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Our Promise.
Provide a complete range of the most advanced turf-growth solutions on the market.

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Develop agronomic and economic solutions tailored to your specific turf conditions, budget and delivery schedules.

Our Performance.
Deliver proven turf management programs with environmentally-responsible fertilizer technologies, micronutrients, seed and chemical products.

Our Products.
We proudly offer all leading turf & ornamental products to meet your needs, and feature these fine fertilizer technologies along with the exciting new nematode product, MultiGuard Protect.

Proud to be a new Platinum Level sponsor of the FGCSA.
We are Direct Solutions, and we are committed to growth.

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Submitted by Mike Mantey, Hector Turf

Editor's Note: During my research for this anniversary issue, I realized that one company (the Toro Company) had been in every single issue since the magazine began and it began with Hector Turf leading the way for the Toro Company and then its other affiliate companies when the magazine went statewide in the 1980s.

As you will see, even before the first magazine went to print, Hector Turf has been serving the turf industry in Southeast Florida. Thanks to Joe Limberg and Mike Mantey for arranging and submitting this story. In future issues we will be recognizing other suppliers who have been loyal supporters of our publication over the years.

In the Beginning
In 1912, Hector Turf was established as a farm implement and supply company in Fort Lauderdale. Over the years, the company expanded to multiple locations in South Florida and began manufacturing its own line of fertilizers, distributing them and other allied products to the agricultural market, local wholesale suppliers and area golf courses.

In 1932, the Toro Company established Hector Turf as one of its privately owned Master Distributors of Commercial turf equipment. Our product line continued to expand over the years as we added irrigation and consumer products to our Toro line and we later added other manufacturers' products such as Club Car, Foley, and Salsco. In 1969 Hector sold its farm supply business to the W.R. Grace Corporation.

Service Area
In May 1982, current owner and sole proprietor, James Mantey purchased Hector Turf from the Hector family. In 1987, he moved our entire operation to Deerfield Beach, placing us nearer to the geographic center of our domestic...
Hector Fertilizer Plant. The company sold its farm supply and fertilizer business interests in 1969.
service territory (Vero Beach to Key West). From this facility we also export our products and provide support services in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and the rest of the Caribbean islands. Our customer base includes golf course properties, resorts, sport fields, municipalities and a network of independent dealers throughout our extended service territories.

Hector Turf's current sales team. Back Row from left: Jason Dupree, Tom DeYoung, Doug Francis and Wayne Deker. Front Row from left: Chris Fordney, Mike Leising, Mike McDaniel and Marty Pauls.

Exclusive Distributor

Today we are the exclusive distributor for The Toro Company and Club Car (turf vehicle line) in southeast Florida, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and rest of the Caribbean. Hector Turf is a factory-authorized service center for all of the products we sell. We have a team of factory-trained service technicians who provide repair services at our facility and who travel throughout our territories providing on-location services. We host a variety of service schools and design seminars throughout the year for our golf courses, contractors, architects and dealers.

Focusing on our principal business as a wholesale distributor of top quality outdoor power equipment and irrigation products, we are continually in search of ways to help the turf industry grow while protecting the natural environment of South Florida and our community. We are committed to providing the highest level of quality service and support to our customers and the communities we service with an emphasis on long-term relationships and value-added services.

Early Hector Turf locations in Southeast Florida.
Take Control of Water this Rainy Season

Use Fleet® First. Play shortly thereafter.

Superintendents agree that using Harrell’s Fleet® for moisture management results in firmer, faster turf.

Fleet® provides fast and firm putting surfaces by increasing deep moisture penetration, uniform moisture distribution and increases soil oxygen. Fleet® also provides consistent performance over application interval, helps minimize the key cause of localized dry spot, helps neutralize soil bicarbonates, and improves turf color and quality.

Ask your Harrell’s representative about combining Fleet® with EarthMAX® for soil health and root development and Salt Rx for sodium remediation and bicarbonate management.
Mind if I play through?

A big gator on the Sanctuary Golf Course on Sanibel Island hunkers down to wait for golfers to putt out. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

Stewardship Notes

Kyle Sweet, Sanctuary Golf Club, Sanibel Island: Joel, I took this photo last weekend. I was encouraging (at a safe distance of course) this gator to find his way to the nearest lake. Out of a landscaped area we came and the group of golfers on the green were quite surprised. The gator laid down, waited for them to putt out and then proceeded to stroll down through the bunker, across the green and into the lake. I don’t typically don’t use my iPhone for photos but in this case it was handy and a trek back to the cart to get my camera would’ve missed this great photo opportunity.

Ricky Reeves, Miami Beach Golf Course: This is why we love our jobs. We’re close to nature. There must have been 25 to 30 of these little guys on No.12 fairway.

Joellen Lampman, Associate Director of Environmental Programs, Audubon International: We are happy to announce that Audubon International has certified the 1000th golf course in the ACSP program. The Eagles Pride Golf Course is located at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington’s South Puget Sound region. The 27-hole championship course was ranked one of the top ten military golf courses by Travel + Leisure and is open to the public.

Since being established in 1991, ACSP membership (including facilities working towards certification) has grown to more than 2,300 golf courses in the United States and 36 countries worldwide. The program issued its first certification in 1993 and now includes golf courses in North America, Central America, Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and Southeast Asia.

A couple of dozen baby turtles were found wandering the 12th hole on the Miami Beach Golf Course. Photo by Rickey Reeves.
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FIELD OBSERVATIONS
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN FLORIDA AND KANSAS

By Ralph K. Dain Jr.,
GCSAA Regional Representative Florida

I just received an email from Joel Jackson reminding me my column is due today (June 4), so he can edit and submit it for publication. Unfortunately for me I’m boarding a flight to Kansas. Talk about an instant case of writer’s block!

All my thoughts are crashing into one another, much like the passengers on this very turbulent flight. And if the person in front of me leans back any further, I will be able to identify them from their dental work. But, I must push on.

Today’s turbulence reminds me of how the weather impacts all of us in our work and, in the case of the rash of Midwest tornadoes, our lives and property. I am grateful we have been spared the consequence of such severe storms.

Florida has experienced its share of work-related inclement weather thus far this year. I recently participated in the Palm Beach Chapter’s Future of Golf Event. I was overwhelmed by the rainfall totals that superintendents reported. I heard ranges of 31-34 inches in April and May and around 12-14 inches in the week prior to that event.

These totals don’t make national headlines. They do, however, have an impact on revenue, daily course grooming and our summer renovation and construction projects.

I remember from my superintendent days that too often our seasonal members didn’t understand how weather events impacted or delayed course maintenance operations. Back in 2004, they did ask about the hundreds of missing trees thanks to Hurricanes Florence and Jeanne, but at the same time they couldn’t understand why the bunker sand was so inconsistent!

I want you to know that the GCSAA and FGCSA exist to assist you with information that will help your golfers better understand the impacts and resulting conditions.

GCSAA has been instrumental in conveying such information to the public in situations like Hurricane Sandy and the recent tornadoes in Oklahoma. We also have been able to offer members financial assistance as well.

I am proud of the way that our field staff has been able to observe firsthand the needs of our members and help gather funds or other resources that are needed to get them through the most difficult times.

The assistance that our Northeast regional representative, Kevin Doyle, provided in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy was impressive.

That same support is available to all our members. If you find yourself in need of assistance, do not hesitate to reach to me, the GCSAA, or the FGCSA. Our mission is truly “to serve our members and advance their careers.”

I am hopeful that we have a quiet summer and everyone is able to complete his or her summer projects without undue delays. If you do run into some problems and need help, give me call!
A superior liquid soil fumigant for nematode management in the Southeast.

- Broad spectrum control for greens, tees, fairways and roughs
- Works fast through contact exposure
- Improves course appearance and playability through healthier turf

**MULTIGUARD PROTECT**

A natural, safe and environmentally responsible solution.

- Controls harmful plant parasitic nematodes on contact
- Up to six applications can be applied throughout the growing season
- Lower toxicity for easier handling with a fast two hour re-entry interval

**MustGrow Invest**

Natural bio-nematicide scientifically formulated from the unique properties of mustard seeds

- Provides broad-spectrum control of nematodes
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Grow healthy turf in the presence of lance, sting and root knot nematodes.

- Naturally occurring active ingredient manages nematodes before the problem starts
- Improved turf quality, density and color for highly playable turf
- Sprayable for easy application with no course closure

Keep nematode problems from magnifying.

Direct Solutions offers a complete lineup of products to help control invasive nematodes.

When harmful nematode populations spread, they deprive turf roots of vital nutrients. This can leave turf stressed and unresponsive to irrigation, fertilizers and insecticides. That's why Direct Solutions offers a full lineup of products to help control nematodes and boost root growth any time of year, on any turf type. A healthier root system helps your course remain in top playing condition all season long—and that keeps golfers coming back.

Contact your local Direct Solutions sales rep today and see for yourself the benefits of our trusted line of Curfew, MultiGuard Protect, MustGrow Invest and Nortica.

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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-to-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.