

## *Haig Maintenance Newsletter 01/10*

Greetings from The Haig golf maintenance department. First, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and want to wish a Healthy and Happy New Year to all. This is the first of a monthly newsletter coming from the superintendent's corner. I am positive this additional communication will create a positive forum, for both the Members and Staff, to bridge a gap in awareness of past, present, and future happenings. More so, it will provide a more defined course direction.

- Through the month of January the greens' H.O.C. (height of cut) will be lowered (weather permitting) and regular topdressing will be performed, increasing green speed and trueness of roll. Topdressing will also help alleviate/smooth the increased number of ball marks due to increased play, cooler temperatures, and low quantities of sunlight over the past several weeks.
- Some of the tee and fairway overseed has been out competed by the bermudagrass due to the excessively high (record) temperatures, enabling the bermudagrass to remain extremely active, at the time of and during the application, germination, and establishment. We will continue to monitor the tee tops for weed infestation and manually pull and/or chemically treat on an as needed basis. Also, during the month of January we will topdress the tees to increase firmness. We are continuing to battle the weeds in the fairways (especially the front nine) through post emergent herbicide application and manual removal. During the later part of the month we will apply a granular fertilizer application with a pre emergent herbicide attached.
- We will be backing off the rough mowing frequency now that the temperatures have fallen and the growth pattern has slowed. A vacuum and/or blower will be seen more often to manage the increased leaf shed and debris from the higher winds this time of year. Also, we are currently fertilizing the rough to help offset the increased traffic/play and decreased temperatures. These fertilizer applications are not usually visible until the temperatures increase a little which allows the fertilizer to release and the plant to utilize.
- Throughout the month of January, The Haig maintenance staff will be going through bunkers around the course and removing rocks (some may be considered small boulders), shells, and other contaminations affecting playing conditions. Also, I am trying to get a machine demoed that performs this function with much greater productivity and to a much higher quality.
- We are filling divots at the driving range on a regular basis, if not daily, to keep the tee tops in as good of condition as possible. Also, we are fertilizing and applying additional seed on a more frequent schedule to aid the bermudagrass in its recovery time and playability.
- Our goal is to finish mulching the landscape beds by mid month. Also, we will be bringing in a lift to prune most of our trees, palms and larger hedge material in-house during the month of January and beginning part of February.

In closing, I want to reiterate our excitement for this additional form of communication, in the form of a newsletter, to create a more thorough understanding of "*Happenings on The Haig.*" Your expectations and/or concerns and our ability to provide and/or correct these expectations and/or concerns are our top priority. Finally, our goal is to provide internal and external members and guests the most enjoyable experience possible.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Dale Knefely  
*Superintendent of The Haig*  
PGA National Resort & Spa

### **Dale Knefely, Superintendent – The Haig Course**

Dale is the superintendent of The Haig golf course and Croquet facility here at PGA National Resort & Spa. Dale is originally from Miami, FL and has been in the North Palm Beach area for approximately ten years. In this capacity, Dale is responsible for the grounds maintenance operation and agronomic practices performed in these previously mentioned areas. He reports to John Andersen, the Director of Agronomy, here at PGA National Resort & Spa.

Prior to joining PGA National Resort & Spa in July 2000, Dale worked for such companies as Environmental Care, Inc. of South Florida, PGA Tour Properties, Environmental Care, Inc. of North Florida, and owned and operated a landscape company in Miami, FL.

Dale graduated from Lake City Community College in Lake City, FL with an Associate of Science Degree, Landscape Technology. In addition, Dale is a member of multiple professional organizations: Golf Course Superintendent Association of America, Palm Beach Golf Course Superintendent Association and Florida Turfgrass Association to name a few.