

MAY 2018



# THE Greenside UP

A Sawgrass Country Club Golf Course Maintenance Department publication

Where Green Matters



## MAY DAYS!!!

The eyes of the golfing world will once again be on Ponte Vedra Beach this month. The Players will return for its final time in the month of May. One of the contributing factors in moving the tournament back to the March time slot is the unpredictable nature of turfgrass growth in the month of May here in North Florida. In most years, the middle of May is the first time when we can start to look for night time temperatures in the 60's. This is the key to turfgrass growth in our area. Regardless of what the day-time high temperature reaches the true dictator of turf growth in our area is the night-time temperatures. Normally the month of May is the very start of this change. Without the warmer evenings there is minimal growth at best. This makes the job of providing TPC Stadium like conditions very difficult to predict and/or control. The same is true here at Sawgrass Country Club. Our facility has been dormant since November of last year. We are entering our seventh consecutive month of very steady traffic without the ability to recover. There are no doubt visible signs of wear and tear throughout our golf courses and community. The last few weeks of May are some of the most difficult for Golf Course

Maintenance. Our soils are starting to seal off with the rising temperatures. Our root zone has not had fresh oxygen or nutrients since the August closure in 2017.

We will be working to grind out the last few events on the calendar as we prepare for the upcoming and much needed 11-day maintenance closure, June 4th-June 14th. The closure allows GCM to open up our root zone, amend our soils with nutrients and allow our grasses to breathe. This closure, along with rising temperatures and building humidity is the perfect recipe for Bermudagrass growth. The June closure marks the beginning of the summer long process of growing back in our wear areas and preparing our golf courses for the fall golf season of 2018. During this recovery phase we would expect slower and softer conditions than that of the fall and winter seasons. Aggressive and sustained growth along with promoting positive root zone air exchange will be our priorities through the summer months. We have enjoyed another busy season here at Sawgrass and are looking forward to the many projects that we have scheduled for the summer. As always we thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you out on the property.

# FAQ

## GUANA RIVER

A great time of year to get out and enjoy the natural wonders in our own back yard. The Guana river is Nestled within the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, this coastal paradise invites exploration of the salt marsh, maritime hammocks and pine flatwoods. Visitors can find excellent waterfowl hunting, fishing, paddling and wildlife viewing as well as miles of scenic roads for hiking and even horseback riding.

The Guana river is teeming with wildlife! Active wildlife management practices combined with a diversity of natural communities make Guana River an excellent place to view wildlife, especially birds. During April and October, especially with a cold front, this is the best place in northeast Florida to see peregrine falcons and more than 3,000 migratory duck, American coots, common gallinules, and pied billed grebes, who all winter at Guana Lake. Not to mention while pelicans, ospreys, and bald eagles offer fish the lake as well. Other wildlife you may encounter - river otters, Florida manatee, alligators just to name a few.

Habitats provide the food, water, shelter and space animals need to thrive and reproduce. The diversity of natural habitats within a small area is one of Guana River's most striking features. For example, from the observation tower along Capo Road you can see salt marsh, maritime hammocks and pine flatwoods. Scrub is also present. Many of Guana River's diverse natural habitats can be seen within a small area. Salt marshes, maritime hammocks and pine flatwoods are easy to spot from the observation tower along Capo Road. Coastal scrub plants also grow at Guana. Early inhabitants once thrived in the land between the Tolomato River and the Atlantic Ocean, where they hunted, fished, and collected large amounts of shellfish. When Europeans arrived in the sixteenth century, they found villages surrounded by fields of corn, beans, peas, squash and pumpkins. Known to Europeans as Timucuan. Many land grants were recorded for what now forms the Guana River WMA. In the 1770s, British Governor James Grant operated an indigo plantation on the southern tip of the peninsula. Later, the land supported a rice crop, cattle, hogs and sugarcane. A network of dikes, levees, and ditches were constructed for milling rice and sugar. Canals were dug along the northern portion of the Tolomato River for the northern expansion of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in the early 1900s. In the 1920s, real estate investors and developers began to consolidate these tracts for a residential community, but their plans ended with the Depression. An intense pine harvest began in the late 1930s through 1970s. Between 1931 and 1980, impoundments were constructed for waterfowl hunting. Lake Ponte Vedra was created between 1957 and 1962 to increase and to enhance habitat for waterfowl by damming the river and installing water control structures. In 1984, the land was purchased by the state through its Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program, and [Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) and Guana River Wildlife Management Area were established. If you're planning a visit soon [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) is a great resource with further information. Enjoy your backyard!



Animal of the Month

FLORIDA MANATEE	HABITAT	DIET	BEHAVIOR
<p>A subspecies of the West Indian Manatee is a gray aquatic mammal that can reach a length of 9-10 feet and weight of 1,000lbs.</p>	<p>Found in fresh or salt water bodies along coasts and inland waters of the southeastern U.S., through Central America as far as northern Brazil. You can find them here in the Guana River.</p>	<p>Primarily consisting of marine and freshwater vegetation. They feed for 6-8 per day eating up to ten percent of their body weight in vegetation.</p>	<p>Manatees are slow moving gentle creatures that feed in shallow waters making them more susceptible to boat interactions such as collisions which remains their #1 threat.</p>