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WINTER 2012



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*Mark Kann,  
President*

is finalizing a presentation that will incorporate much of the information needed for certification. The test for certification in the Golf BMPs is broken down into three sections. Superintendents will have the option of taking each section separately or all at once. Keep in mind that to take the full training and test in a day will take about 7-8 hours. It is our hope that, by the time you receive this issue, some superintendents will have had the opportunity to become certified through the process. The Seven Rivers GCSA will be sponsoring one of the first events that will provide a full day of Golf BMP training and testing on March 22. The session will take place at the University of Florida Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra. I hope everyone is taking advantage of the work on government relations being done by numerous individuals. The GCSAA has been extremely diligent at sending out action alerts and form letters that can be quickly filled out and sent to the appropriate legislators. Thank you to Chava McKeel and Ralph Dain from the GCSAA for their efforts on many of the issues affecting the Florida GCSA. I know that Ralph has made a great impact by attending chapter meetings and allowing members to email the letters at those meetings. We try not to bombard our membership with emails, so when you see an email from the FGCSA, please be sure to read it. We are only as strong as our membership, so please take the time to act when action is needed. Every letter counts!

## Happy New Year

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. I am sure there was quite a bit of money spent on presents, a great deal of food and drink consumed, and by now, even a few New Year's resolutions have already been broken.

Over the next few months there are a great deal of educational opportunities. The FTGA will be holding its Turf Seminars throughout the state. These seminars present a great opportunity to obtain some PDI points and CEU's, especially Core CEU's. For those able to make the trip, the GCSAA Educational Conference and GIS will be held in Las Vegas at the end of February. The event will include numerous educational seminars, workshops, peer interactions as well as the trade show.

We will be hosting the Florida Reception in the Jet Night Club at the Mirage Hotel on Thursday night, March 1. I can't promise that we will have all the fireworks we had last year, but there will be some great food, drinks, and fun!

The GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic will be held the week before the GCSAA Conference and Show. Good luck to the Florida Chapter Team of Steve Bernard, Bob Harper, Steve Wright, and Deron Zandt. There are new incentives this year to play in the event that will benefit GCSAA-affiliated Chapters. The first is the Chapter Team Competition which will split 75 percent of the entry fees between the gross and net winning teams' chapters. Second, the Toro Company has agreed to pay chapters \$200 per registered participant who has not played in the last two GCSAA Championships. There is no limit to the number of participants per chapter. Both incentives are great ways to make some money for your chapter.

We are continuing to make great progress with the Golf BMP certification process. We received a letter of accreditation from the Department of Environmental Protection in November. The BMP Testing Committee has met often and

# The Florida Green

## Winter 2012

Published four times a year:  
On the 25th of January, April, July and October

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$20 for four issues. Contact the FGCSA office.

**ADVERTISING:** For rates and information, contact the FGCSA office at 800-732-6053

**EDITORIAL:** All inquiries should be directed to the editor, Joel Jackson, CGCS. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs cannot be returned.

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**ON THE COVER:** 17th Green, Miles Grant CC, Stuart. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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*UF/IFAS Professor Emeritus Dr. George Snyder (right) received the FTGA Wreath of Grass Award from President Mac Carroway at the FTGA Conference in September. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

# Association Events and Awards Wrap Up 2011

Traditional fall events began closing out the final quarter of 2011 with the FTGA Conference and Show in Palm Beach Gardens, the Bud Quandt Tournament in St. Petersburg, and the Missing & Exploited Children's Tournament in Sunrise.

At the FTGA Conference at the PGA National Resort, the association's highest honor, the Wreath of Grass Award, featured two winners.

Professor Emeritus Dr. George Snyder was recognized for his decades of research

and teaching efforts at the University of Florida. Snyder's work in fertilizer and pesticide fate in Florida soils has provided key information for developing environmentally friendly management practices.

The second recipient was our own Darren Davis. The current president of the Everglades GCSA, Davis has a two-decade record of local, state and national committee and board service. He is a past president of the FGCSA, the FTGA and is an FGCSA Distinguished



*Darren Davis (right), President of the EGCSA and Past President of the FGCSA was the second recipient of a Wreath of Grass Award at the FTGA Conference. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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*Special Thanks to Superintendent  
Todd Ingram and the Ft. Lauderdale C.C.  
for hosting the event*

*FGCSA Past President Bill Kistler and Association Manager Jennifer Bryan at the FTGA Trade Show with the new Industry Partner brochures and posters. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



Service Award winner. Davis is also currently a nominee for the GCSAA Board of Directors. Congratulations to Darren on his Wreath of Grass Award and best wishes for a successful campaign for a seat on the GCSAA Board.

While at the FTGA Conference, FGCSA Association Manager Jennifer Bryan and Executive Director Joel Jackson spent time thanking our current FGCSA Industry Partners for their support and also handing out information to prospective new advertisers and partners. The next big FGCSA event will be the annual FGCSA Reception at the Golf Industry Show March 1 in Las Vegas. The reception will be held at the Jet Lounge at the Mirage Hotel. Keep checking our FGCSA website: [www.floridagcsa.com](http://www.floridagcsa.com) for registration and RSVP details.



*The Suncoast GCSA was victorious in the Ryder Cup-style match with their West Coast GCSA hosts at their 2nd annual joint chapter meeting in September. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

The West Coast GCSA had back-to-back events in September and October with the joint Suncoast/West Coast meeting at Kevin Sunderman's Isla del Sol GC in St. Petersburg and the 48th Annual Bud Quandt Research and Benefit Tournament at Mike Strube's Feather Sound GC in Clearwater. The West Coast GCSA played host to the Suncoasters by allowing them to win the joint meeting match-play golf event and trophy. Everybody was a winner at the Bud Quandt Tournament in October with food, fellowship and support for turf research and local charities.

## 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 11 ..... FTGA, Tampa
- 11 ....Suncoast Vendor Appreciation Day, Plantation GC
- 12 ..... FTGA, Ft. Myers
- 17 ..... FTGA, Ocala
- 18 .....SRGCSA Meeting, Continental GC
- 18 .....SFGCSA Meeting, Crandon Park GC
- 25-28 .....PGA Merchandise Show, Orlando
- 28 ..... UF Turf Club Golf Tournament, Gainesville

### FEBRUARY

- 7 ..... FTGA, Orlando
- 8 ..... FTGA, Lake Worth
- 8 ..... SRGCSA Meeting, Williston Highlands GC
- 9 ..... FTGA, Plantation
- 14 ..... Florida Golf Day
- 21 ..... FTGA, Milton
- 23 ..... FTGA, Jacksonville
- 24-25 ..... GCSAA Golf, Palm Springs
- 27-Mar 3 ..... GCSAA GIS, Las Vegas

### MARCH

- 1 .....FGCSA Reception, Mirage, Las Vegas
- 20 ...EGCSA Education & Dinner Meeting, Pelican Bay
- 22 .....SFGCSA Turf Expo, Ft. Lauderdale IFAS REC
- 22 .. Golf BMP Training & Exam Session, UF/IFAS, Citra
- 29 .....Suncoast Scramble, TBA

### APRIL

- 5 ..... EGCSA Spring Symposium, Naples
- 16 ..... SRGCSA Envirotron Classic, World Woods



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**Special Thanks to:**

Ken Husillak with Citrus Seven Pump Services  
for the food on the course

Bud Quandt for his continued service to the FWCGCSA

Mike Strube and the Feather Sound GC  
for hosting the event

## SPOTLIGHT

Another traditional October event is the SFGCSA's Missing & Exploited Children's Tournament hosted by the South Florida GCSA. This event has raised more than a quarter of a million dollars in its 27-year history and is a shining example of golf being a positive community asset. This year the SFGCSA raised \$25,000 to the M&E Foundation.

In FGCSA news, President Mark Kann, GCSAA Field Representative Ralph Dain and Executive Director Joel



*GCSAA Field Representative Ralph Dain, Erin Boyd Wilder of Sod Solutions and FGCSA President Mark Kann and FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson (behind the camera) met with U. S. Senator Bill Nelson's Chief of Staff Peter Mitchell in Tallahassee to discuss national golf issues. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Palm Beach GCSA President Larry Balko presented M&E Chairman Joe Pantaleo with a check for \$1,500 at the M&E Foundation fund raiser. Photo courtesy of the SFGCSA.*

Jackson were accompanied by Erin Boyd Wilder of Sod Solution in an hour-long meeting with Peter Mitchell, the chief of staff for Florida U.S. Senator Bill Nelson in

Tallahassee in late September. The group discussed EPA's Numeric Nutrient Criteria and NPDES permitting process, the H2-B Worker Visa Program changes by the Department of Labor and the exclusion of the coverage of golf courses in the Federal Disaster Relief legislation. We hope the in-depth discussions will bear fruit in the upcoming senate deliberations.

In October the FGCSA Fall Board Meeting was held at the UF/IFAS Plant Science and Research & Education Unit in Citra, 20 miles south of Gainesville. The board took a quick bus tour of the property to get an appreciation for the full extent of the Agricultural and Green Industry research projects under way at the 1,000-acre facility. The board held a long range planning session to help define future operations and goals of the association.

*FGCSA Officers and Directors on their tour of the UF/IFAS Research and Education Unit in Citra. Photo courtesy of UF/IFAS.*







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*Hydrocotyle spp.* (Dollarweed), also called Pennywort, is a summer perennial weed common in Florida and Texas, among other warm season states. There are actually several species of dollarweed. Leaves are round in shape, approximately one inch in diameter. Weed leaves hold a bright green hue and are shiny, with scalloped margins.

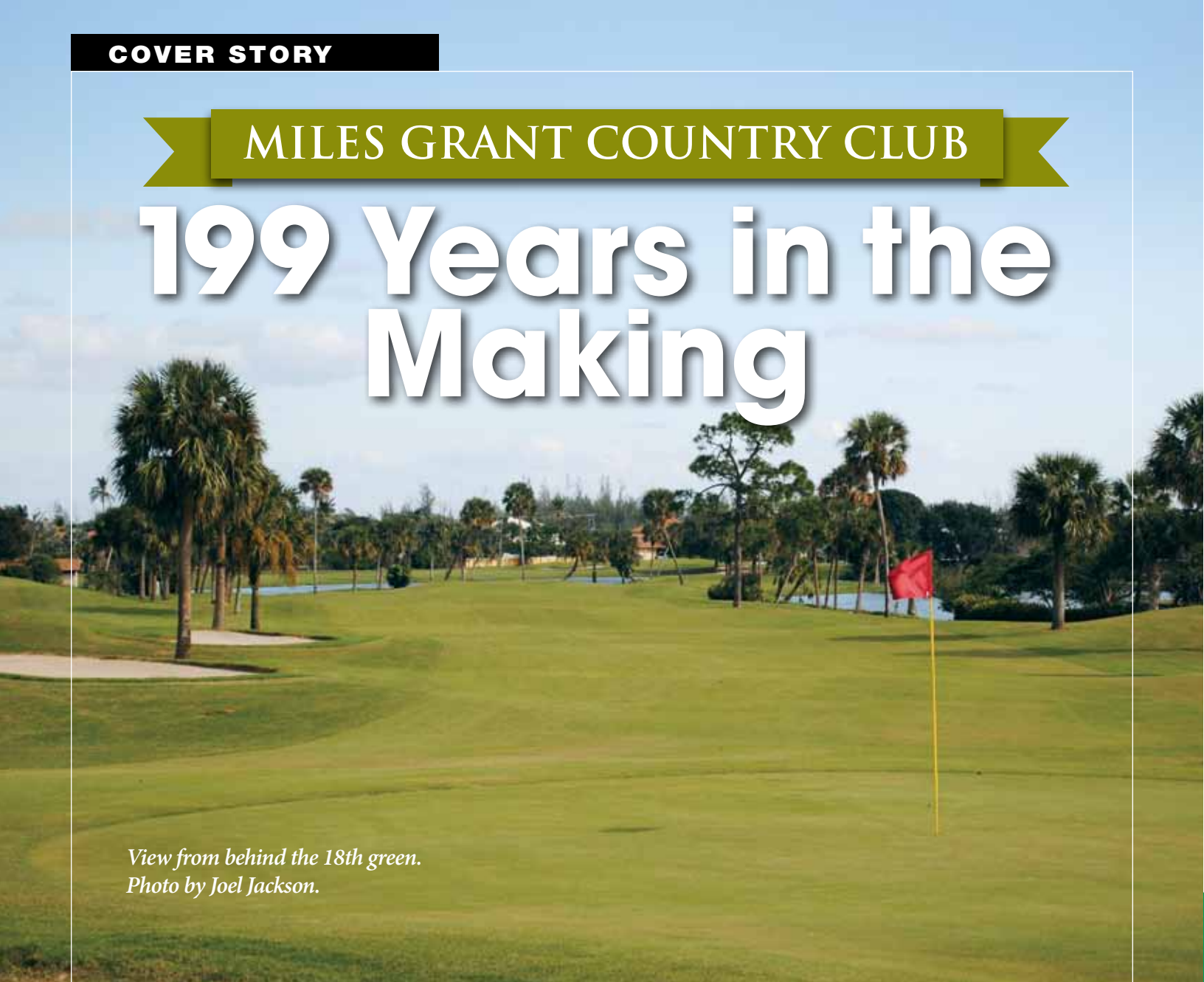


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## MILES GRANT COUNTRY CLUB

## 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.

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*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.*

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## 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.*

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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



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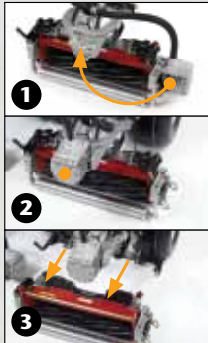
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*View of the 5th green from Hole #6. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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,

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## 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.



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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



*Harry & Family. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**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.*

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*Almost everyone now has computerized control systems to maximize irrigation efficiency.  
Photo by Joel Jackson*

# Wise Watering:

## MANAGING OUR MOST CRITICAL RESOURCE

*By Joel Jackson, Editor*

Once upon a time I remember the basic functions of golf course maintenance being described as a three-legged stool consisting of irrigation management, pest management and cultural programs. In today's world we would likely add business management to include personnel management, communications and financial accounting. Regardless of how you divide it up, managing the available water resources rises to the top of the list; for without an adequate water supply, the rest are all secondary.

The technology for delivering water effectively through our irrigation systems has improved and continues to improve from the pumping stations down to the very smallest nozzle on the golf course.

Just as the hardware and software has improved, we must embrace these new tools and methods to maximize the irrigation system you manage to its peak efficiency. This might mean changing the way you used to do things. At the very least, physical changes and improvements to your irrigation system and your methods of calculating run times need to be considered.

This means that human beings end up running the show regardless of all the bells and whistles of technology. When it comes to the "capital improvements" line item in the maintenance budget, the economy has put a damper on most of the spending. Somewhere down the line, a program of irrigation-system improve-

ments will need to enter the picture because the pressure on reducing water use for outdoor irrigation is mounting, and, while golf is a minority user of water overall, it is also a recreational activity and the majority of people don't consider it a priority at all.

Overall we have a good story to tell about superintendents managing water. Unlike the typical residential "set and forget" mentality, superintendents monitor their irrigation use daily to produce acceptable playing conditions and healthy turf. Our challenge is to get even better at protecting our water resources. It will take serious efforts by each superintendent and golf course to find ways to improve efficiency and protect water resources.



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What follows will be a series of tips and ideas to help each of us become even better water managers. Some will require an investment in capital dollars and others will involve changing methods of monitoring and managing run times and soil moisture.

## Irrigation BMPs from the Golf BMP Manual

Use the lowest-quality water available for irrigation. Potential sources include reclaimed water and brackish water. Surface water sources: storm runoff retention, lakes, rivers, canals. All less quality than groundwater.

**Proper system design:** Golf course architects need to consider limiting water use for new courses or major renovations. The same is true when doing irrigation system upgrades.

**Pump systems:** Proper pressure regulation. Spacing of heads and nozzle selection to optimize distribution.

- Separate control capability for separate areas/conditions on the course. Slopes, roughs, putting surfaces

(inners/outers), tee tops, etc.

- Individual head control around greens and when possible elsewhere.
- Separate zones for roughs where/when appropriate and practical.
- Scheduling using real-time conditions, such as weather measurements or soil moisture measurements.
- Maintenance program to correct broken/clogged heads and leaks on a routine basis.

## Irrigation Efficiency

**1. Hardware** - spacing, nozzles, operating pressure

**2. Software** - Scheduling, programming.

**3. Mapping soil moisture** (in-ground sensors or handheld meters and making specific head/site adjustments. Use hand watering of hot spots.

For older systems with fewer bells and whistles - try to improve on amounts by not routinely setting on 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-minute settings. Back off a click or two and monitor results. Less run time, less water used or wasted and fewer dollars in energy costs.

## The Survey Says

For some real-world feedback on irrigation systems I sent an 8 question survey to the FGCSA Board of Directors. Twelve members responded and here are the results:

**Source of irrigation water:** 6 used reclaimed water with a supplemental recharge well or a surface source backup. 5 used surface water, 3 had a back up source of reclaimed or a well. 1 course on a coastal barrier island uses potable water.

**Pump station:** 8 have VFD pumps to regulate pressure. 2 have Cla-valves and 1 has direct hookup to reclaimed pipeline.

**Control systems:** Not surprisingly all respondents have a computerized control system evenly divided between Rainbird and Toro. 1 reported a hydraulic vs electric system.

**Soil moisture monitoring:** 12 reported monitoring primarily using soil core/pocket knife observations and 1 also used a soil moisture meter.

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**Irrigation zones:** Everyone has separate zones for greens, tees, fairways and roughs to better allocate water use, especially during restriction cutbacks. Additional zones might include: chronic hot spots, driving range, range tee and range target greens, clubhouse, common areas, inner and outer greens heads, greens approaches, newly sodded areas and front and back 9 separations.

**Emergency Shut Off:** All have high/low pressure shut off safeguards. 6 also have rain switch, and 3 can call in by phone and turn off the system.

**Water Conservation methods:** Everyone said they followed the majority of the following conservation methods, with only a couple stating that creating natural areas has not been a priority.

### Water-saving methods

- Regular inspection for leaks and proper head/valve operation
- Install part circle heads where possible
- Install inner/outer heads around greens
- Reduce turf acreage and naturalize more areas on the course

- Use wetting agents and soil amendments to improve dry spots
- Constantly tweak run times by adjusting ET percentage depending on weather and observed conditions

**THIS MEANS THAT HUMAN BEINGS END UP RUNNING THE SHOW REGARDLESS OF ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES OF TECHNOLOGY.**

### Other methods and general comments:

- Installed smaller more efficient heads around tees and bunkers
- Installed smaller part circle heads in fairways and roughs for efficiency
- Incorporating more organic material in tee topdressing materials
- Installed mister heads on bunker faces with manual valve control

- By not overseeding this year we saved 12 million gallons of water
- Installed inner/outer heads around greens and saved 500,000 gallons of water
- During our Consumptive Use Permit renewal we showed a detailed report of resources spent trying to reduce consumption. This effort was well received by the Water Management District. Speaking of Water Management Districts, they are under the gun from both the governor and the public to operate more efficiently and uniformly. It is no easy task balancing the need for water by consumers and the utilities that deliver the water, and at the same time conserving existing water resources, developing potential new sources for future needs and protecting water quality.

The golf industry needs to make sure we expand and maintain good working relationships with the districts so they are confident that golf courses remain wise water users.



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# USGA Regional Update:



*Ropes and stakes are unpopular with golfers but effective at preventing turf damage like this. Photo by Joel Jackson*

*By Todd Lowe, Senior Agronomist, Florida Region*

The annual migration of northern golfers to our region has begun, and with it, an increase in the number of rounds has occurred. This increase in rounds happens at a time of the year when bermudagrass growth decreases, and these two factors combine for potential unsightly playing conditions.

Golfers are creatures of habit, often choosing the path of least resistance, and continual golfer traffic over the same area stresses turf conditions. The trodden grass blades are not readily replaced with new, green leaves, and this creates yellow-to-tan coloration in the affected areas. Eventually the soil becomes compacted and poor turf conditions occur. The following steps should be taken at this time to protect turf and improve golf course quality:

Be proactive with traffic diversion. Ropes and stakes are generally unfavorable with most members, but are very important for protecting turf. Some areas are more prone to traffic damage, like ingress/egress areas, particularly where bunkers or trees adjacent to cart paths funnel traffic into specific locations.

Implement a rotating “Resting Hole” program. This program allows one hole

per nine to recover each week from cart traffic, as it is restricted to cart paths only. In a typical program, holes #1 and #10 are deemed “earth path only” during week 1. Holes #2 and #11 are “cart path only” in week 2, and so on. Par-3 holes are automatically deemed “cart path only” and are skipped. Some fairways, like tight fairways or fairways stressed by nematodes, may require more frequent cart restriction, depending on turf recovery.

Supplemental soil cultivation practices. It is important to identify high-traffic areas and to core-aerate them prior to the season. Additional solid-tine aeration can be implemented as soil temperatures allow adequate turf recovery. Generally speaking, soil temperatures at a 4-inch depth above 65 degrees should be adequate to sustain bermudagrass recovery. Otherwise, aeration holes will be visible for longer periods.

Golf carts have become a standard feature on golf courses in our region, and dealing with traffic issues has become a necessary part of the game. Traffic control measures are also necessary to maintain good playing conditions in our region, especially during cooler months.

*Source: Todd Lowe, [tlowe@usga.org](mailto:tlowe@usga.org) or 941-828-2625*



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# FGCSA's Golf BMP Certification Program

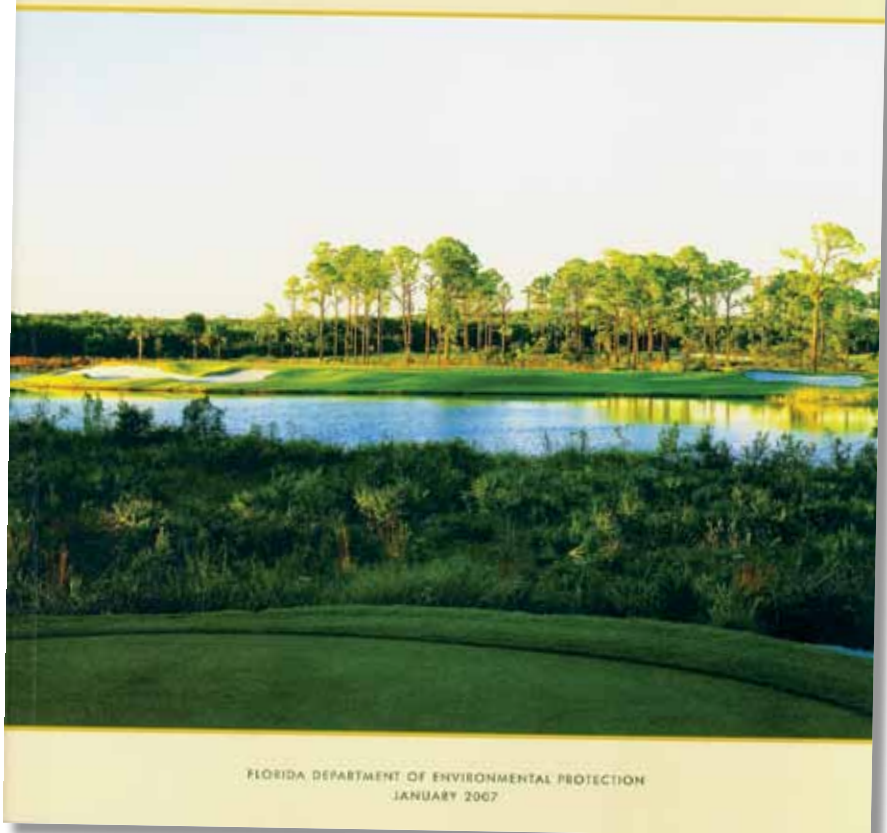
By Joel Jackson, FGCSA Executive Director

In the turmoil and uncertainty of local fertilizer ordinance regulations the past few years, Matt Taylor, CGCS from the Royal Poinciana Club in Naples suggested that the FGCSA look into a Golf BMP certification program. The program is meant to especially document a superintendent's knowledge and expertise when applying fertilizers and pesticides. It will be more extensive than – but similar to – the Green Industry BMP certification program which gives landscapers in some cities and counties the ability to apply fertilizers during the infamous blackout periods by passing a GIBMP certification exam.

Some local governments exempted golf courses initially from the onerous and unfounded fertilizer blackout periods which generally covered a four-month period from July through October. However, the latest rounds of local rule making in Collier County and Vero Beach did not include those exceptions and superintendents had to fight to get recognition of the special nature of the golf course business and how consistent plant nutrition was a necessity.

Thus, the idea was born to create a Golf BMP training and examination program that would proactively show the Golf Industry intention to protect the environment and support science-based regulation. With the help of Mike Thomas of the FLDEP and Dr. Laurie Trenholm of the University of Florida, and the work of the FGCSA BMP Committee, the program has taken shape and we hope to roll out the initial schedule of presentations and examinations in early 2012. Additionally, we sought the official recognition of the program from the Dept. of Environmental Protection.

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or  
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*Certification in the Golf BMPs provides official documentation of your environmental stewardship.*

**We are pleased to share DEP's response to our request with this letter dated October 31, 2011 addressed to FGCSA President Mark Kann:**

Dear Mr. Kann:

Thank you for your September 1, 2011, letter to The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We are pleased that our long partnership with Florida's golf course industry has produced yet another milestone in public-private environmental stewardship.

We commended the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association (FGCSA) on its new industry certification program in Best Management Practices (BMPs). DEP is encouraged that the FGCSA has made the "Green Industry BMPs" a prerequisite to this new, advanced level of certification. In doing so, the FGCSA has set a high standard for environmentally-sound management of one of Florida's most important industries. FGCSA's actions seek to comprehensively understand sustainable course management, and how those actions affect the surrounding environment and water resources.

For two decades, the FGCSA has been a true partner with DEP, promoting environmental stewardship and the development of BMPs for golf courses and urban landscapes. The assistance, cooperation, and expertise of our members had been instrumental in the development

of DEP's 1995 and 2007 manuals addressing golf courses, the influential 1998 *Agrichemical Handling* manual, and the Green Industries BMP manuals for urban turf and landscape management outside the golf course. The FGCSA's support for these manuals, DEP's model ordinances and the Protection of Urban and Residential Environments and Water Act played a substantial role in the state's ability to address non point sources of pollution.

The Florida Golf Course BMP Certification Program for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses has been created with full cooperation and review of the University of Florida and DEP's technical staff. With your partnership, we are convinced this training and certification will be as comprehensive as the DEP manual on which it is based.

Again I commend the FGCSA on the excellent program developed for Florida's golf course industry. I hope this inspires the development of similar programs in other states.

Sincerely,  
Herschel T. Vinyard Jr  
Secretary

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# FIELD OBSERVATIONS



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

About 30 minutes and 50 failed starting sentences have passed since I first sat down in front of the screen to write this update. Thank goodness I am not still typing this on my Smith-Corona SD300 from my college days. Don't even ask what model Joel used back in his day! I would have gone through a whole ream of paper and a couple of bottles of white-out.

Anyway, it's great to be back with my third installment of Field Observations. I am happy to report from my travels that more than a few members have relayed to me that golf rounds at their facilities have started out strong this season. I am also thrilled to report that water levels in course lakes in Southwest Florida have returned to the confines of

their typical shorelines.

Switching to government relations, I want to highlight a few key components from the NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) pesticide general permit that has been officially adopted by the Florida DEP. I have had a number of correspondences with superintendents around the state and realize there remains some ambiguity on how NPDES impacts operations at your facility.

Overall, the Florida DEP has attempted to keep the permitting burden to a minimum for pesticide applicators. The good news is golf course superintendents will NOT be required to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) to make aquatic applications, pay the permit fee (\$500 for 5 years), or complete a pesticide management discharge plan. Superintendents will be covered automatically under this plan and do not have to apply for the permit. Also, you will likely not receive any correspondence from the DEP regarding the NPDES General Permit.

During my chapter visits around the state, I have frequently mentioned our concern over the term "applied near water" in the permitting language and this impacted applications to turf adjacent to bodies of water. Fortunately the permit in Florida does not impact any terrestrial pesticide applications.

However, there are clearly outlined procedures in the Florida permit that need to be adhered to in the event that

there is an adverse incident that impacts a body of water. I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with these requirements. I have included a link to the NPDES Permit in Florida: [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/iw/docs/62-621.300\\_8e.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/iw/docs/62-621.300_8e.pdf).

Again, overall the Florida DEP has done a nice job of keeping the impact of the NPDES permitting to a minimum. This has not been the case in other states as superintendents are required to submit an NOI to apply pesticides, produce a pesticide management discharge plan and pay the permitting fee. GCSAA continues to push for passage of HR 872 bill in the Senate which provides a legislative fix for NPDES permitting. We encourage you to utilize our Take Action resource on our website to reach out to your elected officials on this matter.

Unfortunately, in Florida the NPDES permitting does make it easier for individuals to file lawsuits claiming pesticide applications have been improperly discharged. There will most likely be challenges by environmental activist groups and the NPDES permitting process could lead down uncertain paths in the future.

For more information you may call me at 785-424-4306 or email to [rdain@gcsaa.org](mailto:rdain@gcsaa.org).

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**GREEN SIDE UP  
BY JOEL JACKSON**

As the new year begins and I look back on 2011, it is obvious to me that the progress we made was due to the participation of our members who volunteered to serve on state and local chapter boards and committees, and to the companies new and old that sponsored and supported our programs, publications and events. Given the tough times all sectors of the golf industry have faced the past few years,

I'm even more impressed by the progress we continue to make.

If we're smart, we will continue to maximize our working relationships and work together as much as possible so we can all take turns blazing the trail and make our journeys as enjoyable as possible for all. The most important factor is that we all participate in the process, and not hang back and make just a few do all the work all of the time.

The golf boom is over and it's a new world out there. We all must manage our resources as efficiently as possible and that's true for individual golf clubs, superintendents, vendors and associations. To that end we need to involve new members and new sponsors and make sure our programs are effectively meeting and respecting everyone's needs.

I'd like to thank personally all our current advertisers and Industry Partners for their support of this magazine and our FGCSA events. They help make our communication, government

relations and public relations efforts possible. In addition their support is essential for the success of our local chapters' charitable, social and research fund raising events. In return, I urge our members to return the favor by making sure they fully support all of those vendors. The loyalty the vendors have shown over years of sponsoring our events needs to be returned by doing our business with them.

Just as we need to bring new members into our chapters and to our meetings, we also need to encourage new vendors and supporters to the table. We invite you to share the names and contact information of suppliers you might do business with that have not been active supporters of your chapter or the industry. We have several programs that can help them get the word out about their businesses and we'd love to send them our materials so they can join a stronger two-way partnership. In the coming year I will be looking for stories to share in the Industry News section that will include the people and

businesses that have helped to make our chapters and associations successful.

One last area of participation I'd like to mention is our efforts in building and maintaining good working relationships with regulatory agencies at the state and county level. Evidence of some of that success can be seen in the letter concerning our current Golf BMP certification program and previous efforts in voluntary environmental stewardship efforts from DEP Secretary Vinyard in the Stewardship section of this issue. Across the state, local chapters have engaged their water management districts in discussions on water-use permitting and water-shortage restrictions. This interaction has had a positive effect in our favor on how restrictions are managed.

To make continued progress in the operation, effectiveness and financial future of our associations, we need participation by everyone from all sectors of the industry. Happy New Year to one and all.



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