

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY AND TRADITIONS



GREEN SIDE UP By JOEL JACKSON

Tracing the history of the Florida Green brought back many memories of the people I've met during my career and also a sense of gratitude for those I didn't know but who were the trailblazers for our local and state associations. As time marches on, memories can fade and appreciation can be lost in the hustle and bustle of our modern, fast paced, high-tech world.

Progress is good, and it

provides many tools for us to use to be more productive and efficient, but not at the cost of losing our humanity in the industry. You can email, tweet and text to your heart's content, but that mode of communication is limited to fact exchanges. Conversations, handshakes, camaraderie and shared "live" experiences are essential for us as social beings.

Lack of participation is plaguing many professional associations as people hunker down: whether job-scared, "too busy" (whatever that means these days), or lacking appreciation of what participation and giving back to your profession means.

There are any number of legitimate reasons for not making a chapter meeting, or volunteering to help out, but not for just not joining your professional association, missing every meeting never contributing, but always reaping the benefits of others' time and efforts to serve all of us without ever helping out themselves. Advocacy for sensible rules and regulations that govern our pest control, fertilizer and irrigation

operations comes to mind as a leading example of how the dedicated few are serving the many who won't even show up to a chapter meeting.

I think of the perhaps two-dozen people or so, who invested their time, talents and energy into our chapter publications over the years. Some are/were publication professionals and others just learned along the way. I improved my writing skills while working with our professional editor and journalist, Larry Kieffer, who was originally a newspaperman and also one of the early editors of Golfweek newspaper and, later, its spinoff — and eventual successor — magazine. I was a rank amateur photographer, but by hanging around Daniel Zelazek, who is so passionate about his craft, I couldn't help but pick up tips and tricks and basic knowledge that improved my picture taking skills for the magazine.

Getting involved in my local chapter, meeting people and making friendships that have lasted decades, helping our profession improve its image and reputation in the

regulatory world has been such a boost to my personal and professional abilities and confidence, I seriously don't understand why more people don't take advantage of those opportunities.

Getting involved in your profession (beyond just showing up to work) shows leadership and drive and other skills that should impress most course officials, since so many of them do the same thing in their professional/social groups. I'd be a proud club member if our superintendent were a director or officer of a professional association. One tip from my experience — whenever I attended a chapter outing, conference or trade show, I always dropped a note to my boss telling him something I learned that will help me do a better job on our course.

The "Good Old Days" aren't gone. They are right here, right now, and if you don't take a step to engage in the personal, professional and social relationships available by participating in your chapter, you are shortchanging yourself.



ADVERTISER INDEX

Aerification Plus	29	GCSAA	10	ShowTurf.....	Inside Back Cover
Agrium Advanced Technologies.....	31/39	Golf Agronomics Supply.....	28	South Florida GCSA.....	11
Ameriturf	33	Golf Ventures	Back Cover	SMR Farms.....	37
Bayer	27	Harrell's Fertilizer.....	35	Sod Solutions	19/29
Beard Equipment.....	Inside Back Cover	Horizon	Inside Front Cover	South Florida Grassing.....	29
Becker Underwood	16	Howard Fertilizer	25	Southeast Partners	19
Briggs Golf Construction.....	23	Independent Turf Partners.....	26	Southern Aerification.....	16
Country Club Services.....	17	North Florida GCSA.....	2/3	Team UGA	Insert
Everglades GCSA.....	7	Pike Creek Turf Farms	26	Tifton Physical Lab.....	18
		Sealsle 1 Growers Association	37	Tom Burrows Turfgrass	38
		Sealsle Supreme.....	Insert	Toro Distributors of Florida	20
		Seven Rivers GCSA.....	9	Treasure Coast GCSA.....	13