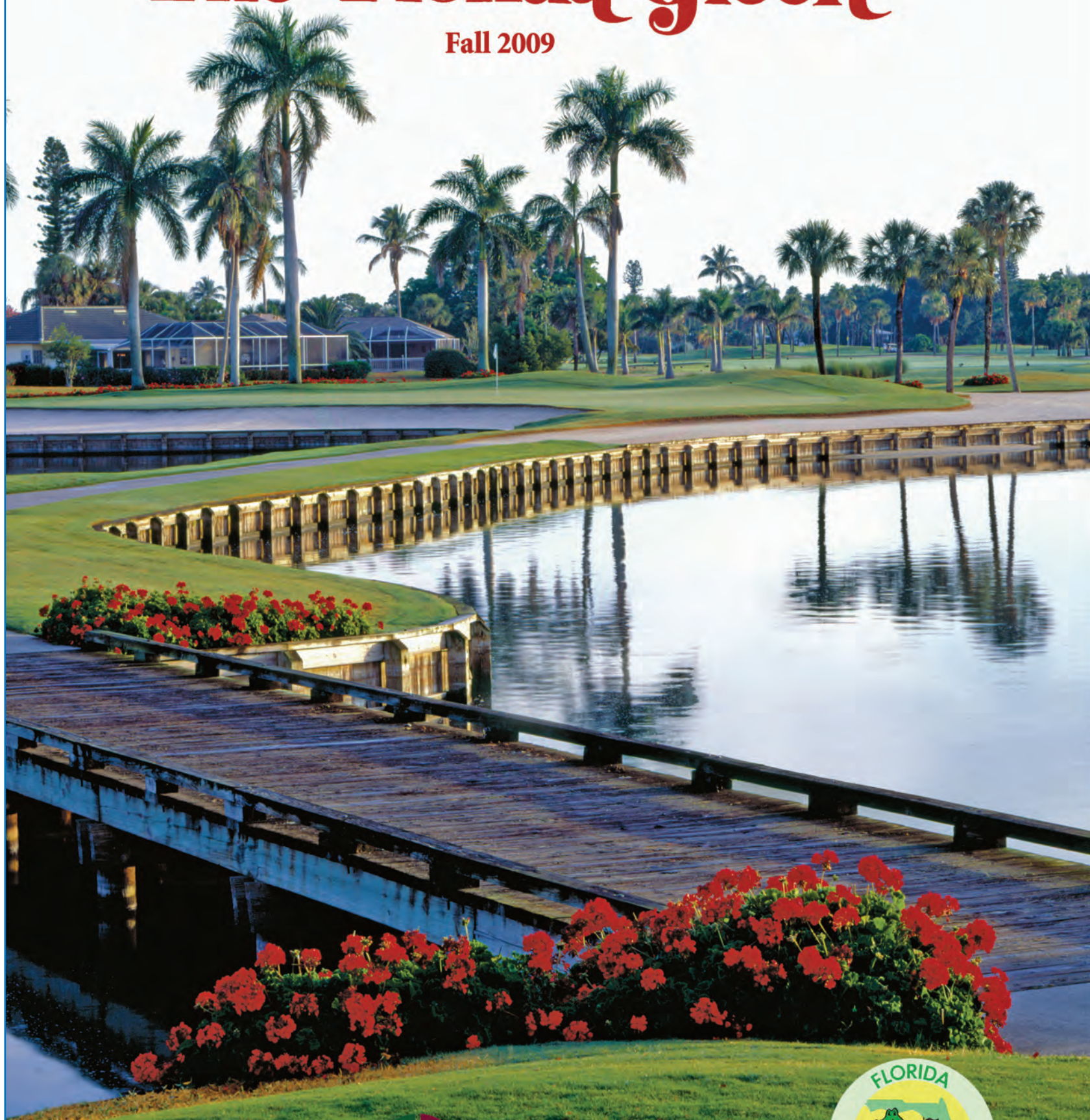


The Florida Green

Fall 2009





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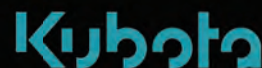
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Fall 2009

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ON THE COVER: *Number 6, Island Country Club, Marco Island. Photo by Daniel Zelazek*

FOREWORDS

Overcoming Challenges and Looking Ahead

It's an honor and privilege to become president of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

I would like to thank Immediate Past President Shane Bass CGCS for his leadership last year, and also Past President Matt

Taylor CGCS for his numerous contributions throughout his many years of serving on both the FGCSA and FTGA boards concurrently.

Congratulations to newly elected FTGA President Greg Pheneger, director of maintenance from the John's Island Club. I'm sure Greg and his executive committee will provide great leadership in the coming year.

As fall approaches with cooler temperatures and increasing rounds, one of our industry's most challenging years is rapidly coming to an end. We had everything from extreme water restrictions to local governments writing prohibitive fertilizer ordinances. And the economy presented management challenges in 2009. As superintendents, we face various challenges daily but this year was an exceptional one. It comes as no surprise that our members have met these difficult challenges.

While monitoring local fertilizer ordinances or water restrictions, we continue our daily jobs as turf professionals. By thinking outside the box and implementing cost-saving ways to do our jobs with less, we have continued to produce the quality conditions on the golf courses that our members, golfers and customers have come to expect.

We must stay proactive rather than reactive to the issues facing golf and the green industries. You may have



Bill Kistler
President

heard this message before, but I cannot emphasize enough how important the Florida Golf BMP checklist is. BMP certification for the landscape/lawn industry is already here, spurred on by the fertilizer ordinances. How long before the Golf industry will be required to do the same? We must not only "talk the talk," but we must "walk the walk."

Make sure you are documenting the environmentally friendly practices established for dealing with fertilizer use and its potential effects on water quality. Practice water conservation (reduced use) by installing or tweaking your automated irrigation systems.

Convert maintained out-of-play turf into natural areas, eliminating or reducing the need for irrigation, chemicals and fertilizer. Become a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. All these things give us more credibility when we can bring documented facts to local public meetings, showing that we truly are stewards of the environment.

Please visit our Web site at www.floridagcsa.com for postings and information on the latest regulatory actions, events, and news about members. When at the Web site, please respond to the poll and survey questions. The poll question up now is, "Are you planning to attend the Florida reception at the GIS in San Diego?" It may seem early, but GCSAA housing registration is already open and conference registration for the GIS opened Oct. 1. We are already making plans and final arrangements for our reception. We need to get a solid idea of how many members might attend so we can submit a financially responsible guarantee for our rooftop venue at the Solamar Hotel overlooking the famed Gas Lamp District. If you are attending the GIS either respond online in the poll or contact Jennifer Innes our association manager directly at fgcsa@comcast.net. All responses will be greatly appreciated.

I wish everyone a successful and productive 2009/2010.



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2009-2010 FGCSA officers, from left: Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kann, President Bill Kistler, Vice President Gary Myers CGCS and Past President Shane Bass CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Traditional Summer Events Lead Into Fall

When the weather gets hot, the Palm Beach GCSA events calendar gets even hotter. In June the chapter held its annual Fishing Tournament out of a Jupiter marina and the Future of Golf Tournament at Steve Pearson's The Falls CC. See the results tables for the top anglers and golfers down in Palm Beach.

The state's southeastern chapters engaged in their traditional annual joint meetings and "Ryder Cup" competitions as the South Florida GCSA visited Palm Beach at Steve Wright's Boca West CC Sept. 9. The Treasure Coast GCSA will host Palm Beach at Rob Kloska's Jupiter Island Club Oct. 22.

The Central Florida Chapter hosted its 33rd Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open at the Grand Cypress Resort in

Orlando, Aug. 7-8. This year the committee reinstated the education component with a Friday afternoon seminar after the FGCSA Annual Meeting Aug. 7. Five speakers presented a wide range of turf and regulatory topics.

During the FGCSA summer board business meeting, Dale Mitchell and Richard Colyer of Golf Agronomics Supply & Handling extended their generous support of turf research by presenting a \$3,000 check to the FGCSA.

The annual meeting was convened after the business meeting and the following officers and directors were elected for 2009-2010: President Bill Kistler, Vice President Gary Myers CGCS, Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kann and Past President Shane Bass CGCS.

The new board of directors includes Nancy Miller (Calusa), Bill Beasley (Central Florida), Bill Davidson (Everglades), and Rip Phillips (North Florida), Steve Pearson CGCS (Palm Beach), Mark Kann (Seven



New FGCSA directors from left: Roy MacDonald, Steve Pearson CGCS, Mark Kann, Nancy Miller, Bill Davidson, Kevin Sunderman, Mike Stem CGCS and Rip Phillips. Not pictured are Tom Barnett, and Bob Wagner. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Top Boat Team: Paul Crawford, Bran Lauritano, Jimmy Green, Woody Green, Art Sapp and Jason Dean



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SPOTLIGHT



SFGCSA President Ted Hile, left, presented Colony West Superintendent Dale Kuehner, CGCS, a 2009 FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime service to the chapter and state association.

Rivers), Roy MacDonald (Treasure Coast) and Kevin Sunderland (West Coast)

That evening at the Vendor Appreciation recep-

tion at the Grand Cypress Villas, John Gamble from Wesco Turf Supply was presented with the 2009 Larry Kamphaus Award recogniz-

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Nov 3 | Everglades Chapter Meeting, TBA |
| Nov 12 | Seven Rivers Annual Fishing Trip |
| Nov 17 | SFGCSA Meeting, Doral's McClean Signature Course |
| Nov 30 | NFGCSA Turf Seminar, San Jose CC |
| TBA | Suncoast Annual Turfgrass Conference |

DECEMBER

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Dec 10 | Seven Rivers Holiday Meeting and Toys for Tots Fundraiser, Juliette Falls GC |
| Dec 11 | NFGCSA Christmas Meeting and Golf Tournament, Hyde Park GC |
| Dec 17-19 | Suncoast Annual Family Christmas Getaway Weekend, Gasparilla Island |
| TBA | Calusa - Annual Christmas Charity Tournament, Magnolia Landing |
| TBA | WCGCSA Vendor Appreciation Day, TPC Tampa Bay |

JANUARY

- | | |
|---------|--|
| TBA | CFGCSA-FTGA Research Tournament, Interlachen CC, Winter Park |
| Jan. 22 | FGCSA Board Meeting |



Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open

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Special thanks to Lisa McDowell and the Crowfoot Committee and the Grand Cypress Golf Maintenance, Golf Operations and Food & Beverage Departments for helping to create another successful event.



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SPOTLIGHT



Jim Torba shot 70 on the Grand Cypress Old Course to win the Crowfoot Open and a spot on the FGCSA Golf Team that will compete in Palm Springs next February for the GCSAA Championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.

ing Gamble's service and devotion to family and the Florida Golf industry.

Results from the Crowfoot Open Golf Tournament on Saturday saw superintendent Jim Torba from the Wilderness Club in Naples post a 70 to win a spot on the 2010 FGCSA Golf Team. John

Swaner from GASH won the Supplier Division and Barry Shuman and Hal Richburg won the 2-Man Scramble event. Next on tap for the CFGCSA is its annual Memorial Tournament at the Lake Nona Club Sept. 21 to raise money for the Danny Burgess Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Crowfoot Open Results

INDIVIDUAL PLAY

Superintendents Medalist Division: 1. Jim Torba, 2. Seth Strickland. **Net Division:** 1. Tom Diggins, 2. David Hill.

Vendor Medalists: 1. John Swaner, 2. Kevin Wasilewski.

Net Division: 1. Wes Mitchell, 2. Matt Gregg.

TWO MAN SCRAMBLE

A Flight: 1. Hal Richburg and Barry Shuman, 2. Chris Sykes and Robert Sample. **B Flight** 1. Frank Eckert and Jay Palmer, 2. John Gamble and John Redmond.

CLOSEST TO THE PINS

No. 3 Seth Strickland, No. 7 Kevin Czerkies, No. 12 Alan Walker and No. 16 Barry Shuman.

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Continuous support – In August, GASH's Dale Mitchell, left, and Richard Colyer, right, presented Bill Kistler the company's annual \$3,000 donation to the FGCSA Turf Research Account at the FGCSA Annual Meeting in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The South Florida Chapter recognized Dale Kuehner, cgcs at their August meeting at Tony Platt's Pembroke Lakes GC by presenting him with a 2009 FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service. The SFGCSA also presented the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research Center with a check for \$23,000 from the

proceeds of this year's Turf Expo.

The FTGA Conference and Show was held again at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, where the FTGA introduced Peter Snyder as its new executive director. Snyder began his official duties Sept. 15.



Dr. George Snyder, left, received a \$23,000 donation on behalf of UF/IFAS from SFGCSA President Ted Hile at the chapter's August meeting at Pembroke Lakes GC.

2009 PBGCSA Fishing Tournament Winners

TOP BOAT AND HEAVIEST KINGFISH BOAT: Native Son. Crew: Paul Crawford, Jason Dean, Jimmy Greer, Woody Greer, Bran Lauritano, Art Sapp and Lamar Sapp.

HEAVIEST DOLPHIN BOAT: Chasin Tail. Crew: Matt Brecht, Tom Dipilito, Nathan Gingrich and Nick Sabatino.

Heaviest Wahoo Boat: Jerry Mills. Crew: Jerry & Pam Mills, Tom McCuire and Glen Thomas.



John Gamble of Wesco Turf Supply received the 2009 Larry Kamphaus Award from Joel Jackson Aug. 7 at the CFGCSA Vendor Appreciation Reception in conjunction with the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open at the Grand Cypress Villas in Orlando.

Future of Golf Scramble

TEAM RESULTS

First Place (55): Rusty Thorn, Mark Seigfred, Keith Longshore, and Steve Bureau

Second Place (57): Tim Phillips, Deron Zendt, Dave Troiano and Mark Heater

Third Place (58): Mike Bonetti, Bob Harper, Howard Hulsebosch and Jason Bagwell

Fourth Place (58): Tyler Warner, Steve Wright, Tim Riser and Steve Bernard

Fifth Place (58): Sunny Smith, Jim Sprankle, Jason Sprankle and Matt Schad

Sixth Place (59): Guy Kennen, Jeff Veneklase, Scott Davidson and Mark Turner

CLOSEST TO THE PINS

No. 3 Steve Bernard, No. 7 Ed Sirak, No. 11 Paul Ludwig and No. 16 Keith Longshore.

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Most Accurate: Richard Green

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View of the 18th hole and the Island CC clubhouse which was renovated in 2005. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

A Tribute to Golf History

The Island Country Club is located on Marco Island just off Florida's southwest coast, south of Naples and at the beginning of Florida's Ten Thousand Islands, which extend into Florida Bay west of the Keys. It is the largest island at 17.1 square miles and is home to 15,000 year around. The population swells to about 35,000 during the peak vacation season.

The Deltona Corporation developed the island back in the 1960s and built the original club called the Marco Island Country Club, designed by Dave Wallace and opened in 1966. When the members bought the club in 1986 it was renamed the Island CC and in 1992 Dean Refram renovated the greens



Crushed rock beach areas reduce irrigated turf acreage and provide buffers around water bodies. Photo by Wayne Kappauf, CGCS.

You can't write a story about the Island CC without delving into the golf history of longtime resident and club member, Gene 'The Squire' Sarazen (1902-1999). One of only five men to win all four of the majors in their lifetime or 'Career Slams,' Sarazen won seven major titles overall and made the famous double eagle on the 13th hole of the Masters in 1932.

complexes, providing excellent contouring and strategic bunkering.

You can't write a story about the Island CC without delving into the golf history of longtime resident and club member, Gene "The Squire" Sarazen (1902-1999). One of only five men to win all four of the majors in their lifetime or "Career Slams," Sarazen won seven major titles overall and made the famous double eagle on the 13th hole of the Masters in 1932. Many may not remember that he also invented the sand wedge and debuted it in the British Open in 1932, which he won. With 39 victories on the PGA Tour, Sarazen – along with Byron Nelson and Sam Snead – served as honorary starters for the Masters from 1981 – 1999.

After the club was renovated in 1995 he was provided an office in the clubhouse. He ate lunch at the club every day, and Sarazen lived out his retirement years on Marco Island. He and his wife, Mary, are buried on the

island and the local medical center bears their name.

Other notable residents of Marco Island included Ken Venturi and LPGA star Pat Bradley; Alan Jackson and Shania Twain, C&W singers; Michael Collins, astronaut; Bob Turley, retired baseball pitcher; James "Buster" Douglas, pro boxer; Leighton Meester, actress; Lauren Embree, tennis player, Robin Quivers, talk show host and John Spiker, musician-bassist from Tenacious D. Oh yes, Melody and Wayne Kappauf – the membership director and golf course superintendent at the Island C.C.

Superintendent Wayne Kappauf, CGCS met Sarazen (age 93) in 1995 and said he never saw The Squire play a full round of golf, but he would see him out on the range each April hitting balls in preparation for his honorary starter appearances each year in Augusta. Kappauf said the club added a new restaurant at the club in 2005 and named it The Double Eagle Grille in honor



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of their legendary golf ambassador. The club abounds in tributes to Sarazen with photos and memorabilia in the Sarazen Gallery in the clubhouse, and a bronze bust and a statue of The Squire outside near the putting green.

Kappauf is celebrating 14 years at the club and he has loved managing the changes that have helped the playing conditions improve with expanded teeing areas and the installation of TifEagle greens in 2001.

"You know I like to play a lot of golf and some courses are just very fun to play and this is one of them," Kappauf says. "We have a good variety of holes so everyone can be tested but also enjoy the round."

A new Toro Site Pro irrigation system was installed in 1999 which also helped to provide consistent conditioning of the turf.

Kappauf has also been keeping up with the modern trends in sustainable course management.

"We have over 40 varieties of trees on the golf course," he said. "We have removed invasive trees like melaluca, Australian pine and Brazilian pepper on purpose or with the help of a few hurricanes and, in return, we plant several varieties of palm trees, ficus, oak, black olive, flowering trees like bottlebrush and royal poinciana. Since this is a tropical island setting, palm trees have the edge because they do so well here.

"We are also making an effort to control maintenance costs by judiciously removing out-of-play turf areas where it makes sense and installing beach-like waste areas consisting of crushed concrete screenings. As these areas replace turfgrass, we can remove irrigation heads one at a time and conserve water.

"Even though the Island CC has been on reclaimed water since the very beginning, availability of water becomes an issue with potential increases in the number of users of the water and with

the fluctuating populations with less water being reclaimed in the summer, so conserving available supplies is very prudent.

"The 'beach areas' require relatively low maintenance and still provide playable surfaces. We also use them as natural cart paths where we have removed the concrete paths in sensitive landing areas where golf shots can ricochet into the water. Additionally by wrapping the waste areas around the base of pine and palm trees, competition between the trees and turf is eliminated as is the need to edge and trim around the trees saving substantial labor costs.

"At Island Country Club we love aerification and slow release fertilizer. We try not to begin core aerifying before June 1 and never core aerify after Sept. 1, but in between we do as much as we can. Our preferred source of nitrogen is polymer coated urea which we apply to greens, tees, fairways and roughs four times per year at 1.5 lbs. N per 1000



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SUPERINTENDENT/FUN FACTS



Wayne and Melody Kappauf

WAYNE KAPPAUF, CGCS

Originally from: Long Island, NY Moved to Naples at age two.

Family: Wife Melody, daughter Aimee (28) son Kyle (22) grandson Christopher (7)

Education: Naples High School graduate 1978; Bachelor of Science degree Florida Southern College 1982.

Employment history: 1995-present superintendent, Island CC. Marco Island; 1982-95 superintendent, Quail Run GC, Naples; 1976-82 part-time. Forest Lakes GC Naples.

Professional affiliations: Member EGCSA and FGCSA since 1982; member GCSAA since 1991, Certified Golf Course Superintendent 1993-present; EGCSA board member 1991-1996, 2000 - present, president in 1994; FGCSA board member 2006-2009.

How did you get into the business? I started playing golf at 11 and have been on a course ever since. I thought I wanted to be a golf pro but soon realized I did not want to be trapped in a building most of the day. Mark Hampton and Buddy Carmouche were two superintendents who greatly influenced my early career and got me involved in the Everglades GCSA.

Goals: My goal has always been to be happy and I have accomplished that for sure. I have tried to be a good son, a good husband, a good father, a good friend, a good employee, and a good servant.

Personal philosophy: When you love what you do, then it is not work. .

Advice: Work hard and set a good example for others to follow, but do not work ridiculous hours and deprive your loved ones at home. Finish that degree. Get certified. Pick up a new license or certificate in something. Learn another language. Get involved in your superintendents' association and visit other courses when you get the chance.

Personal memorable moments: Helping my wife get control of a bus load of Island CC members after the driver had a heart attack and died while the bus was cruising down U.S. 41. Thankfully no one else was hurt.

Hobbies and Interests: Golf and the Gulf get a lot of my attention.

WAYNE'S WORLD

Vehicle: 2008 GMC Sierra

The last good movie I saw: Grand Torino (Clint Eastwood)

I stay home to watch: All the golf Majors and Dolphin games I'm not at in person

The book I've been reading: *Uncommon* by Tony Dungy

Favorite meal: The one I'm eating at the time

Favorite performers: Rascal Flatts

Prized possessions: Our new dock - it's great

Personal heroes: My mom and dad for their unconditional love

Nobody knows that I: Enjoy helping people with their tax returns

I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Not sweating the small stuff

If I could do it over: I would have served my country in the military

I'd give anything to meet: Tiger Woods

My fantasy (which is also my reality) is: Living on an island with a beautiful blonde.

The one thing I can't stand: Leaving that island

If I could change one thing about myself: We can never have too much patience

My most irrational act: Pulling out a 30-foot tree with a 20-foot chain. I almost didn't make it to my 23rd birthday

Most humbling experience: A direct hit from Hurricane Wilma

The words that best describe me: Easy to get along with

My dream foursome would be: My wife Melody, son Kyle and Dan Marino

My best fish story:

Laughing out loud as I watched my 10-year-old son Kyle get spooled by a big bull shark off Cape Romano. The whole time, he's yelling, "Dad, Dad, Dad..."

My most amazing/lucky/important golf shot:

A hole-in-one on the 18th at Quail Run just after the sun went down.



Wayne was honored to know Gene Sarazen at the Island CC.

'We preach tolerance over perfection when it comes to pesticide applications and this is communicated to our grounds committee.'

sq. ft. We alter the rate as needed to ensure a constant feed throughout the year. Our goal is to use every pound of nitrogen as efficiently as possible. With this in mind, we spray greens with liquid fertilizer at 1/15th lb. N weekly in season, but a little less often in the summer. These programs, along with the use of Primo, allow us to give our members more consistent color and green speed.

"When it comes to pesticides, we believe that less is better and we work hard to reduce pesticide applications as much as possible. Fungicide applications are only made on greens and herbicide applications are limited to spot applications with the occasional boom application for any larger patches of sedges and spurge. We treat the entire golf course for mole crickets and we time the applications so we also control any grub issues we might have. Worms are treated on the greens. We preach tolerance over perfection when it comes to pesticide applications and this is communicated to our grounds committee.

Like most Florida golf courses, we are blessed with an abundance of wildlife. While there are not too many four-legged visitors, bird and marine life is everywhere. From the nesting Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Pelicans and Great Blue Herons, ibis, roseate spoonbills and other water and wading birds to the snook and tarpon often seen in our ponds, every day is an adventure.

"Working with Ormond bermudagrass over the past 14 years has been a challenge but also a pleasure. It took some time to figure it out, but I have come to love and respect it as an excellent playing surface. Growing good turf

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The 10th green and three of the 73 sand bunkers currently being dug out and resanded. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

and managing an extensive tree inventory at only 2-1/2 to 3 feet above sea level has also been a challenge. Managing 4- to 5-foot mounds of straight sand can also be fun. Thankfully our effluent water has been of very good quality and the sandy soils are excellent for flushing

any sodium buildup.”

Wayne’s wife Melody is the membership director at the club. They have a proactive message for all members, membership directors and superintendents in the area.

“When I started in my position and

was showing prospective members around the club, I began to get many very golf-specific questions like types of grass on the course, heights of cut, irrigation systems, maintenance programs, etc. It was easy for me, I just asked my husband. I learned the key points

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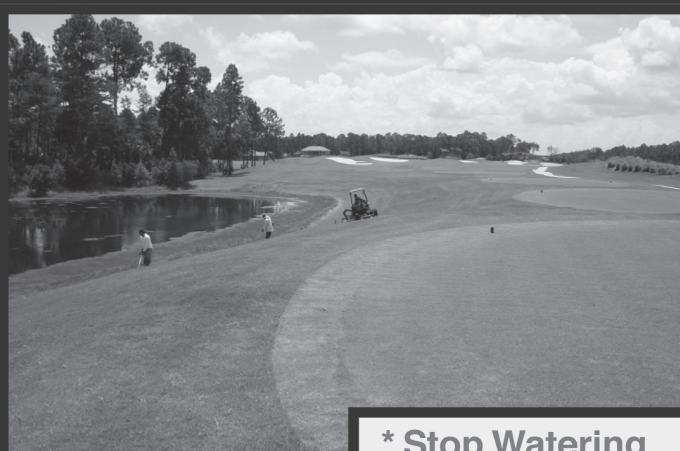
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The 14th green in the background and in the foreground crushed rock screenings and wedelia ground cover form a buffer zone along the 12th tee. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



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Ownership: Member owned since 1986

Playing Policy: Private. Avg. 28,000 rounds per year

Holes: 18; 6,636 yards, par 72; Slope/Rating 73.4/134

Designed by: Dave Wallace, opened: 1966

Management Team: Club Manager Rudiger Loose, Club President Craig Carlson, Green Chairman Byron Farrell, Head Golf Professional Michael DeJordy, Director of Member Services Melody Kappauf, Golf Course Superintendent Wayne Kappauf.

Major Renovations/Ongoing Projects: 1999 new irrigation system (Toro Site-Pro); 2001 greens regrassed with Tifeagle; 2001 tees enlarged and regrassed with certified Tifway 419; 2005 clubhouse renovated and new grill room. Currently digging out and resanding bunkers.

Total acreage under maintenance: 150 A

Greens: Tifeagle, avg. 5000 sq ft; 2.5 A; HOC 0.120 in. year round; no overseeding; green speed goals 8.5 - 9.5 year round

Tees: Certified 419; 2.5 A; HOC 0.400 in.; overseeding: Poa trivialis 6 lbs per 1000 sq.ft. Fairways: Ormond bermuda; 22 A; HOC 0.500 in.; no overseeding

Roughs: Ormond bermuda; 75 A; HOC 1.5 in.; no overseeding

Bunkers: 73; Sand type: G Angle from GASH; Machine raked daily with Toro Sand Pro 2020 (3)

Waste or Native areas/beds: Waste bunkers made of screenings have been added to replace a number of cart paths. Screenings are also used as beach material around ponds and used around the bases of all palm trees. Pine trees are surrounded by pine straw beds

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: 6 comprising 27 A; all waterways maintained in house; All ponds have Vertex aeration systems.

Irrigation: Effluent from Marco Island wastewater treatment plant; Flowtronix PSI 2000 gpm Silent Storm; Toro Site-Pro with Tmap; 1,084 Toro 750 and 780 Heads at 80 ft. spacing. Two 1000-gallon fertigation tanks with 35 gpm pumps.

Water Management/Conservation practices: Golf course has used 100 percent effluent since being built in 1966. As demand for effluent increases on the island as well as the cost, we have been reducing the number of heads and irrigated turf acres. Irrigation water is kept away from all ponds and pine straw beds.

Staff: Total staff including superintendent: 19. weekly budgeted hours: 40 plus 5 OT.

Key staff members and years of service: Assistant Joe Carlucci (26), Equipment Technician Henry Brunson (43), Equipment Manager Eason Parker (11), Pest Control Technician Willy St. Jean (21), Irrigation Technician James Cooper (40) and Administrative Assistant Dannette Stier (5).

Communication: Daily staff interactions, managers' meeting every other Friday, monthly Grounds Committee meetings (Oct-May), monthly newsletter article and annual club meeting in March.

Special Events & History: The Island CC hosts numerous community events and has its own foundation to benefit charities and special needs on Marco Island. The club was once the home course to legendary professional golfers Gene Sarazen and Tony Lema.

that members were interested in and included them in my spiel. It helped my credibility and also showed the club was very thorough, professional and interested in serving its members.”

Melody and several other directors in the area formed a local Membership Directors Association three years ago to improve the communication and education among its members. Melody is currently the president. The MDA has invited local superintendents to speak at their monthly meetings and the Everglades GCSA has invited MDA members and spouses to join them on their annual cruise.

“The relationship between the superintendent and golf pro is pretty obvious,” Melody said, “but superintendents should also establish a working

Bald eagles also call the Island CC home and usually produce two or three chicks per year. Photo by Wayne Kappauf, CGCS



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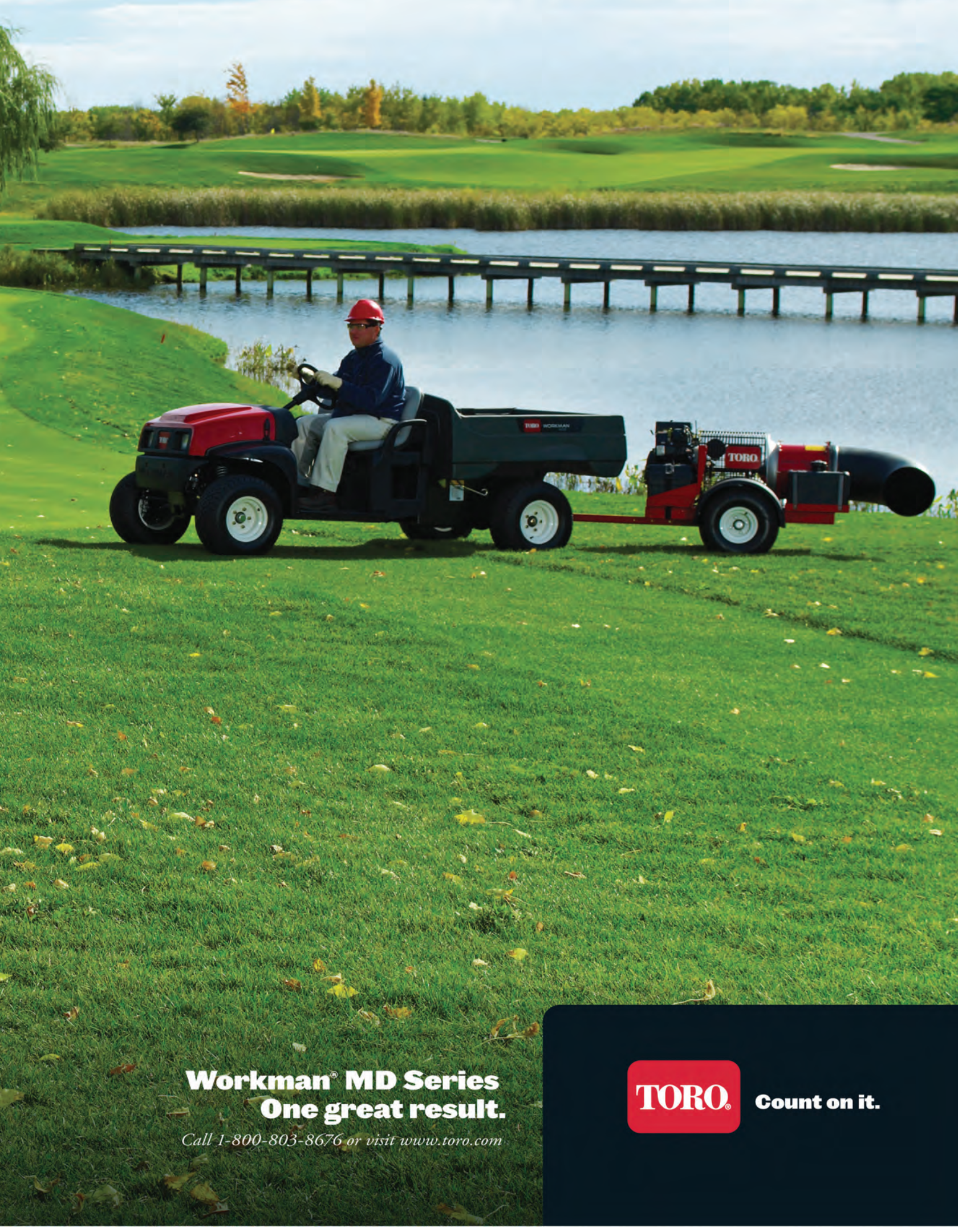
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Above - Par 4, 8th hole. Tee shot beware. Water, water everywhere. Photo by Daniel Zelazek. Compare with old scorecard photo of Gene Sarazen on No. 8, right, to see how the course has matured.

relationship with their membership directors since they are the ones recruiting new members who help keep the club successful.”

And much of the success Kappauf says is also due to the work product of his crew, which sports a longevity record to be envied these days. The prime example is equipment technician Henry Brunson who has been commuting to Marco Island nearly 100 miles round trip per day for 43 years. After working his way into the shop and becoming a technician, he has seen a lot of changes in golf equipment over the years.

“I’ve had to learn new things all the time, but it keeps me going!” he said.

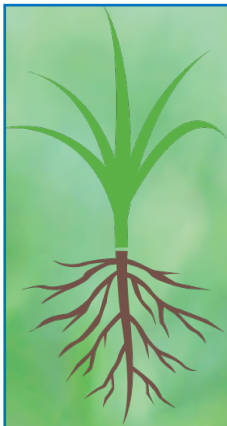


Gene Sarazen on the eighth tee of the Marco Island Country Club course, home of the annual Tony Lema tournament. Gene is chairman of the golf committee and a resident of Marco Island.

Brunson says his next job will be a fishing guide on Lake Okeechobee.

Just as the Island Country Club has embraced and honored the historic accomplishments of one of golf’s leg-

ends in Gene Sarazen, so have Wayne and Melody Kappauf earned the club’s appreciation and respect for their service to the club and especially to its members.



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Sensible Budget Crunching

Being a savvy, free-thinking turfgrass manager is critical

EDITOR'S NOTE: Balancing the Budget was the Hands On topic in the last issue. Bob Wagner's article arrived just a little too late to be used. As we continue to contend with a volatile economy that's trying to recover, Bob's contribution is a reminder of how you can be creative in controlling costs

By Bob Wagner

Most of us are facing the fact that the current economy has affected the golf industry. Whether it is a decline in rounds played, lower merchandise sales, shortfalls in membership revenue or a reduction in food and beverage income, we are being asked to closely scrutinize our golf course operations. In many cases, we have been asked to reduce operating costs, some more drastically than others, but still provide the playing conditions that our paying customers deserve.

The largest line item in most budgets is labor and associated benefits. This is normally the first place we look to trim costs. In order to reduce manpower and still get the job done, a great deal of organization is required of the maintenance team. I am very fortunate that my assistant superintendent, Jackson Reisswig, possesses good organizational skills and manages the staff to its full potential.

At Coral Creek Club, we feature Tifeagle greens, Tifdwarf collars, and (mostly) Tifway 419 in fairways and roughs. Regular cultural practices like aerifying and verticutting are required frequently to maintain these surfaces. To conserve resources, we will be reducing the number of aerifications on the tees, fairways and roughs to two instead of three. While I adhere to the belief that the more you can aerify, the

better the turf becomes, I do not anticipate any short- or long-term negative impacts from this reduction. The tees and fairways will still receive their annual verticutting, but perhaps only once instead of the preferred two.

The budget constraints that we face should not affect the putting surfaces in any way. Golfers' primary focus is always on the greens, and to eliminate or reduce cultural practices in any way could result in a reduction of quality, especially on today's ultradwarfs. We still plan on verticutting greens every 7-10 days at .125 in. deep, followed by the proper topdressing of 304-T sand. More than likely, we will verticut the greens in two directions with a Graden unit twice again this summer, an aggressive verticutting at a depth between .38 and .5 inch; the deeper we can go, once again, the better the result.

We plan on core aerifying the greens and collars four times this summer, with inside diameter tine size being .5 inch minimum. We will try to space the holes as closely as we can without damaging the turf, because the tighter the spacing becomes, the more organic matter we can remove.

This will be followed by a heavier topdressing, once again with the 304-T sand. In the years past we used an outside contractor for aerifying. This year we'll do it in house. Equipment sharing among area golf courses has become more common and necessary as we

ing and using each others' specialized equipment.

Coral Creek Club closes for the summer, as most of our membership migrates to cooler climates. This allows us to accomplish our intense cultural practices with a more flexible schedule than most other clubs. It also allows us to utilize gang mowers for fairway and rough mowing out of season, and if we don't get completely finished with an operation for the day or before the weekend, it's really not an issue. We can save on labor hours this way, and certainly avoid the dreaded budget killer of overtime.

The high, flashed, sand faces of our bunker design can lead to serious erosion problems during the rainy season. Since we are closed, we minimize the time spent fixing the washouts by filling sand bags with G-Angle bunker sand and placing them in the bunkers. Prior to opening, we simply cut the bags, and evenly distribute the sand in the bunkers. We have saved thousands of dollars by utilizing this sand-bagging procedure, and with the course being closed, this practice does not affect the golfer.

Being a team player at your facility has never been more important. The golf course superintendent has always been a key component to the overall health of the club, and will continue to be so. Being a savvy, free-thinking turfgrass manager is critical in these

Think of it as a great opportunity to show what an asset you are to your club, and at the same time possibly strengthen your job security.

attempt to take on these tasks using our own manpower.

Fortunately, we have a very good relationship with Jeff Strother at the nearby Gasparilla Inn and Club that allows us both to be comfortable lend-

ing and using each others' specialized equipment. It is important to remain upbeat and accept the challenges that we all face. Think of it as a great opportunity to show what an asset you are to your club, and at the same time possibly strengthen your job security. ■



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WINTER OVERSEEDING:

Can It Still Be Justified?

By John H Foy

Winter overseeding has long been considered a necessary and routine practice on golf courses in Florida because of peak seasonal play during the fall, winter, and spring when the base bermudagrass is semi- to fully dormant.

Overseeding provides a lush green, actively growing turf cover, and the playing and aesthetic characteristics golfers expect. The real estate and resort golf boom of the past 20 years was a driving force in the increase in overseeding at all courses. However, times have changed; and today the question becomes, "Can the agronomic consequences and cost of overseeding still be justified?"

Compared to Tifdwarf putting greens, the increased density, greater cool-temperature growth and color retention of the newer ultradwarf bermudagrass and seashore paspalum cultivars has resulted in discontinuation of overseeding programs at most courses in the central and southern parts of the state. From Jacksonville across the Panhandle, there are also numerous examples of courses that are successful with not overseeding ultradwarf bermudagrass putting surfaces. In the upper south, painting ultradwarf putting greens has become common; yet based on experiences to date, this is really not needed in North Florida.

From the agronomic standpoint, not overseeding ultradwarf putting greens is absolutely the best year-round strategy. There has been some decline in overseeding Tifdwarf putting greens; however at courses in the central to northern part of the state, where moderate to heavy play is hosted daily through the winter months, there is legitimate concern about being able to maintain full turf coverage when Tifdwarf completely stops growing for three to four months. In lieu of traditional overseeding, "interseeding" of Tifdwarf putting surfaces is a strategy that can be successfully employed.

AGRONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

When discussing overseeding with golfers and course officials during TAS visits, I often use the analogy that it is best thought of as growing two different plants in the same pot. Thus when management practices are geared to establishing and then maintaining an overseeding cover for five to six months, the health and quality of the base bermuda is negatively affected.

The overseeding grasses also directly compete with the base turf for sunlight, nutrients, and water.

The combination of these factors results in the potential for areas of weak thin bermudagrass turf coverage to be exposed in the late spring to early summer when the overseeding cover begins to die out in response to increasing temperatures and humidity.

The employment of a proactive transition management program is recommended to minimize the potential for transition problems. However, environmental conditions will always be a primary controlling factors, and thus there are no guarantees that problems will not be experienced.

When a hard transition is experienced, additional work, money, and time is then required for reestablishing full turf coverage and acceptable playing conditions. Typically, six weeks is required for completion of the transition from the overseeding cover; and there is also a period of time in the fall when the establishment process is underway that it is simply not possible to maintain consistent good quality conditioning. Some additional consequences of overseeding are:

- **Increased weed pressure** – This is true for both winter and summer annual weeds that are introduced and because of limitations in herbicide treatment options.

- **Increased thatch/organic matter** – With maintaining an actively growing turf cover on a year-round basis, there

is a significant additional contribution of organic matter that must be taken into consideration with the cultural management programs.

- **Increased nematode pressure** – Research conducted at the University of Florida has documented that the additional root mass of an overseeding cover further favors proliferation of nematodes, which have become the number-one pest problem of Florida golf courses.

COST CONSIDERATIONS

In difficult economic times, every facet of course maintenance is scrutinized in an effort to reduce and control expenditures. In addition to the cost of the seed, ranging from \$300 to \$600 per acre for fairways, the cost of ongoing maintenance must be considered. Other key items would be:

- **Labor** – The additional work associated with seedbed preparation and the actual overseeding process; once established and continuing for the next four to five months, overseeded fairways must be mowed a minimum of three times per week. By not overseeding fairways, this labor cost is not totally eliminated, but it is drastically reduced.

- **Water** – Establishing and maintaining an overseeding cover requires a lot more irrigation. Even if there is not a direct water cost, there is the cost of the electricity required for pumping every gallon of water that goes out onto the golf course.

- **Fuel and Equipment Maintenance** – By having to routinely mow overseeded fairways, there are additional fuel costs and increased equipment maintenance required for maintaining an acceptable quality of cut, and the life expectancy of the mowing equipment is also further reduced.

When you add everything up, the cost of large-acreage overseeding can easily run in the range of \$75,000 to more than \$100,000. When the agro-

nomic consequences are also taken into consideration, I believe that it has become very difficult to fully justify the short-term benefits of overseeding at a large number of Florida golf courses.

Based on our TAS visits to courses throughout the state over the past two to three years, there has been a reversal in the overseeding trend due to concerns over water-use restrictions and because of the downturn in the economy.

The early onset and persistence of cool to cold temperatures during the 2008/2009 winter was a worst-case scenario; yet time and again it was found that it was possible to survive and provide appropriate, good-quality playing surfaces without overseeding. While there will still be situations where overseeding is felt to be necessary, hopefully more golfers can be educated to understand and accept that this is really not an economically or environmentally sustainable management practice.

It should be stressed that traffic management is absolutely essential and needs to be viewed as a key component of the wintertime course management programs. Besides being an important revenue source at most facilities, golf carts have become an integral part of the American game. This is especially true in Florida because of the large number of senior golfers and course routings that are not conducive to walking.

Most golfers have a limited appreciation of the significant negative impact cart traffic has on course conditioning and quality. The negative impact of cart traffic is further increased in Florida because the heaviest play is hosted when the base turf is not actively growing and able to recover from traffic wear and damage. Thus, along with strict enforcement of cart usage policies that distribute traffic and wear over as much area as possible, in locations where concentrated traffic patterns occur, directional control devices need to be

put into place to regularly redirect flow patterns before the turf becomes totally worn out.

If you don't overseed, don't forget about the benefits of spray applications of micro-nutrients, especially iron, for maintaining a greener color with bermudagrass fairways during the late fall, winter, and early spring.

Every facility has unique characteristics that must be considered in individual management programs. Space is not available here to review in detail wintertime management practices and strategies for providing appropriate and acceptable play and aesthetic characteristics when overseeding is not conducted. In addition to providing site-specific recommendations and suggestions, the USGA's Turf Advisory Service can be a great tool for educating golfers and course officials on what is needed to survive the winter months, as well as what are realistic expectations for course conditioning and quality.

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OVERSEEDING

To Seed or Not To Seed

There are risks, rewards, responsibilities and requirements for every turfgrass management program on a golf course. One of the most time-honored programs – overseeding – has been undergoing gradual change as new strains of hybrid bermudagrass and seashore paspalum show more cold tolerance and quick green-up after cold snaps.

While overseeding in the winter provides aesthetically pleasing stripe patterns, recent drought periods and subsequent watering restrictions of up to 45 percent cuts in allotments have superintendents and clubs taking a harder look at their programs. Appearance isn't the only reason a course overseeds. Heavy winter play can wear out the

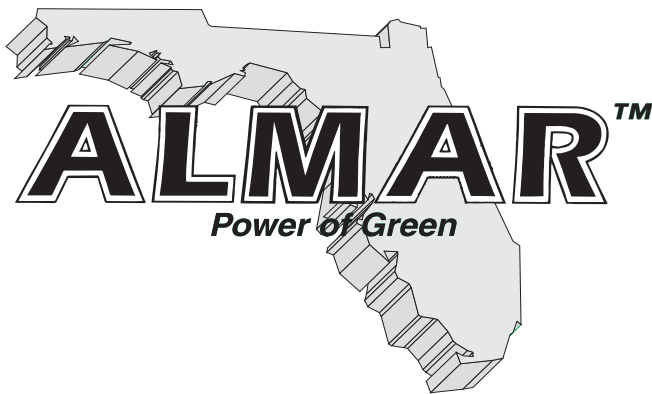


Pleasing stripes and protecting dormant turf are two reasons for overseeding, but new grasses and milder winters are changing programs. Photo by Joel Jackson.

turf in regions where cold temperatures shut down the active growth of bermudagrass. In these areas overseeding is a necessity not a nicety to produce a viable playing surface so the golf course

can remain profitable in the winter.

Here are some comments from your peers as they consider how to modify overseeding programs to balance battered budgets and still provide good



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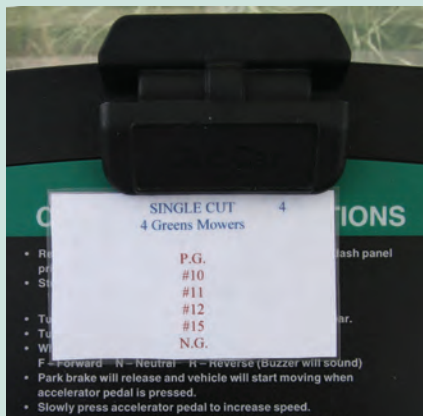
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SUPER TIP**Pick a card! Any card!**

By Darren J. Davis

Like many golf courses, the order in which we cut our greens is well defined with only a few exceptions. For us, the practice green is always first and then, depending on whether we are trying to get both sides ready at once or just the front nine, we have a set route we want the operators to follow. The only additional variable that comes into play is how many employees we have available based on the schedule for that particular morning.

With rare exception, we utilize from three to six people each morning to cut greens. Rather than writing the desired route on the assignment board, or hand writing a note each day, we have prepared “semi-permanent” cards that dictate the order in which we want the operators to cut.



Laminated mowing assignment cards save time and provide clear directions. Photo by Darren Davis.

We have separate sets of cards for three, four, five, or six mowers.

The benefits of the cards are that we leave nothing to chance (either due to the fault of the supervisor or the employee) and we are saving time and materials by not producing a hand written note each morning.

To produce the cards my office manager created a template in Microsoft Word. After printing a sheet of the cards we use a laminating machine to seal the paper. The cards measure two by three inches so the final step is to cut the cards to size with a paper cutter. Our only significant cost was the initial purchase of a small laminating machine and a paper cutter.

While we feel the routes provide a consistent workload for each operator, in an attempt to provide variety and have a little fun with the crew, we often allow the operators “to pick a card” without seeing the route they are choosing. Between uses, the cards are stored in an index card storage box.

playing conditions during the all-important golf season.

ARLINGTON RIDGE GC, LEESBURG

Last year we were one of the courses in central Florida that decided not to overseed. We had two reasons – economic and agronomic. We realized a cost saving of more than \$40,000 as the economy was in a serious downfall.

I don't think we lost much play because of it, but on the down side we did hear more complaints about divots and bad lies. We were dormant from December to February due to a higher number of days with below freezing temperatures.

On the plus side, the fairways rebounded quicker than normal when the warmer weather returned and filled in more quickly without the transition competition with the ryegrass. With signs of a stabilizing economy emerging, we are going to overseed this year to enhance appearance and playing conditions during our in-season play, hoping to promote membership and real estate sales. We will overseed the greens with *Poa trivialis* at 6-8 lbs per 1,000 sq.ft., the tees with perennial ryegrass at 15 lbs per

1,000 sq.ft and the fairways with a 3-way ryegrass blend at 400 lbs per acre.

We have used an outside contracting service for our overseeding in the past, but this year we will do it in-house using a three-point hitch Gandy spreader for the fairways and Lesco walking drop spreaders for the greens and tees.

We will prep the greens for seeding by verticutting two ways followed by lightly topdressing, then apply the seed. We will verticut the tees two weeks prior, apply the seed and wait. The fairways will receive a light verticutting two weeks prior, then we spread the seed in two directions to avoid skips.

Once established we lightly topdress and fertilize the overseeding with a granular and liquid rotation. We will punch the greens one time during the overseeded months, usually with 1/4-inch solid tines to relieve compaction from the heavy winter play and allow air to the root zone.

When it's time for transition in the spring, I prefer to let the overseeding die out naturally on the tees and fairways. I will start to push the bermuda with fertilizer during March, when temps reach 85 degrees, and cut back a little on

watering. In April I will start verticutting lightly to help remove the rye and to promote bermuda growth. This will open up the canopy to allow more sunlight to the bermuda. By May we should be hot enough (approaching the 90s) and we can mow lower and verticut more heavily to allow the bermuda to overtake the rye.

On the greens, we follow mostly the same program, except we will aerify in April with 1/4-inch hollow tines to help remove the *Poa trivialis*. Frequent light verticutting and topdressing at this time will help the bermuda transition and cutting back on the water slightly will help gradually remove the overseeding.

*Ron Hibbard, CGCSA
Seven Rivers GCSA*

JULIETTE FALLS GC, DUNELLON

We did not overseed last winter and recorded 33 heavy frost and one day below 32 degrees for at least 15 hours, which burned everything back. On the bright side, we also estimated saving upwards of \$100,000 and nearly 25 million gallons of water.

*Steve Keller, Class A
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USGA REPORT

Fall Preparations and El Nino Alert

By John Foy

Throughout Florida it still feels like summer even though the calendar says fall has arrived. Especially in the central to southern part of the state, hot and humid conditions persist, and afternoon thunderstorms are still boiling up on a fairly regular basis. Sept. 10 is the time when peak Atlantic hurricane activity typically occurs, but, so far, the tropics have been quiet. While we certainly can't let our guard down, hopefully we can make it through another season without a direct hit.

Earlier in the summer the Climate Prediction Center noted the development of an El Nino effect in the equatorial Pacific, affecting Florida weather patterns thousands of miles away. In particular, upper level westerly winds disrupt and redirect tropical waves and low pressure systems coming across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa, which, in turn, reduces storms and hurricanes forming and hitting the peninsula. Based on the predictive models, further strengthening of the El Nino effect will occur and is expected to last at least through the upcoming winter months. When a strong El Nino was in place during the winter in the past, Florida and the lower Southeast experienced below-average cool temperatures and above-average rainfall.

Without pronounced environ-

mental extremes, most people have a limited appreciation of the major negative impact on general turf health and course conditioning that occurs from a prolonged period of cool and wet weather. The El Nino winter of 1997/98 stands out and is remembered because of the problems experienced at golf courses throughout the state and the tremendous number of SOS calls received in our office.

On top of cool and damp conditions, increased cloud cover further exacerbated the reduced sunlight of short winter days such that one golf course superintendent so aptly described the situation as "trying to grow grass in a closet." This situation is not conducive to bermudagrass growth and also caused problems with establishing and maintaining a dense and healthy overseeding cover on putting surfaces, tees, and fairways.

While the accuracy of long range weather forecasts still leaves a lot to be desired, given past experiences and the possibility of a moderate to strong El Nino being in place this winter, the importance of good fall preparations and having the base turf in as healthy a condition as possible is critical. A key component is a good fertilization program to maintain sufficient levels of available nutrients in the soil to support balanced and sustained growth while environmental conditions remain favorable.

Unfortunately, at many courses around Florida, the current economic recession has required budget cutbacks, but course fertilization is an area that

should not be compromised. There are no magic elixirs or substitutes for the basic macro- and micronutrients needed to support plant growth.

Especially with putting greens, sufficient leaf surface area is necessary for photosynthesis and, in turn, carbohydrate production and storage. There are no chemical treatments that can replace carbohydrates after they become depleted in the late fall, winter, and early spring. While there will always be pressure from low-handicap golfers for fast to very fast putting speeds, maintaining slightly elevated heights of cut for the next two to three months is especially important to make sure the turf is adequately prepared to survive the winter. This is true regardless of whether the putting surfaces are overseeded.

Keene's Pointe Technician Receives Master Certification

Patrick Ryan, service technician at Keene's Point GC in Wintermere has received the status of Master Technician from the Equipment & Engine Training Council. The EETC is an outdoor power equipment industry association that addresses the quality of service support for your mowing equipment, chain saws, string trimmers, and just about all of the power equipment used on a golf course.

In order for Ryan to qualify for the EETC Master Technician Certification he had to pass six individual certification tests in four-cycle engines,

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Patrick Ryan

two-cycle engines, electrical drivelines and hydraulics, compact diesel

engines and generators. Each test contained 150 questions that dealt with basic product understanding, product theory of operations, and trouble-shooting. Ryan joins an elite group of technicians from around the United States and Canada.

"Passing these tests is no cake-walk," said Jim Roche, EETC executive director. Not all technicians will be able to meet all the requirements set forth, so this is a great achievement for Ryan and other technicians who will be receiving their Master status."

The EETC is a non-profit professional association that is addressing the critical shortage of service technicians through its school accreditation and technical certification programs. With more than 540 members, the EETC promotes and supports the recruitment, retention and education of service technicians in the outdoor power industries.

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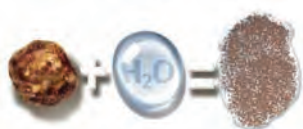
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A combined net score of 53 was enough to take home the trophy July 6 at the 12th annual John Deere Golf Pro-Am at the TPC at Deere Run in Moline, Ill.

The Pro-Am event is held in conjunction with the PGA Tour's John Deere Classic event won this year by Steve Stricker. As the official golf course equipment and irrigation supplier to the PGA TOUR, John Deere brings tournament-level quality to today's courses, giving golf course superintendents and other management professionals products, expertise and support.

The 2009 John Deere ProAm winning team included (from left): Mike Koppen, group product manager, John Deere Golf; Mark Kuhns, CGCS, president of GCSAA and director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.; Paul Stankowski, PGA professional; Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, vice president of GCSAA, director of Wollaston Recreational Facility and superintendent of Presidents Golf Course in North Quincy, Mass.; Larry Guyer, operations manager, John Deere Credit.



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Each gallon contains: 1.5 lbs. (N), 0.43 lbs. (K)

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17-2-4

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- ▶ 17-2-4 is designed specifically to increase plant health and overall turf quality on golf course fairways and athletic fields.
- ▶ The nitrogen source contains a Urease inhibitor which prevents nitrogen loss by volatilization and bacterial degradation.
- ▶ 17-2-4 will enhance overall performance when used with applications of plant growth regulators and fungicides.

Each gallon contains: 1.9 lbs. (N), 0.22 lbs. (P), 0.44 lbs. (K)

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The 16th hole at Juliette Falls Golf Club near Dunnellon. Photo by Steve Keller.

Juliette Falls GC Certified 'Signature Sanctuary'

Juliette Falls Golf Club recently achieved designation as a Certified Silver Audubon International Signature Sanctuary. Signature certification is awarded only to new developments that are designed, constructed, and maintained according to Audubon International's precise planning standards and environmental disciplines. The focus of the Signature Program is to promote sound land-management practices and appropriate land-use changes based on sound scientific research.

Developed by Vikings, LLC as an amenity to a planned development in Dunnellon, the 18-hole, John Sandford-designed golf course is west of Ocala off SR 40. The name of the development came from an early settlement in the area, the town of Juliette, founded in

1845. The farming and phosphate mining village stood on what is now the Juliette Falls property.

Florida's fourth largest natural spring, Rainbow Springs, is located nearby and forms the spectacular Rainbow River one mile from the project. The property has 4 acres of lined, manmade lakes, 2,000 linear feet of naturalized shoreline, two restored wetlands and six created ones, 30 acres of grassland – 20 preserved and 10 created – and a total of 90 acres in managed turf. The primary natural features on the property are the oak forest and Florida scrub with many wet habitats created for stormwater control and treatment.

In the southern portion of the project, which buffers the Rainbow Springs is a 136-acre conservation area where walking and biking trails have been laid through the forest following an old railroad bed that bisects the property from north to south.

"Throughout the Signature Program process, Juliette Falls Golf Club owners and staff have demonstrated their cooperation and willingness to make decisions that positively affect wildlife habitat, water conservation, and the ecosystems that sustain life," said

Signature Programs Director, Nancy Richardson. "Their commitment to environmental excellence will continue to provide significant benefits to the natural resources on and surrounding the golf course property."

To date, only 13 other properties in Florida have achieved Silver Signature Certification.

"The golf course construction included installation of a series of groundwater monitoring wells that are sampled quarterly for water quality," said superintendent Steve Keller. "Our fertilizer and chemical use is very limited. We monitor our clipping yields from the fairways and spot apply as needed. Insect pests and weeds are not a big problem at this stage, so spot spraying and hand pulling is the norm."

"We did some testing on a microbe product called Aqua T. on a lake last February and experienced such great results that we are treating all the lakes. The owner wanted aquarium-quality water for the waterfalls and it took us awhile to get to that point. The microbes in Aqua T digest sludges and nitrates and have clarified the water. Since using it we have had no filamentous algae blooms, which is huge."

"They really did a fine job of building the maintenance complex with a 1/2-acre concrete court yard, ESD water treatment for both mix load and wash down pads. We have an air-conditioned grinding room and a propane-powered heating system. All the ceilings are insulated and have ventilation fans and duct work making it very comfortable even on the hottest or coldest days. In fact the whole development is a dual energy community which got some good press coverage."

"When the lakes were filled, we stocked some 3400 fish, including largemouth bass, bream, shiners, bluegill and catfish. We had a couple of albino catfish but they were easy prey for the Ospreys. There is lots of wildlife: turkey, deer, coyotes, fox, bobcats, eagles, kites, hawks, owls, kestrel, the whole range of small songbirds, wading birds, fox and red squirrels and gopher tortoise."

- Joel Jackson



Steve Keller, superintendent, Juliette Falls GC

Is the ACSP Program Taking Root?

What Members and Golfers Think About the Audubon Sanctuary Program.

By Shelly Foy

I am often asked "How do we get our members/golfers involved in our environmental stewardship efforts?"

I surveyed Audubon Committee members of several golf courses in Florida and asked three questions. I would like to thank John Axe, Bud Smart, Susan Pratt, Jack Kreager, Susan Cassell, Leo Larkin, and Ed McCoy for their thoughtful responses to the questions. Their answers have encouraged me and should encourage you as well.

What are the reasons you decided to become involved with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) at your golf course?

- Participation encourages our mem-

bers to see beyond the golf course and learn to focus and appreciate the "Gulf" course community of wildlife with which we share this beautiful location.

- We are surrounded by a federal wildlife refuge and have long practiced environmentally friendly management. Many of our members are active in local environmental groups.

- Florida is suffering from drought-related water shortages. When people have watering restrictions on their own lawns, they get understandably testy with the water being "lavished" on golf courses. The ACSP program can help golfers dispel the idea that golf courses are not eco-friendly.

- I am deeply concerned about environmental issues. Wildlife is a key interest to many of us who live here. We value the birds, wildcat, coyotes, even our four alligators. Also, golf courses

will be at peril if we don't deal with water issues. Ours is the first in Citrus County to get grey water.

- I belong to National Audubon and work as a volunteer at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The Audubon people always give golf courses a bum rap. I have argued with them and have even invited them to look at our golf course, but they have a mindset that golf courses are bad, using too much water, fertilizer, pesticides, etc. I felt differently and knew that our course was a great place, abundant with wildlife, and very environmentally friendly. As chairman of the Audubon Committee I have tried to educate the members through our monthly column in the newsletter and on our Web site about the standards we meet to keep our certification. Our membership appreciates the efforts of our superintendent and the entire main-

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tenance staff in keeping us certified.

- It is a deep-seeded appreciation for nature and the beauty of species, a desire to play a role in shaping our tomorrow, a way of saying thank you for the great environment we live and play in. It is a way of being a part of something that is very special, a way of learning more about our world by working with our neighbors and people responsible for our course maintenance. It is simply a means by which we help to make this a better world.

- Before our superintendent came here, we had not been aware of the Audubon program. However, he had successfully completed certification at his previous course, and after he presented the information to the board of directors and green committee, we were quickly excited to commence the process. Soon after that, he organized wildlife tours that were a huge success. That first year, almost 100 members were shown highlights of the course from a different perspective, and that program continues today, six years later.

What value do you feel the ACSP has added to your golf course membership and to your golfing experience?

- Motivation... there are many golf communities but very few with a genuine and primary focus on combining the beauty of nature with the wildlife inhabitants so as to improve the living experience of both as we enjoy a round of golf. Certification is hard to achieve but worth the effort.

- It has helped raise member aware-

ness of the value of conservation practices. I'm not sure that the course, *per se*, is more beautiful as a result, but we feel better about it.

- The golfers take more interest in the wildlife and have more interest in protecting them and learning about their behaviors and habitats. We have raised quail to reintroduce them to the course; we have put up over 100 blue-bird boxes made by a member; we take evening rides and walks to check on the baby alligators; members have stocked the ponds and fish in them; turtle platforms have been put in the ponds, made by members. Money has also been donated for trees.

Many facilities struggle with how to get their members and golfers involved in environmental projects. What advice could you offer other courses on how to encourage participation in environmental stewardship projects?

- Our members are really into wildlife, and having the certification encourages their interest.

- Participation must start with leadership and communication. Our superintendent is committed to the process and his enthusiasm is captivating. With knowledgeable and informed leadership by management and membership, an ever-expanding vision of "what could be" soon becomes "what is." A round of golf becomes more than 18 holes. It's an opportunity to spend four hours in a truly unique environment with expanded horizons and visual experiences that enhances the adventure. This

is especially true if one is an amateur golfer... and we all are!

- We have a kayaking group with over 60 members. I provide information on the area birds and initiatives to protect endangered species. The community made a large contribution to a fund to save 3 Sisters Springs that harbor manatees in the winter. We bring in naturalists, Audubon Society members, and members with special knowledge to share. This all translates to a wider environmental consciousness that has supported the initiative. We also made a commitment to this project as a key item on the interview process for a new golf course superintendent. He has been a terrific asset to the program.

- Perhaps there should be an increase in exposure in magazines that golfers read, who will then encourage the superintendent to undertake the certification process. Marketing in superintendent magazines is not enough. Almost all superintendents are aware of the Audubon program; they probably just need a little encouragement from their membership to get started.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Audubon International recently released a report called "Golf's Green Bottom Line: Uncovering the Hidden Business Value of Environmental Stewardship on Golf Courses." This report clearly documents a business value associated with environmental stewardship on golf courses. You can download this report at <http://auduboninternational.org/PDFs/GolfsGreenBottomLine2009.pdf>.

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PROVEN SOLUTIONS

A BIG Master Plan



GREEN SIDE UP
By JOEL JACKSON

We know BMP stands for Best Management Practice. A large number of Florida agricultural and green industry commodities, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, have developed and published Best Management Practice manuals for their industries.

Mike Thomas with the Non-Point Source Pollution Department of FLDEP has been the point person for many of these BMP projects as the state sought to work with industries to protect the state's water quality by helping industries document ways to minimize unintended inputs to the environment.

In January 2007, several years of collaborative work paid off. Input by a committee of state, county and water-district regulators, university researchers, golf course superintendents, designers, managers and owners, plus representatives from the Sierra Club and 1,000 Friends of Florida culminated in the publica-

tion of a set of Golf Course BMPs. The official title is Best Management Practices for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses.

This publication already has provided a greater level of awareness and education to local governments about the complex and professional ways superintendents manage golf course maintenance practices. In many of the recent local fertilizer ordinances, the fertilizer management recommendations contained in the Golf BMPs are cited as the method golf courses are to follow when applying nitrogen and phosphorous in those cities and counties having new laws.

Thus, golf courses have had the benefit of continuing to operate under a rule which recognizes sound science rather than the well-intended but short-sighted "summer black-out periods" placed on residential and commercial landscape fertilizing. Why the Green Industry BMP Manual (for landscapers and homeowners), which also contains the same credible science is not cited more, remains a mystery.

As concerns over the environment continue to escalate, especially sources and uses of water, fears about pesticide residues and carbon dioxide emissions, we need to find a way to demonstrate more forcefully that golf courses are committed to being positive environmental and economic community assets.

The Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary program has been a viable program in which courses can receive advice and assistance in documenting current practices and

offer a certification program for demonstrating a course's ability to adapt, adopt, and – most importantly – verify environmentally sound practices.

Another program that has earned a lot of respect was the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program. It is an industry- and state-coordinated program which certifies properties in the training and implementation of turfgrass management BMPs.

Our Florida Golf BMP manual has received a lot of notice around the country and several associations have been asking how it was written and produced. The point is that BMPs are gaining more importance nationwide and we need to think seriously about how we can develop a program that can help us showcase our innate environmental stewardship that still goes mostly undocumented.

At a time when water use on turfgrass is coming under more scrutiny than ever before, we need a vehicle to formally unify all golf courses so our voice becomes stronger and more credible. One way to do that is to have all golf courses become members of our own Florida Golf Course or Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program. I would suggest that courses that have already achieved ACSP certification or are actively participating in the program would be recognized as being in compliance with the BMP based program.

The best example of industry solidarity and credibility occurred recently when 97 percent of Georgia's golf courses signed pledges to endorse and follow the Georgia Golf Course Water

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Conservation BMPs. So when, GGCSA representatives argued for easing the draconian water restrictions imposed on golf courses, they spoke from a position of strength and not just good intentions.

We need our FGCSA members and courses to go on the record, sign up, document practices and become certified in the Florida Golf BMPs. We can do it now voluntarily and take control of our destiny or we can wait to fight nit-picking regulations imposed upon our management practices.

By showing such initiative, perhaps we can get our BMPs adopted as a rule by the state and consider it a Big Master Plan we can all use in common for the economic and environmental success of golf in Florida.

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