

MILES GRANT COUNTRY CLUB

199 Years in the Making

*View from behind the 18th green.
Photo by Joel Jackson.*

The Miles Grant CC golf course opened in 1972, but the land on which it stands was part of a Spanish land grant from the King of Spain to settler Samuel Miles in 1813. Five square miles of land bordering the *Santa Lucia River* (now *St. Lucie*) was given as compensation for shipping and logistical support rendered by Miles to the Spanish territorial government.

When visiting the club back in October to interview superintendent Harry Hanson, CGCS for this cover story, I became

intrigued with the name of the club from the logo at the clubhouse entrance. It was a large oval with the name Miles Grant, the picture of an old sailing ship and the date 1813. Originally I surmised that the club's name was for a Mr. Miles Grant and a subsequent Google search didn't bear much fruit. When checking out the club's website and amenities, I noticed the Samuel Miles Tavern was included under dining options, and when I googled Samuel Miles and the year 1813 I hit paydirt.

Miles originally established a

sawmill on the property to produce building materials for the influx of settlers who soon followed and the colonization of the east central Florida coastal region was under way. Coincidentally, a sawmill was also a key factor in our story on the history of the Shingle Creek GC in the Fall *Florida Green*.

Nearly two centuries later, we find the established residential golf community of Miles Grant providing social and recreational activities to the folks living in the houses and condominiums bordering the golf course. There's

the 18-hole, par-64 golf course sporting two legitimate par-fives, five par-fours, 10 par-threes and one hole that can play as a par-four or five. Having ridden the course with Hanson, I can tell you it is a very challenging walk in the park. The course is perhaps a little more forgiving of errant shots since 2004, when the multiple hurricane hits destroyed over 300 trees.

ALSO, IN SIDE-BY-SIDE TEST-STRIP APPLICATIONS, HANSON REPORTS THAT THE NEW HERBICIDE, SPECTICLE, "WORKED QUITE WELL" IN PREVENTING GOOSE GRASS INFESTATIONS.

Since the course is bordered by residences, Hanson manages his maintenance programs judiciously to balance the aesthetics with the cultural needs of the turf. He uses a combination of organic and synthetic fertilizer blends applied lightly in more frequent applications, all dependent on soil-testing results. On average, greens are fed monthly and tees, fairways and roughs four-eight times a year. Total applied nitrogen and phosphorus fall well within the guidelines in the Golf BMPs and state fertilizer rules.

With an active golf program for the members, Hanson offsets the wear and compaction on the playing surfaces by hollow-tine aerifying the course three times a year. Hanson also lightly grooms and top-dresses the putting surfaces frequently for consistency. The putting surfaces are edged periodically and any Tifway 419 runners are pulled to control encroachment.

Since the golf course is located on a coastal sand ridge and susceptible to mole crickets and nematodes, Hanson ran a Curfew experiment to find an effective product he could rotate with Chipco Choice to control both pests. Keeping costs and the budget in mind, he now treats 10 acres per year with Curfew, alternating between front and back nine hot spots. He treats the remaining critical areas with Chipco Choice. Also, in side-by-side test-strip applications, Hanson reports that the new herbicide, Specticle, "worked quite good" in preventing goose grass infestations.

WINFIELD SOLUTIONS
PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS

Solutions To Help You Win

ONLY WINFIELD SOLUTIONS® CAN OFFER:

An industry-leading portfolio that includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, adjuvants, micro nutrients and grass seed

Paul Fox 727-423-9280 pgfox@landolakes.com
Bill Lund 239-340-4712 wtlund@aol.com
Gary Cotton 941-737-0722 gwcotton@landolakes.com
Mike Bailey 772-216-7917 mjbailey@landolakes.com
Chad Burkett 772-260-8660 bcburkett@landolakes.com
Doug Raynor 239-707-9261 jdraynor@landolakes.com
Ken Gagne 407-256-6710 kwgagne@landolakes.com
Ron Leathers 813-917-1849 rmlathers@landolakes.com
Tim Wheatley 321-508-1169 thwheatley@landolakes.com

DuPont™ Advion®
FIRE ANT BAIT

No second chance No second call

Fire ant colonies are gone in 24 to 72 hours with DuPont™ Advion® fire ant bait. Gone, period. Only Advion® hits them with the MetaActive™ compound providing the power that spreads to help control entire colonies.

When the colony is quickly and completely controlled, customer callbacks also go away. Advion® powered with MetaActive™ sets new standards for fire ant control to help you set new standards for customer satisfaction. **Advion®. Unbeatable Results.**

Learn more at proproducts.dupont.com or call 1-888-6DuPont (1-888-638-7668).

Professional Products

Always read and follow all label directions and precautions for use. DuPont™ Advion® is not available in IL states. See your local DuPont representative for details and availability in your state. The DuPont Oval Logo, DuPont™, The miracles of science®, Advion® and MetaActive™ are trademarks or registered trademarks of DuPont or its affiliates. Copyright © 2008 E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. All Rights Reserved. 06ADV003115_25VB

DUPONT
The miracles of science™



View from the Miles Grant 18th tee. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The course has only “two” lakes — actually one that wraps around the 18th hole and also borders the 17th hole. The banks are maintained as a buffer zone to filter any possible runoff and protect the lake’s water quality. Because of the surrounding residential neighborhoods, wildlife consists mainly of a diverse bird population and small mammals like squirrels, fox, raccoon and (ugh) armadillos. I did see a pair of Egyptian geese waddling along



Pair of Egyptian geese waddling along shoreline buffer zone on No. 18. Photo by Joel Jackson.

South Florida Grassing, Inc

Over 40 Years in the Grassing Industry

TifEagle

SeaIsle¹
Certified Seashore Paspalum

Supreme

Sod, Sprigs and Rolls available

- Our grass is grown in Hobe Sound on gassed, sand-based soil
- Installation, Hydro-mulching, grassing and mulching also available

Tifway 419

TifSport

**Registered
Tifdwarf**

Certified Producer
Southern Seed
Certification Association

(772) 546-4191

Fax (772) 546-3482

800-483-4279

MILES GRANT COUNTRY CLUB



Miles Grant Golf Maintenance Staff. Photo by Joel Jackson

Location: Stuart
Ownership: Member owned
Playing policy: Private. Average rounds: 36,000/year, 18 holes, 4,446 yards, par 64
Slope & Rating: 101/62
 Course designed by Charles M. Mahannah. Constructed by Mahannah & Howard Assoc.
Opened: 1972. Master Improvement Plan by Sanford Golf Design in 2002.
 Management Team: Club Manager Carmen Navy; Club President Jim Crosby; Green Chairman Dan Capper; Golf Course Superintendent Harry Hanson, CGCS

Major projects: Converted to TifEagle Greens in 2003 and 2005
 Acreage under maintenance: 70; Total acreage: 88
Greens: 2.2 acres; Turf type: TifEagle; Avg. Size 4,700 sq. ft; HOC 1/8 inch. No overseeding. Green speed goals: 9.5
Tees: 1.3 acres; Turf type: Tifway 419; HOC .350 -.450 inches. Overseeded with ryegrass at 450 lbs/acre
Fairways: 18 acres Turf: Tifway 419. HOC .625 in. No overseeding.
Roughs: 34.5 acres; Turf: Tifway 419. HOC 1.0 to 1.5 in. No overseeding
Bunkers: 49. Hand and machine raking. Sand Type: GA-26.

Lakes/Ponds: One 3-acre, U-shaped lake bordering holes 17 & 18.
Irrigation: Water source: Storm water, Martin County Reuse and back-up wells. Pumping and Control Systems: Flowtronex Pump Station and Toro Site Pro. 800 heads on 70-ft. spacing.
 Water Conservation: Water only in off-peak hours. Use wetting agents.
Staff including superintendent: 9. Assistant Paul Davidson, Equipment Mgr.: Karl Marshall, Foreman: Pedro Arqueta. Crew: Nicolas Ajucum, Edwin Gonzalez, Feliciano Pelico, Ricardo Rodriques and Santos Obispa.

Top: The 9th green and the Miles Grant clubhouse. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Green, Tee and Bunker
Renovations

*

Bridge and Retaining Walls

*

Drainage

*

Laser Leveling

*

Finish Grading

*

Grassing

*

Irrigation

Phone
(727) 430-2298

Fax
(727) 570-9921

www.westscapesgolf.com

CLASSIC GREENS, INC.



Over 20 years
supplying and
installing quality
Bermudagrass.
Our new farm,
located in
Chiefland, FL is
producing quality:

Certified Tifdwarf
Certified Tifway (T-419)
Classic Dwarf
Floratex

Phil Horn, President
11151 NW 70th Ave
Chiefland, FL 32626
(352) 258-2695
philhorn@bellsouth.net

**Golf Course
Athletic Field
Renovations and
Grassing**

No.18 during my visit. I had only seen that species once before down at The Falls CC in West Palm Beach a few years ago.

Hanson accomplishes all this fairly typical-but-rigorous maintenance program with a total staff of nine including himself, his assistant,

**SOME OF OUR BEST IDEAS HAVE
COME FROM THE CREW. I BELIEVE
IN SUPERVISING BY TRAINING, NOT
JUST CRITICIZING RESULTS.**

Paul Davidson, and turf equipment manager, Karl Marshall. Besides the golf course and clubhouse grounds, the crew must also tend to the common areas on the whole property including the tennis courts, and croquet and lawn bowling areas. The crew starts at 5 a.m. each day to get the course ready for play, and then does the perimeter work to minimize any disruption to the flow of play.

Since the crew must perform at such high productivity, I wanted to know Hanson's secret to motivation and management. He said, "I believe in participatory management. Some of our best ideas have come from the crew. I believe in supervising by training, not just criticizing results. The most important aspect is to truly respect each person. You must make the workplace a pleasant place to live and work."

Hanson means what he says. When walking through the crew's break room, this message was at the top of the daily assignment board: "It's all about Attitude!"

And speaking of attitude, Hanson is a walking testament to living life with a positive attitude considering he has had several highly successful careers in one lifetime.

When contemplating the title for this cover story, I was almost tempted to call it, "I Led Three Lives," after the mid-century TV series starring Effrem Zimbalist, Jr, who played an FBI agent. That thought was based on the colorful careers of our host superintendent



View of the 5th green from Hole #6. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Harry Hanson.

During Hanson's career he has been a successful teacher, comptroller and now certified golf course superintendent.

After high school graduation, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy. Following his service to Uncle Sam, Hanson attended the U. of Maine and graduated in 1962 with a B.S. in Education. He moved to Maryland and taught junior high school for two years before becoming a government employee in a career that lasted from 1964 to 1992. Hanson gravitated towards business administration

and earned a master's degree in Business Administration in 1977. Eventually he became a comptroller and instructor, teaching management principles and business administration systems. He and his growing family spent 19 years stationed in Germany.

In 1988, while in Germany, Hanson became interested in golf and volunteered to serve on the greens committee and eventually to work on the course on weekends. Hanson said that, since he was a civilian executive, he couldn't be officially employed on the

course, so he gladly learned the trade as a volunteer and joined the GCSAA and attained an Assistant Superintendent classification. As Hanson put it, "I was the weekend superintendent!"

Hanson left government civil service in 1992 and, having been bitten by the turf bug, he enrolled in the Golf and Landscape Operations program at Lake City Community College (now Florida Gateway College). What followed was a series of OJT and assistant superintendent positions with such well-known Treasure Coast superintendents as Tim Cann,

Tifton Physical Soil Testing Laboratory, Inc.

Accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

Specializing in:

- Testing All Materials for USGA Golf Green Construction.
- Developing Putting Green Rootzone Mixtures that meet USGA Specifications.
- Recommending Topdressing and Bunker (Trap) Sands that meet USGA Specifications.
- Developing Sportsturf Rootzone Mixes with Optimum Physical Properties for Athletic Fields.

1412 Murray Avenue
Tifton, Georgia 31794



www.tiftonsoillab.com

T. Powell Gaines
(229) 382-7292

SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Originally from: Dixfield, Maine.

Family: Wife, Ann, 5 daughters: Carol, Rita, Rose, Mary and Rae Lee. 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Education: 1995, A.S. Golf Course Operations, Lake City Community College. 1977 Masters in Business from Webster College. 1962 B.S. in Education, U. of Maine.

Employment: 1998 to present Superintendent Miles Grant C.C.; 1997-98 Assistant Supt.(A.S.) Mariner Sands C.C.; 1995-97 A.S. Boynton Beach G.C.; 1995 A.S. PGA National; 1994 OJT Willoughby G.C.; 1993 OJT Harbor Ridge C.C.; 1988-92 A.S. Heidelberg G.C., Germany; 1964-1992 U. S. Government Employee; 1962-63 Jr. High School Teacher, Maryland.

Professional Affiliations & Offices Held: GCSAA member since 1988. Became CGCS in 2002. FGCSA member since 1995. TCGCSA Board Member 2001-2009 serving as President 2006-08

Goals/Accomplishments: Become a Comptroller in my first career. Raising five wonderful daughters with my wife, who is a saint. Become a CGCS. Become president of the TCGCSA. Rebuilding and regrassing our greens in 2003 and 2005. Next – get recertified.

Memorable moments: Attending Mountain and Avalanche Rescue Training in Switzerland. Shooting a 75 on The Old Course at St. Andrews. Getting a job and living in Oberammergau, Germany for 19 years. Attending my 50th wedding anniversary with all my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Hobbies & Interests: My job is my favorite hobby. Skiing, golfing and bowling. Being a member of a golf committee and I was the “Volunteer of the Year” at a club in Germany which led to second career as a superintendent. I am a member of the Community Patrol in our Sandpiper community. We attend church weekly and I am member of the Knights of Columbus.



HARRY HANSON

Photo by Joel Jackson.



Call us about our **GUARANTEED**
insect and weed programs

904•260•8565

- **Serving Florida for over 31 years**
- **Fairway aerification and verti-cutting**
- **Custom application of insecticides and herbicides**

Frank Clark, Kevin Downing, Paul Bondesen, Jr., Dan Miller and Bill Lanthier.

Hanson praised all for their mentoring, but he singled out another assistant superintendent at the time, Roy McDonald, at Willoughby under Kevin Downing as being that hands-on, day-to-day guide. Hanson says MacDonald also was instrumental in getting his job as the number-one assistant to Bill Lanthier at Mariner Sands in 1997, which eventually led to his present position at Miles Grant in 1998.

Across the street and behind the 17th green is a small park for the members and residents to access the Intracoastal Waterway. There is dock for fishing and a place to launch one of the many kayaks on the rack along the shoreline. The spot is called, "Hanson's Landing," a fitting follow-up to the landing made by Samuel Miles almost two centuries ago.



A trio of sabal palms and a pair of bunkers guard the first hole.
Photo by Joel Jackson.

HANSON FUN FACTS

Vehicle: 1998 Dodge Pickup

I stay home to watch: Football and golf (sometimes both at the same time)

Last good movie I saw: (That I really liked) - Pretty Woman with Julia Roberts

Favorite meal: Boiled Maine lobster - served any way

What I've been

reading: "The Greatest Golfer That Never Was" by Michael Vernon and "The Match" by Mark Frost

Prized possessions: My Vockl Renn Tigers (old skis)

Favorite performers: My daughter Rose and my brother Tim (Have CD's by both)

If I could do it over: I would have gone to turf school in 1962

Personal Heroes: The superintendents that I worked for

The one thing I can't stand: A liar

My fantasy: An unlimited budget at work

Words that best describe me: Persistent, dedicated

If I could change anything about myself: I'd gain a little weight

My most humbling experience: Skiing off a cliff at Loveland, Colorado

My dream foursome: Carl Davis, Danny Quintalianni and Ira Rich again at St. Andrews

My best "fish" story: Discussing the golf business with Arnold Palmer over dinner

My most amazing golf shot: 9 holes-in-one. 3 were in tournaments all on the 13th hole (different courses). *Editor's Note: PGA Professional Mancil Davis is regarded as the world record-holder with 51 documented aces.*



Harry & Family. Photo by Joel Jackson.