



JEFF GRESHAM RETIRES AFTER NEARLY 25 YEARS AT IOB



It is unlikely Jeff Gresham knew what he was getting into when he accepted the job as IOB's landscape caretaker nearly 25 years ago. Back then, there were only houses on Five Oaks and De La Gaye so he mostly worked the land - mowing Islands Avenue, blowing those ever falling leaves and cutting back the bushes in common areas. He would be on site before many residents woke up and worked in the heat, cold, humidity and amidst all the insects. When the community started growing, Jeff always had a wave and a smile for walkers - shutting off his blower as they came toward him. When storms hit, especially during Matthew, Jeff worked many long hours to cut the debris and haul it away to the dump. He was the reason many of us were able to come back home earlier than we expected.

Jeff treated the IOB's grounds as if it were his own and we benefitted greatly from his diligence and care. Potential residents were impressed when coming into Islands Avenue because of its manicured appearance.

This month is Jeff's last at IOB and we will miss him more than he knows. As one of his last non-caretaker jobs, Jeff learned Samwise the setter had gone on yet another escapade. When he saw him coming down the pipe cut, he called to him and walked him back home. Then sat with Samwise on the porch steps waiting for his owner to come home. That's the Jeff Gresham we have been lucky to have in our IOB. He is irreplaceable.



Above: In honor of Jeff's service to the community we have dedicated a park in his name along the Islands Avenue corridor. At right, with Alan and Jeff's wife Janet.





Warm Season Grass Winter Lawn Care Tips from Clemson Extension

Lawns go dormant in the winter and have different needs. Follow these tips for a happy lawn that will be ready for spring once it arrives. *(Tips refer to warm season grass which is most common here.)*

1. Do not apply fertilizers to lawns in winter. Nitrogen encourages new growth which you do not want until spring.
2. Raise the mowing height by 1/2-inch to promote deep rooting and increase carbohydrate production.
3. Winter rains should provide adequate rainfall. In the absence of rain, irrigate the law with 1-inch of water per week. Once lawn is dormant, water as needed to prevent loss of moisture during warm, dry and windy weather.
4. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent cool-season weeds from germinating.
5. Keep tree leaves off the lawn. Fallen leaves prevent the turf from producing carbohydrates that are necessary for cold tolerance. (Use leaves as mulch or put in the compost pile.)
6. Compacted soil will decrease the lawn's cold tolerance. Core aeration helps reduce soil compaction. Make plans to core-aerate the lawn next spring after green-up. (Do not aerate in winter.)
7. Acorns are great food for the deer but if you want to remove them, they can be picked up with a lawn mower with bag attachment.

For more information about your specific grass check out these Factsheets with yearly maintenance for specific grasses: <https://hgic.clemson.edu/?s=lawn+care+during+the+winter>



Our committee recently put up new Christmas decorations at the front gate and Deer Island gate!