

April 30, 2007 – Summary of Visit by Dr. J Bryan Unruh, UFL.

Action Items:

### **YELLOW RIVER**

- Get three soil samples from different parts of runway. Each of the three samples is made up of about 10 plugs of soil, mixed together. Jim Jansa will take the samples, Bill will put them in the collection containers and send to service. Send these off to “Water’s Agricultural Laboratories” (<http://www.watersag.com/>) in Georgia asking for a Complete analysis, about 4 different tests. Results will be emailed to us.
- Upon receipt of analysis, forward on to Bryan for recommended actions.

### **Dr. Unruh**

- Send article/research on using bait to “herd” ants into controlled areas.
- We’ll send results of soil sample to Bryan for review

### **Upcoming Event**

- Sat, June 20<sup>th</sup>, UFL Turf Field Day in Jay Florida. Numerous vendors on this day in Jay, so we can find out the cost and compare various products.

Jim and Bryan toured the airport in the golf cart. Observations:

- Florida “Pusley” ([http://weedalert.com/weed\\_pages/wa\\_florida\\_pusley.htm](http://weedalert.com/weed_pages/wa_florida_pusley.htm)) is occurring on many parts of the airport. This is sometimes an indicator of nematodes, though there isn’t much one does about nematodes directly. Generally, if the main grass is weak, the Pusley will come in.
- There is “Red Sorrel” ([http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/WEEDS/red\\_sorrel.html](http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/WEEDS/red_sorrel.html)) is occurring on many parts of the airport is a likely indicator we need to apply lime. Lime applications, used to adjust the pH will take a while (i.e., years) to effect change, as it is a slow process.
- Our primary grass, as Jim noted, is Bermuda, Bahaha and Centipede.
- Discussion of getting soil samples (see action items).
- Bryan was asked about the Fairy Rings and the possibility of fungus. He did not think any of the rings were fungus, rather, a lack of nutrients which could be cleared up by:
  - Loosening the soil, perhaps with raking
  - Spot applications of fertilizer, specifically, Nitrogen
  - Watering the Nitrogen in, maybe a 1/4 inch of water, not too much more or the sandy soil can allow the nutrients to flow right through
- The Florida Pusley, and many other weeds, can be controlled by a product he has seen have great results, “AIM” by FMC Corporation (<http://cropsolutions.fmc.com/Products/Herbicides/AimEW/tabid/1098/Default.aspx>). It is a liquid application. It is better than a traditional, 3 way herbicide.
  - A product similar in purpose is “FieldMaster” but is it not as effective as AIM.

- Aeration was discussed. While comments were given on aeration, he said a more effective alternative was a device which cuts into the grass, a little bit like tilling, called an “Aerway” (<http://www.aerway.com/English/products/Turf/index.html>). He has seen dramatic results using this tool. It does the roughen the surface, but a drive over by the mower with roller should help smooth things out.
- Fertilization schedule was discussed. He suggested not applying fertilizer prior to April 15. There is too much risk of frost and the fertilization will have better effect when grass is growing more aggressively.
  - If we decide to do a second application of fertilization, August would be a good time.
- All this was given the caveat of getting the soil test done before doing any applications of anything, let him take a look at the complete soil test.
- Bryan commented what we have is really a combination of pasture/lawn, more than having similarities to a golf course. This would effect how we choose the treatments we apply.
- Bryan commented on the Flail Mower Jim has. While these are not common, he said they do a great job and its fine for what we do.
- Regarding thatch accumulation, Bryan said we don’t really have much of a problem. The ground in this part of Florida is so sparse of nutrients, that the clippings from mowing do the grass well and quickly decompose.
- Regarding irrigation, Bryan said it wouldn’t really help us much, unless we were looking for a golf course like appearance.
- Discussion of Ants. We said the problem varies with drought, which is typical. Bryan said there are some broad applications, rather than mound applications, of chemicals which can keep ants away for as long as a year.
  - Bryan discussed a need for a place to do ant research, and while our airport is the right size, the research requires the placing of flags on mounds, which wouldn’t go well with airplanes. Oh well.
  - The broad application chemical he likes is made by Dupont and uses a chemical called “Fipernill”. Bayer makes it too.
  - Another option is “Over and Out” which is a broad application and is very safe.
  - If we need to apply a broad ant application, there is a spreader called a “Herd Spreader” which could be pulled behind a golf cart and provides the right application rate of the this type of chemical. UFL has one in Jay and we could borrow it if we like.
  - Another option for ants is to “herd” them into select areas (see action items for article)
- Discussion of Armadillos. Confirmation they are sporadic and they are attracted by grubs, mole crickets and worms. The best thing to do is what we do, shoot them at night.
  - One addition to this... they likely live during the day under decks, foundations, near or under air conditioners – like they were for Don Hawley... cool areas. If you look in these spots, it is easier to kill them.
- Jim showed Bryan his plane, Bill gave Bryan a ride in his Maule after the meeting.