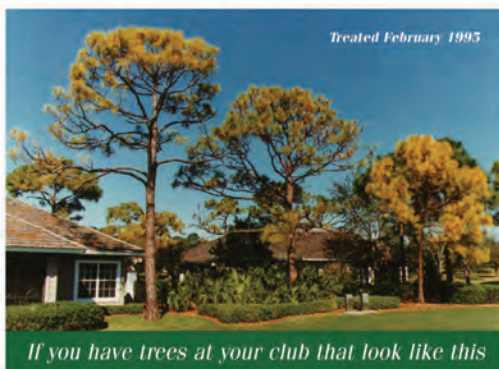
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# The Critics Have Spoken.

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*– Current Toro/John Deere Customer*

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*– Current John Deere Customer*

*"I like the option of gas or battery. The unit has a more flexible head and more clips per cut than our current walking greens mower. I will probably buy this mower."*

*– Current Toro Customer*

*"Much better than our current walking greens mower. I like the simplicity of the reel and traction drives."*

*– Current John Deere Customer*

*"Excellent quality-of-cut."*

*– Current Toro Customer*

*"I like the floating cutting unit and that the electric reels can run at 2,220 RPM. I plan on buying this mower."*

*– Jacobsen Customer*



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# GSDC unveils No-Till TifEagle initiative

By Sam Williams

The Georgia Seed Development Commission and TifEagle Growers Association have designated six TifEagle growers as "Authorized No-Till TifEagle Grower/Installers." They are listed at the end of this article.

According to Dr. Mike Garland, director of GSDC, "These six top-quality growers have been specially trained and authorized to handle all no-till TifEagle sales, on-site inspections and installations. These folks have also agreed to the additional safeguards we felt were essential for our no-till

TifEagle initiative.

"For starters, their no-till TifEagle production fields will be inspected three times each year for varietal purity and problem weeds. As an additional safeguard, all no-till TifEagle production fields will be inspected and tested for sting and lance nematodes. And to ensure freshness and planting uniformity all no-till TifEagle sprigs will first be cleaned and milled to remove thatch, dirt and overly large sprigs and clumps, and then delivered in sealed plastic bags or refrigerated trucks.

"And lastly, these growers have committed to multiple follow-up inspections to ensure customer satisfaction. Our goal is to make sure our customers get a rapid, problem-free grow-in."

prep can also be done with your own crews and equipment to fit your own schedule. Bottom line, you get a speedy conversion from poor quality greens to TifEagle, the ultimate ultradwarf putting surface.

## UNIQUE ADVANTAGES OF TIFEAGLE

TifEagle is grown, inspected and sold under a rigorous set of rules and guidelines set up by the Georgia Seed Development Commission to promote on-going purity and uniformity. In fact, TifEagle is the only ultradwarf variety that has this kind of unbiased third-party oversight. This ensures that the TifEagle sprigs you receive are not contaminated with offtypes, which may occur in the Tifgreen/Tifdwarf family of cultivars.

TifEagle has a number of other unique advantages over traditional bermudagrass greens varieties, as well as many of the new ultradwarf varieties. When maintained at a cutting height of 0.125 inch (3.2mm), TifEagle produces a quality putting surface second to none. It exhibits very aggressive rhizomatous and stoloniferous growth habits, maintains superior color under cool conditions and provides an excellent putting surface during the winter season, with or without overseeding. In fact, many superintendents are reporting excellent results with painted TifEagle greens.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *We don't normally run news releases because we simply don't have enough space to accommodate every request. We make exceptions from time to time for new technology which may have a measurable impact on turf management. Such is the case here, where the cost and water savings can be significant in these times of a flat economy and water conservation mandates. Sam Williams is a communication professional who represents the TifEagle Growers. Also please note that several Florida courses have used the No Till process with Champion Ultradwarf.*

## Authorized No-Till TifEagle Grower/Installers

**NewLife Turf, Norway SC,** 803-263-4231, 803 263-4886 (Fax); John Brown ([newlifeturf@tds.net](mailto:newlifeturf@tds.net)); Bragg Williams ([newlifeturf@tds.net](mailto:newlifeturf@tds.net))

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**Tifton Turf Farms - Tifton GA,** 800-841-6645, 229-386-8061, 229-386-1207 (Fax); [www.tiftonturf.com](http://www.tiftonturf.com); Paul Massey ([pcmassey56@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcmassey56@bellsouth.net))

**Tri-Tex Grass - Tioga TX,** 866-573-6676, 817-573-6676, 817 573-4958 (Fax); [www.tritexgrass.com](http://www.tritexgrass.com); Randy Price ([randy@tritexgrass.com](mailto:randy@tritexgrass.com))

## THE NO-TILL PROCESS

No-till or minimum-till is not a new concept. The practice has been around for a number of years and has proven to be an excellent method for reducing production costs, preserving soil moisture, and reducing soil and nutrient loss for many crops. In recent years, a specialized "no-till process" has been successfully used on golf courses to hold down the costs associated with greens renovations. It basically involves applying Roundup or methyl bromide to kill the existing grass and verticutting down to the stolon/rhizome/top-dressing interface to create a healthy seedbed, followed by a thorough clean-up of all debris. The final steps include aerification, topdressing and, of course, distribution of fresh new TifEagle sprigs.

## NO-TILL RENOVATION

No-till TifEagle can save you up to 75% of the cost of conventional greens reconstruction. Complete rebuild-costs range from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per sq. ft. versus 45 cents to 80 cents per sq. ft. for no-till. Time saved is another big factor. Six to eight weeks is normal turnaround for no-till versus 10 to 18 weeks for a complete rebuild. Reduced downtime greatly reduces lost revenue. Site



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Seaside Elementary School students tour the Camp Creek G.C. in a more ambitious outreach program . Photo courtesy of the USGA.

## Never Underestimate the Importance of Positive Messages About Golf and the Environment

by: Shelly Foy

What a terrible story emerged recently about a PGA Tour player who hit golf balls at a red-shouldered hawk whose screeching was disrupting a video taping session back in December of 2007. He ended up killing the federally protected bird whether by accident or on purpose; we'll never really know. What I do know is that this kind of stupid incident will have a negative impact for golf.

This is just one more reason, in the many that we have given over the years, why it is important to let people know that the golf industry as a whole cares about environmental stewardship. Superintendents and golfers in general enjoy and appreciate the wildlife they see on the golf course. We need to keep demonstrating and documenting golf's overwhelming positive impact on the environment.

The photo essay in this issue shows examples of outreach and education projects happening on golf courses around the country. A lot of you stumble over this particular section of the ACSP for Golf Courses and I receive a lot of calls asking, "What can we do?" In upcoming issues of this magazine, I will continue to highlight simple, yet effective ways of reaching out to others about golf's positive influence on the environment.

A simple poster attached to a water cooler at the Eglin AFB Golf Course, right, tells the story. Photo courtesy USGA.



A photo album in the TPC Tampa Bay clubhouse reaches not only golfers but diners and other visitors. Photo by Joel Jackson.





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# Certified Florida Members of the Audubon Sanctuary Programs

We'd like to recognize the following Florida golf courses that have taken the proactive initiative to enroll and become certified in one of the several Audubon International Sanctuary Programs. New developments and courses that plan and design their projects with the assistance of AI can belong to the Signature Series.

Existing golf courses can join the Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Beyond this impressive list are a number of courses who have joined the program but have not yet reached full certification. Members of the AI staff also helped to write our Golf Course BMP Manual which was also drafted and published with the help

of the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection and other agencies and the University of Florida IFAS faculty.

There is a list of official Audubon Stewards also in this section. They can be a resource to help you join and get certified in this worthwhile program which will help preserve our environment and save money for your operation. And I would venture a guess that if you know the superintendent at one of these courses, they would also be willing to help you with the program.

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Venetian G&RC, Venice

## SILVER SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

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Masters and Memorial  
Old Corkscrew, Estero  
St. James Bay, Carrabelle  
Shark's Tooth, Panama City  
The Aerie, Naples  
Villages of Marion (*The Villages*)  
Nancy Lopez Legacy CC  
Amberwood Nine  
Briarwood Nine  
Oakleigh Nine  
Walnut Grove Nine  
Villages of Sumter Phase I (*The Villages*)  
Belevedere Course (Churchill Downs & Pimlico)  
Sunset Pointe (Heron & Pelican)  
Palmer Legends GC (Cherry Hill, Laurel Valley & Riley Grove)  
Villages of Sumter Phase II (*The Villages*)  
Cane Garden & Sunset Point  
Villages of Sumter Phase III (*The Villages*)  
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City  
Hawk's Nest Golf Club, Vero Beach  
Heron Bay Golf Club, Coral Springs

High Ridge Golf Course, Lantana  
Hobe Sound Elementary School, Hobe  
Sound  
Hole-in-the-Wall Golf Club, Naples  
IGM Courses  
    Aquarina Country Club, Melbourne  
    Beach  
    Arrowhead Golf Course, Naples  
    Brooksville Golf & Country Club,  
    Brooksville  
    The Habitat Golf Course, Malabar  
    Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club,  
    Port Charlotte  
    Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach  
    Spessard Holland Golf Club, Melbourne  
    Beach  
    The Savannahs, Merritt Island  
Interlachen Country Club, Winter Park  
Ironwood Municipal Golf Course,  
Gainesville  
John's Island Club – West Course, Vero  
Beach  
Lake Buena Vista Club, Lake Buena Vista  
Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club,  
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Date: 8/14/07

Source Model: TDR 300  
Source Type: Soil Moisture

**Summary of Measurements**

| Measurement            | Value  | Unit |
|------------------------|--------|------|
| Equipments Uncertainty | 72.20% |      |
| Total data points      | 62     |      |
| Average reading        | 22.8   |      |
| Minimum value          | 20.0   |      |
| Maximum value          | 47.0   |      |
| Standard deviation     | 7.3    | 88%  |
| Max height in feet     | 74.9   |      |
| Max width in feet      | 137.2  |      |
| Area in Acres          | 0.24   |      |

Histogram showing data results

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## CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAMS (CONT.)

Laurel Oak Elementary School, Naples  
Lemon Bay Golf Club, Englewood  
The Links at Boynton Beach, Boynton  
Beach

Loblolly Pines Golf Club, Hobe Sound  
Long Marsh Golf Course, Englewood  
Magnolia Golf Course, Lake Buena Vista  
Mariposa Elementary School, Port St.  
Lucie

Mizner Country Club, Delray Beach  
The Moorings Country Club, Naples  
Naples Lakes Country Club, Naples  
Old Marsh Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens  
Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples  
Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club, Orchid  
Osprey Ridge Golf Course, Lake Buena  
Vista

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# Wasp + Weed – Cricket = Good Grass

By Joel Jackson

Research by Dr. H. J. Frank and Andrei Sourakov at the University of Florida and an article by Dan Culbert, Okeechobee County Extension Agent, has given us an opportunity to combine mole-cricket control and water conservation.

Dr. Frank has been researching various biocontrol agents from parasitic nematodes, red-eyed flies and the Larra bicolor “digger wasp.” Each has had its successes and setbacks. The wasp seems to be able to spread and set up new populations. Success, of course, depends on a reliable food source.

It seems that a wildflower known as the false shrubby buttonweed, *Spermacoce verticillata*, may give the wasp a year-round nectar source. Since concerns over water conservation have suggested converting out-of-play areas unirrigated, Florida-friendly native vegetation, perhaps planting native areas with this plant could create a real win-win situation.

The Larra wasp has been sighted in 41 counties so far. How about giving the little buggers a helping hand by planting this nectar source on your course?

Some have suggested a name change to Southern Larraflower for the wasp's



Larra wasp on Larraflower. Photo by Dr. Lyle Buss.

preference for its size and its shape ideally fits the wasp's feeding habits. By the way the male does most of the nectar feeding while the female is searching for mole crickets.

Southern Larraflower planting stock can be found at:

Lake Brantley Nursery, (407) 496-0771 in Center Hill and

Lake Brantley Plant Corporation (407-869-6545) in Longwood.



PHOTO BY SALLY SCALERA.

## Florida Audubon International Stewards

*As I said in my President's Message in the front of the magazine, the time for accountable documented environmental stewardship is upon us. Just consider the state and local fertilizer ordinances that are coming forward and general concern over state and local water quality issues. Please contact any of these stewards who are ready and willing to help you with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.*

*This is a recognized and respected program that will help you and your golf course secure a successful future.*

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FGCSA President

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## Dynasties



**As I See It**  
**By Jim Walker**

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."

That quote by Jimi Hendrix really has nothing to do with this article, but I was so taken by it, and amazed Jimi could be that deep. Maybe it reflects the angst and human condition around the world. I wanted to share it with you.

I want to talk about dynasties. There are many types, of course, like the success the Yankees have enjoyed a couple of different times. The Boston Celtics had a great run with Auerbach and Russell. The Steelers in the 70s had their way with the NFL. The Patriots have been on a tear since 2003 and the list could go on and on.

I must say here and now that the Giants winning the Super Bowl this year was one of the most wonderful

sporting events I have ever seen. Handing "Bill Billacheat" his crushing and only defeat of the season sat sweetly on my tongue as a Dolphin fan of their undefeated '72 team. Tom Brady flew his hairdresser in for a Saturday haircut. How'd that work out for ya Tom? You should have flown in a stone mason to build a wall at the line of scrimmage to keep the New York Football Giants off your ass and you off the ground. Sorry I got carried away there, but God, that was a "make mine a double of your best single-malt scotch" victory.

Eldrick has been King of the Hill on the PGA tour for so long now, that his may be the most impressive and dominating of dynasties in the history of sports. Nick Faldo is predicting that, given the venues of the Majors this year, Tiger could actually achieve the first Grand Slam since the great Bobby Jones. Normally I would be a vocal doubting Thomas of this feat being accomplished, but after Woods starting 2 for 2 this year, even I have to say the odds are even money he climbs that mountain in 2008. I'm not sure if this magazine will hit the streets prior to the Masters, but if he doesn't win, you know he'll be there in the hunt when the tournament begins on the back nine Sunday.

There are lots of other dynasties as well. I saw a man buy a rundown pizza joint from George Mira (the U. of Miami and 49'er quarterback) 25 years ago and turn it into a hugely successful Italian restaurant which is better than

ever now. Ciro is out front spinning pizzas and Mama Ciro is back in the kitchen turning out some of the best food you will ever eat. Given that 90 percent of all restaurants fail, his is a real dynasty. Joe's Stone Crab on Miami Beach has been there since the 1930s and it takes a C note to the Maitre D to get a table unless you want to wait a couple of hours. There are many other great restaurants, hotels and such around the country and the world, so I think you get the idea.

This is another example of a dynasty: My friend Bryan Singleton and a gentleman named Bill Wagner both went to work at a private club about the same time 17 years ago. Bryan was the golf course superintendent and Bill was the club manager. At the time they began, the club was not doing that well as they had less than 300 members and teetered on insolvency.

After seven or eight years, the membership was capped at 500 members and there was a waiting list to join. Beyond that there were also 500 social members and this place was rocking. Their run went on for 15 years and then sadly both were let go despite all the success they had achieved and the dynasty they had built.

Ironically, Bill who was a past president of the National CCM Association was on his way to receive a national award as one of the most important people in golf course management when he got the news he had been terminated. Sort of like the head coach whose team makes the

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playoffs but is then fired because they didn't win the championship.

Another pal of mine – and I must say without a doubt one of my best friends ever – has also built a dynasty not only at the club where he currently practices his gift of golf – course maintenance but at the other clubs he worked along the way. Joe Pantaleo's career has been his own personal dynasty full of success and accomplishments as he left each place he worked better than he found it upon his arrival.

Across Alligator Alley on the West Coast, Tim Hiers has blazed trails for our profession ever since he was the first FGCSA president back in 1978. He has walked the talk so long his environmental stewardship and advocacy for the positive contributions of golf courses is legendary. His counsel and leadership is often sought when issues arise. Tim has garnered so many awards for his unselfish service to our

industry, his walls must be sagging from all the plaques and certificates. You lads in Collier County are certainly lucky to have such a dynasty builder in your back yard. On top of everything else, Tim's a down to earth guy and very nice man.

Dynasties, like houses, are built one brick at a time. A guy is born, goes to school, grows up, meets a girl, gets married, has a family, works his entire life, hopefully retires and then goes gracefully into that sweet goodnight.

How is your dynasty going? You don't have to be a star, baby, to be in my show. Build your own dynasty one brick at a time and please exercise the power of love.

"Watch your thoughts; they become your words. Watch your words, they become your actions.

"Watch your actions, they become your habits. Watch your habits, they become your character. Watch your character, it will become your destiny."

## Why Not Lead By Example?



**GREEN SIDE UP**  
**BY JOEL JACKSON**

Instead of local governments picking on fertilizers in particular and turfgrass in general in an attempt to show the voting public that they are doing something about the environment by passing virtually unenforceable



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ordinances, they should pursue a course of action that leads by example instead of “do as I say and not as I do.”

When discussing recent Phase 3 restrictions which cut water use by 45 percent in South Florida, the following statement emerged when talking about fairness and equity in the cuts to golf courses versus other businesses and industries: The comment was, “But, golf

courses are so visible!”

Yes we are visible but we are not irresponsible. We are easy to find and they hold a big stick over our heads – our consumptive-use permits. So we scrimp and squeeze by as best we can and hope it rains enough to keep our turf alive while being singled out for severe cutbacks.

All businesses and trained

professionals will abide by the ordinances and restrictions because we have a lot to lose if licenses or permits are revoked. But we aren’t the big part of problem in the first place. Homeowners and renegade “unlicensed” landscapers don’t know or don’t care about the proper BMP methods are hard to identify and regulate. So the “visible” targets get picked on the most

What are visible to me are the results of decades of turf research into the application rates and fate of fertilizers when properly to turfgrass. When properly applied with the right rate, at the right time and the right place these nutrients are used by the plants and do not go running or leaching helter-skelter to the nearest water body.

What’s visible to me is the 300 million gallons of lightly treated effluent being dumped into the Atlantic Ocean by Miami-Dade County during a drought because they haven’t invested in the necessary infrastructure to capture the reclaimed water and distribute it as residential and commercial irrigation.

Dumping reclaimed water into the rivers, bays and oceans by any government and then claiming that fertilizer ordinances will clean up the water challenges their credibility. And the myriad septic-tank systems that border rivers and lakes also constitute a source much more constant and less restricted than lawn fertilizing.

What are visible to me are the municipal, homeowner association and residential sprinkler systems running and wasting water during a rainstorm or just after rainstorms when they should be shut off for a week or more. You can’t get away with that kind of “set and forget” mentality in the golf business. Water bills, power bills for pumping, weeds, disease and wet and soft playing conditions dictate that we use our water efficiently.

What’s visible to me is that homeowners have no real incentive







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to conserve water other than the appeal to do the right thing. If utilities would enact higher "conservation" rates, most households would get serious about budgeting water use to reasonable levels.

What's visible to me is a local government approving a new water amusement park in the middle of a drought. If existing golf courses can't be given adequate water to survive, how can we siphon off more water for a different form of recreation?

What are visible to me are the new developments adding to the urban sprawl in the face of repeated warnings about maxing out our water resources. You can't have it both ways. If the politicians and regulators aren't going to adopt a "no-growth" policy – which they won't – then new users should have to pay for more expensive alternative sources of water.

What's visible to me is that golf is the only \$5 billion dollar a year recreation/

***The hard part to swallow is that privately to us, the Districts admit that the majority of golf courses do manage their water very efficiently. It is just that no one has said it publicly.***

tourism industry required to report water use weekly and stay within strict allocations while other businesses are only held to voluntary standards.

The hard part to swallow is that privately to us, the districts admit that the majority of golf courses do manage their water very efficiently. It is just that no one has said it *publicly*. If we say it, we are just being self serving. Based on the consistent figures on water-use studies over the past 12 years, golf courses only use 2-3 percent of the water.

Water management districts don't have to make a big deal about golf courses. If they would just publish, print or display the water-use chart that shows the major water-using groups in the state. It will show exactly, factually who is using the most water and people can decide for themselves where to focus on conservation.

In case you didn't know, in descending order of water use the primary consumers are: Agriculture, Public Supply, Industry/Mining/Commercial, Power Generation, Recreation and Private Domestic Wells. Golf is contained in the Recreation category. Only the first two user groups are in double digits.

We need our state and local governments to lead by examples instead of passing laws they can't enforce and that don't end up really improving the environment. Like they always say, "Actions speak louder than words."

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