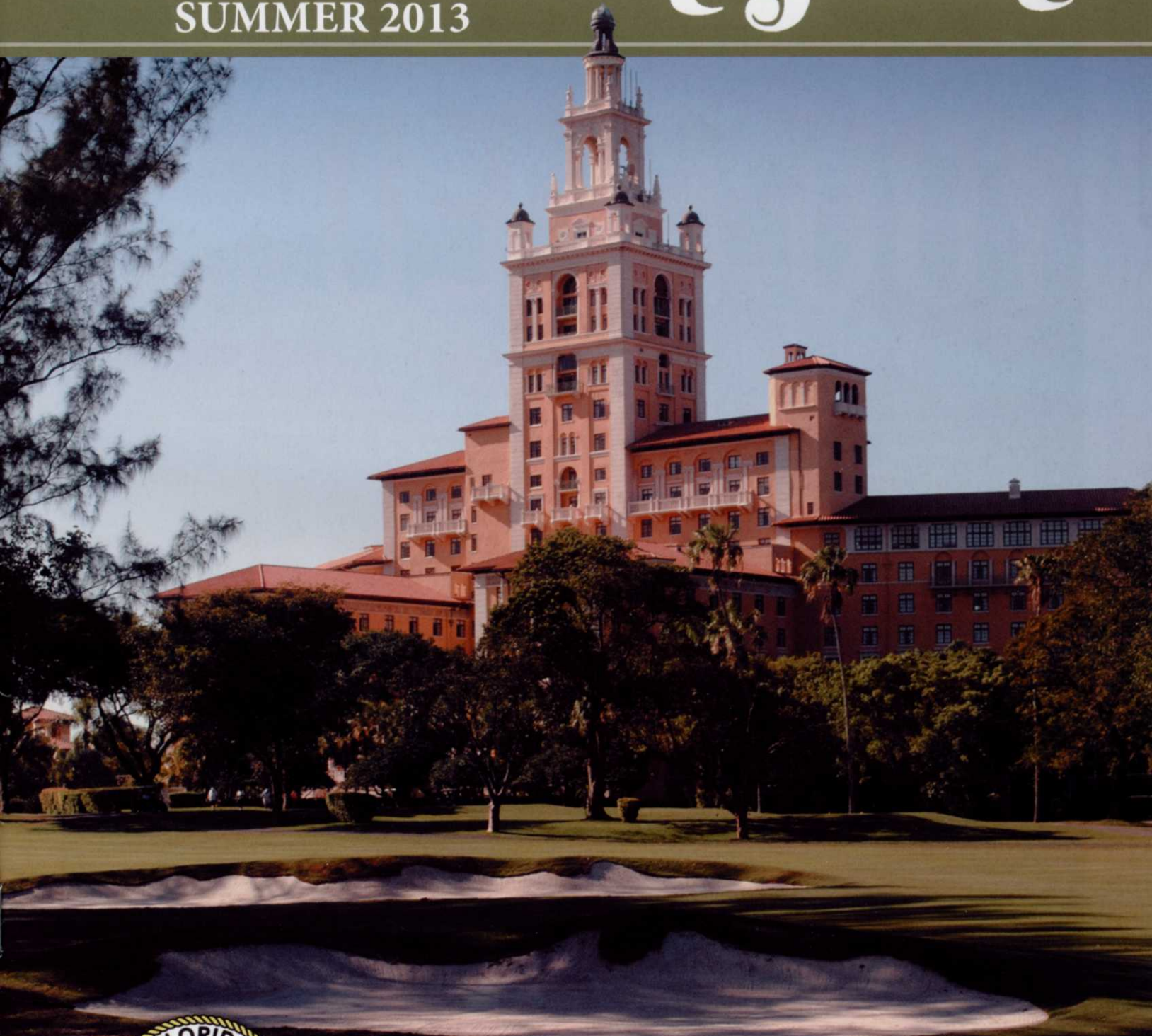


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Horizon
The Edge You Need

The Florida Green

Summer 2013

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ON THE COVER: 18th Hole Biltmore Golf Club, Coral Gables. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Spring Board Meeting Outcomes

The FGCSA Board is moving forward with lots of initiatives to serve the membership. Your cooperation and participation will go along way to the success of your organization.

BMPs - The voluntary BMP Certification classes will be offered several times throughout the year and will move around to various regions to minimize travel time. All chapters are encouraged to partner with neighboring chapters to organize a regional session. Currently on tap: July 17 West/SW Region at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast REC in Wimauma, and North/East Central Region on August 5 at the First Coast Technical College, Bldg. C, St. Augustine. Remember the activists have stated publicly, "Golf is next!" So let's document our pro-active stewardship and get certified in the Golf BMPs.

Government Relations - Fertilizer Regulation: Cities and counties have been at odds over "home rule" issues with the state's attempt at preempting local fertilizer regulations that differ from place to place, creating a nightmare for turf-related businesses. In the last session a new bill — HB 999 — was introduced which contained proposals for a Fertilizer Review Council to discuss the issue, but it also included a three-year moratorium on local regulations while the council had its meetings. There was much debate over the language of the bill and, after many changes to the bill, it finally failed in a voice vote of the Legislature, but progress had been made and work is already beginning for next year.

Nutrient Numeric Criteria: On April 22, Governor Scott signed into law SB 1808 allowing the FDEP to set water quality standards (Numeric Nutrient Criteria) tailored for Florida waters rather than criteria from the EPA, which is used throughout the US.

FGCSA Government Relations Committee: Government Relations Chairman Greg Pheneger is requesting that each local chapter appoint a Chapter Government Relations Chairman to join with Greg in forming a strong state Government Relations Committee. The committee will meet monthly or bi-monthly via conference call. Please notify Jennifer of your selection.



*Nancy Miller, CGCS,
President*

FGCSA Golf Championship: The tournament will be held on Friday, Aug. 23 at Southern Dunes. It is also open to vendors. See details and sign up at www.floridagcsa.com.

FGCSA Reception: at the 2014 GIS will be on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at BB King's House of Blues at Pointe Orlando just across the street and north of the Convention Center on International Drive. Reserve the date!

Rounds for Research: The golf industry in Florida is missing out on a great opportunity to raise funds for turfgrass research, scholarships and advocacy by not fully using the Rounds4Research Program being administered by GCSAA with bidding for golf rounds posted on bidding for good. Tell the golfers and members at your club about the on line auctions at <https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/Auction-Home.action?auctionId=189950805>.

Also here is the link to the EIFG website that contains documents that can be printed and used to advertise the program at your club. Please take the time to register your course. Our futures may depend on it! <http://www2.gcsaa.org/chapters/chpmgmt/rounds4research.asp>

GCSAA: A new staff position for the government relations department has been approved for a person to assist Chava McKeel, associate director of government relations, with national, state and local issues.

USGA: The USGA Florida Green Section as already set venues for next year's Green Committee University. Stay tuned for the times and locations. They will also provide a one-day seminar during the FTGA Conference in September.

FGCSA Staff Positions: All FGCSA staff job descriptions have been re-evaluated and tentative job descriptions for Association Manager, Communications Director and Executive Director have been developed. They are being finalized



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FOREWARDS

and will be presented to the Board at the summer board meeting.

Credit Card Processing: FGCSA has changed its shopping cart provider and credit card processing to make it easier to pay online. You can now pay more than one chapter dues and event registrations at a time. The service is available to all chapters, regardless of who currently collects the dues. FGCSA is no longer able to charge a processing fee for credit card payments. The FGCSA will absorb dues renewal fees on credit cards for all Class A, SM and C members. However, any fees assessed for credit card payment made on affiliate chapter member dues payments and/or individual chapter events will be adsorbed by the appropriate chapter.

Member Classifications: FGCSA is reviewing its classifications to be sure they agree with the GCSAA classifications per our affiliation agreement. Local chapters affiliated with GCSAA are encouraged to do the same.

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Training: Jennifer is working on scheduling a Secretary/Treasurer training session for August, possibly via webcast. Details to come soon.

FLORIDA GOLF, INC.: The newly formed Florida Golf Alliance has been registered with the state as Florida Golf, Inc. to avoid conflict with a previously existing organization of that name. This is the association of Florida's major golf organizations for advocacy on golf-related issues. The five founding members are the Florida GCSA, North and South Florida PGA Sections, Florida Chapter of the Golf Managers Association and the Florida State Golf Association.

And last but not least, congratulations on the 40th Birthday of the Florida Green!

Thank you, Joel, and all of you who through the years have written, edited, published, mailed and contributed to the magazine for making it all possible!

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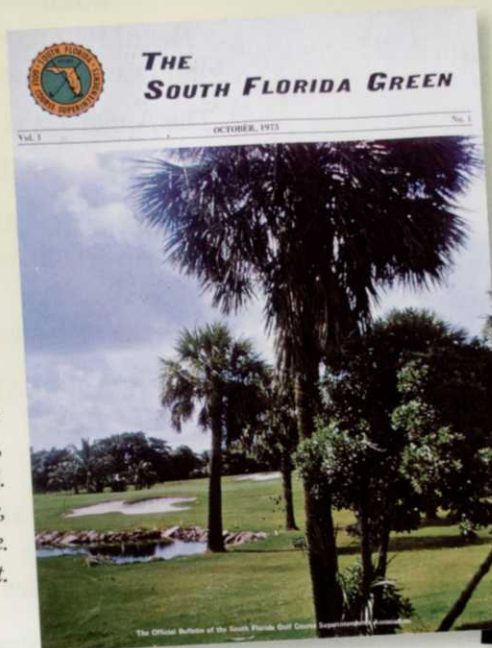
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CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF The Florida Green



The first South Florida Green, October 1973. 5th hole, Lost Tree Village. No photo credit.



The first Florida Green, Summer 1980. Great White Egret, Key Biscayne GC. Photo by Harry McCartha. Cover photos in the late 1980's and early 1990's also included people and places like GIS host cities. After that, the covers focused solely on golf course landscapes.

With this issue we mark the 40th anniversary of our Florida golf course superintendent magazine; a classy, quarterly, glossy, four-color publication representing the news and views of our profession.

To help put the history of the magazine and FGCSA in perspective, here is a timeline of the founding and evolution of all the chapters: 1939 South Florida, 1949 West Coast, 1968 Everglades, 1974 North Florida* (Originally began in the 1960's as several groups (under various Georgia/Florida combo-named associations), 1974 Central Florida, 1976 Suncoast, 1978 Palm Beach, 1980 Treasure Coast, 1990 Ridge, 1991 Seven Rivers and 1999 Calusa.

Originally called *The South Florida Green Bulletin*, the magazine was published by the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association beginning in 1973. As noted above, the South Florida GCSA was organized in 1939 and is the granddaddy of all of our Florida chapters. Mike Barger was the first editor and was assisted by Tom Mascaro as the associate editor. Lou Oxnevad was the chapter president at the time.

Barger and Mascaro managed the publication until 1976 when Dan Jones was appointed editor. Mascaro continued as the associate editor until Dr. Max Brown took over that role.

And somewhere along the way Dan's wife, Irene Jones, began helping out when it came to gathering and writing stories and helping assemble the magazine.

These were the days of cut-and-paste layout pages to be photographed and transferred to metal plates so the rolling

presses could print the pages. Virtually every flat surface in the Jones home became a workspace during deadline time. The April 1980 issue was the last issue of the South Florida Green. During these late 1970s, photographers Harry McCartha, writer/photographer/superintendent David Bailey and his brother Mike Bailey became regular contributors to the magazine helping Dan and Irene fill the pages of the Florida Green.

Around this time after several years of discussion and planning the statewide Florida GCSA was formed and officially founded in 1980. The South Florida GCSA decided to donate its publication to the state to become the official voice of the united associations. The 1980 Summer Issue was the first official *Florida Green Magazine* with the same people on board still producing the publication.

In 1981 Daniel Zelazek, a good friend of the Bailey brothers, joined the staff as the magazine's cover photographer. Zelazek was an industrial photographer with the Pratt & Whitney Company down in West Palm Beach. We enjoyed his impressive cover story photos until his retirement at the end of 2010. With the 10th Anniversary issue in the spring of 1983, the magazine began a two-page foldout cover format, which lasted 15 years until the Fall Issue in 2008.

Zelazek was a master of his craft and he used a custom-made camera that used film sheets instead of film rolls or memory cards. No digital for Daniel. He totes his tripod-mounted camera around the state and took many a cover shot from the bucket of a front-end loader or standing on a pallet raised by a forklift.



First Foldout Cover 1983. 16th Hole, Banyan CC. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

About this time, Jones introduced the concept of chapter reporters and in 1985 I became the reporter for the Central Florida Chapter. Four years later Dan and Irene Jones were ready to retire from the magazine after thirteen years of story gathering, editing and cutting and pasting each issue's layout. It was time to pass the baton.

In late 1989, Dan hired Larry Kieffer as the Publication Manager and Executive Editor, a post he manned until his recent retirement. I still forward my editorial copy to him for his watchful eye to keep the publication in top professional form. In 1991, the magazine became a bi-monthly publication instead of a quarterly magazine. That format lasted two years and we returned to publishing four times per year for budget purposes. During that period, Brian Everhart and Phillip Petus joined Kieffer's publication team as staff photographer and writer for those two years, while Daniel was on hiatus and I was in the midst of my job change.

Along the way, when I returned to Disney to help grow-in the Osprey Ridge Course, Tom Benefield stepped in as editor for a year or two and I remained on board as the assistant editor, still doing most of the article writing. Paul Crawford also joined the team as the advertising manager and played a big role in getting sponsors and advertisers for the magazine.

There were two other regular contributors to the magazine Mark Jarrell, CGCS, Palm Beach National GC (1994-2004) He also began writing a regular column for *Golfweek Magazine*, which highlighted the superintendent's role in course conditioning and attempted to educate golfers and club members about our side of the business.

Another regular columnist from 2001 to 2008 was superintendent Jim Walker with the Miami Dade Parks and Recreation Dept. Jim wrote his "As It Lies" column with a wry humor toward our daily routines and challenges.

In the background, keeping the business side of the magazine running, was Marie Roberts, the association manager for over 20 years until her retirement in 2007. Since then, Jennifer Bryan became our go-to person and as been acting as Advertising Manager along with all her other duties as the current association manager.

Over the years the magazine won a slew of awards from the annual GCSAA Publications Contest and the Florida Green remains among the top superintendent publications in the country.

To those pioneers who began the magazine, to all those who wrote articles, columns, president's messages, took pictures, sponsored, advertised, edited and produced 40 years worth of issues we sincerely thank you for beginning a lasting legacy which is the Florida Green.



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In the Spring Spotlight

It's been a wet and wild spring season, and now that the busy golf season is over, FGCSA chapters began holding their traditional fund-raising events in our own version of March Madness. Congratulations to winners of the various tournaments, service awards and donors who contribute to our turf research and advocacy efforts.

This season also begins year two of the Rounds4Research project. Please get involved and donate a round of golf for the good of our industry. Special thanks to our sponsors who make it all possible and to the hard-working volunteers who organize these events. Roughly in chronological order, relive our spring events in the following photos.



The Central Florida GCSA premiered its new Vendor Expo in March at the Reunion Resort. During the education session, Dr. Brian Unruh discussed the fertilizer BMP research and possible changes to state fertilizer guidelines and interesting results from low-light-level implications to turf management. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Another new venture by the Central Florida Chapter is the Assistant Superintendent Academy, an assistant-only education seminar in April. Here GCSAA Director Darren Davis (right) and GCSAA Regional Representative Ralph Dain give a presentation on GCSAA Resources to help assistants in their careers. Photo by Joel Jackson.



At the NFGCSA Memorial Tournament, the annual Keeper of the Green Award recognizing the service of an individual to the golf and turf industries in North Florida was presented to Buddy Tresca, longtime owner and operator of Jacobsen Turf Equipment franchises in Florida. Pictured here with the award are Tresca (left) and Tom Brennan, owner of Brennan Golf Sales and former Tresca employee.. Photo by Joel Jackson.



The Annual South Florida Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS station in Ft. Lauderdale drew a near-record crowd of over 400 people from all aspects of the turf industry. Featured sessions included research plot tours and updates, supplier products expo and demos, technician training sessions and classroom seminars. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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During the North Florida Memorial celebration, Chapter President Mike Stevens (right), presented a \$5,000 check for the FGCSA Turf Research Fund to FGCSA Communications Director Joel Jackson. Photo by Ralph Dain.



During the 2013 Blue Pearl Event at the Red Stick GC this past May, the Treasure Coast GCSA once again stepped up to demonstrate its local proactive environmental stewardship efforts by donating \$10,500 to the Environmental Learning Center in Vero Beach. Photo by Joel Jackson.



From left: Tournament Chairman Glen Oberlander receives the Golf Ventures Champion Sponsorship check from Walt McMahon, Debbie Nipper and Cary Lewis at the 2013 Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Classic hosted by the Seven Rivers GCSA at the World Woods Golf Course in April.



The Calusa GCSA team was victorious in the 2013 edition of the Calusa-Suncoast joint meeting golf match. Joint chapter meetings are one way for chapters to enhance superintendent participation. Photo by Seth Jones.

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- August 5 Golf BMP Certification Session, St. Augustine
- August 14 Everglades and Calusa Joint Meeting, Wildcat Run GC
- August 23 FGCSA Annual Board Meeting, Southern Dunes GC
- August 23 FGCSA Golf Championship Southern Dunes, GC

SEPTEMBER

- September 9-12 FTGA Conference & Show, Caribe Royale Hotel, Orlando
- September 10 Golf BMP Certification Session, Orlando

OCTOBER

- October 9 UF/IFAS Field Day, Citra,
- October 18-19 North Florida GCSA FALL CLASSIC, Amelia Island Plantation
- October 25 South Florida GCSA Missing & Exploited Children's Tournament, Ft. Lauderdale CC

SAVE THE DATE: February 6, 2014 - FGCSA Annual GCSAA GIS Reception at the B.B. King's House of Blues at Pointe Orlando across the street from the Orange County Convention Center.

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From left: Shannon Wheeler, superintendent of the Fountains CC in Lake Worth, made the winning bid of \$6,500 to acquire the Bayer Power Pak of turf care products. Also pictured are Matthew Boyd from the Treasure Coast Chapter and auctioneer Brian MacCurrach from Bayer Environmental Sciences. The proceeds go to the Treasure Coast GCSA.



Mark Black, CGCS, right, received the 2013 USGA Ike Grainger Award from Todd Lowe of the Florida Section USGA in recognition of 25 years of service on the Green Section Committee. The award was presented in April at the 2013 USGA Green Committee University at the Audubon CC in Bonita Springs. Photo by Bob Toski

From left: In May at the Annual FGCSA Past Presidents Reception held at the Naples Country Club, Past President Mark Kann was presented with the 2013 Distinguished Service Award for his past volunteer board service and his leadership of the Golf Course BMP Certification Program. The 2013 Marie Roberts Award for golf industry service by a non-superintendent was presented to Dale Mitchell and Richard Colyer of the Golf Agronomics Supply and Handling Company for their continuous support of the FGCSA's Turf Research Programs for over twenty years. Photo by Joel Jackson

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The traditional Poa Luau on the Lawn concludes the 2013 Everglades Poa Annuu Classic. At the Luau it was announced that Seth Strickland from the Miami Shores GC shot a 69 to capture the Poa Annuu Trophy and win a spot on the FGCSA Golf Team competing in the GCSAA Championship in Orlando in February 2014. For many more photos of the Poa Weekend see the Everglades chapter link on www.floridagcsa.com. Photo by Joel Jackson.



From left: The team of Matt Tacilauscus, Mark Reid, Ashley Byham and Blair Kirby won the 33rd Annual Palm Beach Future of Golf Tournament at the Falls CC in Lake Worth on June 1. Perennial host, superintendent Steve Pearson, CGCS says that the total monies raised for junior golf, local charities and turf research comes to approximately \$825,000. Photo by Joel Jackson



Meanwhile, Brian MacCurrach, right, with Bayer Environmental conducted his second 2013 Bayer Power Pak Auction of the year at the Future of Golf event, and Randy Gaudet from the Polo Club of Boca Raton won the bidding at \$6,100 which goes back to the PBGCSA and adds to the funds raised by the event. Photo by Joel Jackson



From left: Three of the four finalists at the 2013 Jack Harrell, Sr. Memorial – Ridge Invitational Tournament.: Adam Ellison, Gary Newcomb and Mike Giddens had a shot at a \$50,000 hole-in-one shot. The fourth, Tim Keany, left right after he took his shot and missed. The Grasslands CC in Lakeland hosted the event this year. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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THE BILTMORE HOTEL AND GOLF COURSE: *A Time Travel Adventure*

The calendar on my iPhone said it was March 28, 2013 as I pulled out of the UF/IFAS Research and Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale and headed south toward Miami. I was en route to the Biltmore Golf Course to visit with superintendent Bryan Singleton and research this cover story.

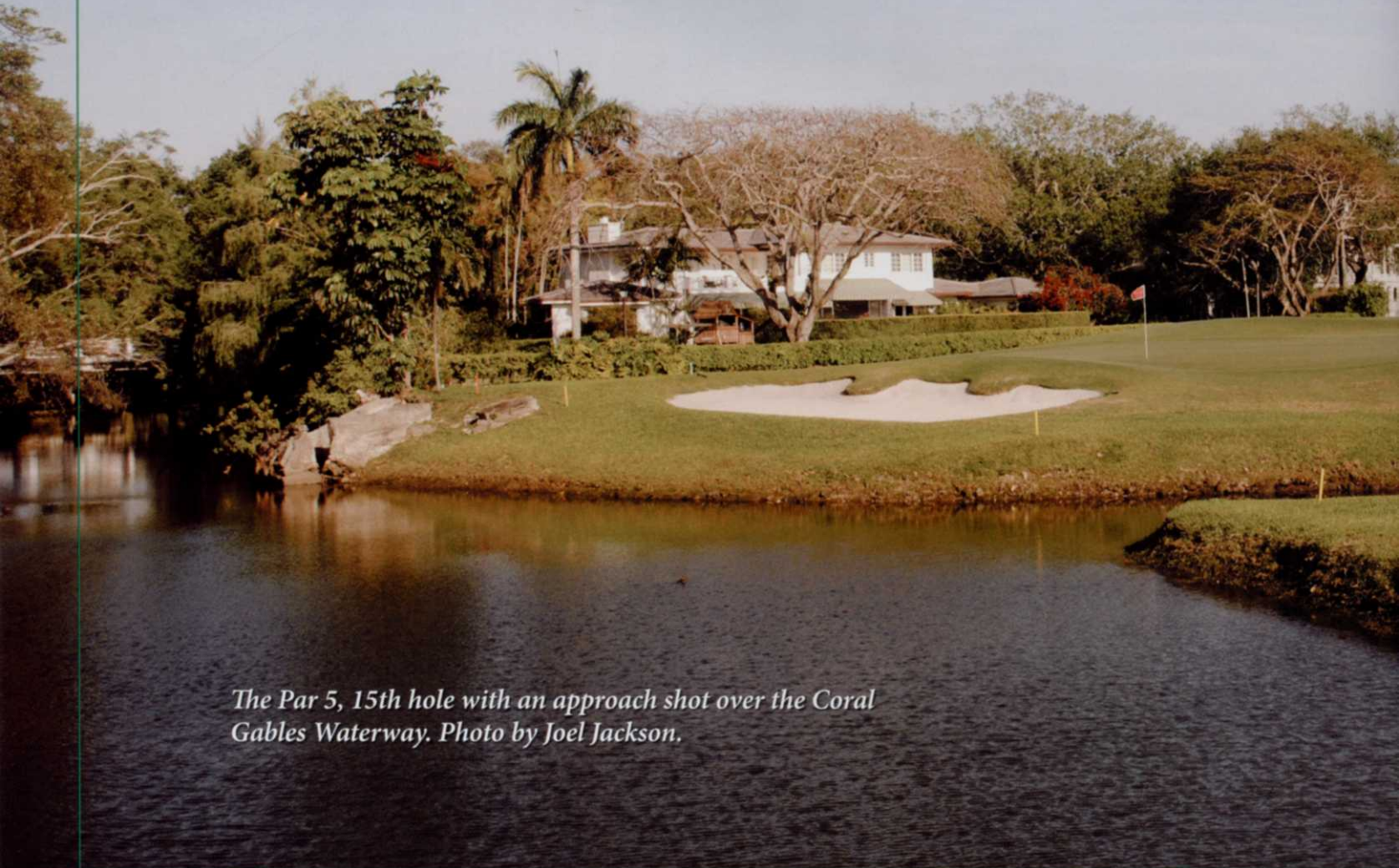
Once on the property, I was transported in time, aided by the architecture of the hotel and golf course. The portraits and photographs of presidents, sports legends, iconic entertainers and other historical figures on the walls made it even easier to turn back the pages of history.

I was familiar with course in general because I had played it a couple of times when it was a municipal golf course while I was in the U.S. Coast Guard and stationed in Miami in 1965 to 1967. The hotel was closed at the time and was acting as a military hospital. But I'm getting ahead of the amazing story of this historic property.

None other than the legendary Donald Ross designed the golf course in 1925. It was originally a 36-hole layout that wrapped around and extended southward from the hotel. Six years later, in 1931, the Miami-Biltmore Open – the richest

professional golf tournament in golf at the time – attracted legends Walter Hagen, Paul Runyan, Ralph Guldahl, Bill Mehlhorn, U. S. Open Champion Billy Burke and Gene Sarazen, who would capture the Biltmore a record four times.

The Tour moved on, but the Biltmore maintained its place in golf history by hosting the Junior Orange Bowl International Golf Championship for 49 years since 1964. Names like Nick Price, Jose Maria Olazabal, Tiger Woods, Craig Stadler, Hal Sutton, Bob Tway, Mark Calcavecchia, Helen Alfredson, Gary Koch, Annika



The Par 5, 15th hole with an approach shot over the Coral Gables Waterway. Photo by Joel Jackson.

SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Meet Bryan Singleton

Originally from:

Born in Washington, DC. Grew up in Beltsville, MD

Family: Wife Liz. Daughter, Jaqueline. 8-month old Beagle named Birdie.

Education: BS in Agronomy from "The" Pennsylvania State University

Employment history:

1983-1986 superintendent of the North Course, Wilmington CC, Wilmington, DE; 1987-1991 assistant superintendent, Card Sound Golf Course, Key Largo, FL; 1991-2006 superintendent Riviera CC, Coral Gables; 2006-Present superintendent Biltmore GC, Coral Gables.

How did you get into the business: I began working on golf courses as a summer job while in high school. Really, it's the only work I have ever done.

Professional affiliations/awards: 28-year member of the GCSAA. South Florida GCSA and FGCSA member since 1987. SFGCSA sec/treasurer in 1997-2000. SFGCSA president in 2000-01. Served on the Missing & Exploited Children Tournament since 1995. Received the FGCSA President's Award in 2011 for Lifetime Service.

Goals/Accomplishments: To maintain the best golf course I can and to treat others with respect. I have been involved in five major course renovations. I appreciated being recognized by my peers with the 2011 President's Award.

Personal philosophy of work: You have to enjoy what you do and give your best every day. I would advise a young person coming out of college to select a superintendent to work for who has a history of helping place their assistants into superintendent positions. Also, unless you have a pension plan at work start your own IRA account as soon as you can.

Personal memorable moments: Playing the Royal Dublin Club in Ireland with my dad and going to the 1997 Masters with my dad and fellow superintendent and friend Dave Klinkhammer.

Hobbies and Interests: Golf, relaxing at the beach with a good book, and fishing.



BRYAN SINGLETON

Photo by Joel Jackson.

Sorenstam and Paula Creamer can be found among many others in the Junior Orange Bowl Hall of Fame.

For many foreign players like Olazabal and Price, it was their first venture on American soil. They qualified abroad by winning their national championships.

These facts and other anecdotes came courtesy of J. R. Steinbauer, tournament chairman, whom superintendent Bryan Singleton had invited to his office to share the importance of the Biltmore in the history of that premier amateur event.

"We cannot praise Bryan and his staff enough for the outstanding job they do preparing this course to top level conditions required for our



One of the renovated original bridges crossing the Coral Gables Waterway. In the background is the Par 3, 12th green. Imagine a Venetian gondola heading to Biscayne Bay. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Behind the trees on the Par 3, 14th hole and across Bird Road lies the Riviera Country Club which for twenty years was part of the Biltmore property. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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world class players,” Steinbauer said.

The Jazz Era: 1926 - 1942

Let’s go back to the beginning. Developer George Merrick teamed with Biltmore hotel magnate John McEntee Bowman at the height of the Florida land boom in the 1920s to build “a great hotel.” The property would serve the crowds of people thronging to the Miami area and would also serve as a center of sports and fashion.

The architects hired to design the hotel were Leonard Schultze and S. Fuller Weaver, who already had the Atlanta and Los Angeles Biltmores, New York’s Grand Central Terminal, Miami Beach’s Nautilus Hotel (later the first location of the Mt. Sinai Medical Center). They also did the famed Miami Daily News Tower (now known as the Freedom Tower) downtown on Biscayne Boulevard across from the American Airlines Arena, home of the Miami Heat.

In November 1925, the Ross-designed course opened and, a few months later on January 15, 1926, the hotel opened its doors to its first guests, including socialites from the Northeast who traveled down on trains marked “Miami Biltmore Specials.”

Visitors during this era included frequent prominent guests, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Ginger Rodgers, Judy Garland and Bing Crosby. Everyone who was anyone stayed at the Biltmore from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to gangster Al Capone. During the late 1920s and early 1930s during the Wall Street plunge, the hotel still thrived by hosting aquatic galas drawing huge crowds on Sundays to watch synchronized swimmers, bathing beauties, alligator wrestlers and the four year-old boy wonder Jackie Ott, whose act included diving into the swimming pool from an 85-foot

high platform. Johnny Weismuller, the tree-swinging Tarzan of my youth, was a Biltmore swimming instructor and even broke some records at the immense Biltmore pool.

The War Years: 1942 - 1968

In the period covering World War II to Vietnam, the War Department converted the hotel to a hospital called the Army Air Forces Regional

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From the back of the practice green looking out across the 7th green and the 8th, 5th and 15th holes. A true 1920's parkland layout.

remained under the city's control, while the other half was sold and became and remains the Riviera Country Club.

A New Era Begins: 1983 - Present

In 1973 a coalition of the city officials and residents of Coral Gables lobbied for the city's acquisition of the property and was granted ownership under the Historic Monuments Act and Legacy

of Parks program. Another ten years elapsed before the city initiated a full restoration of the Biltmore Hotel.

Four years and \$55 million later, the hotel reopened Dec. 31, 1987 as a four-star hotel and resort. Three years later, at the height of the economic crisis of 1990, it shut down yet again.

In 1992, the Seaway Hotels Corporation, a Florida hotel

management firm, leading a multi-national consortium, became the Biltmore's owner and operator. The company's portfolio also includes the Alexander Hotel on Miami Beach and the Sheraton Sand Key on Clearwater Beach. Seaway embarked upon a \$40 million, 10-year renovation plan that concluded just recently. The City of Coral Gables still owns the golf course

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Photo by Joel Jackson.

property, but Seaway operates it under a lease/owner arrangement. The city spent around \$3 million to restore the historic championship golf course, which included a complete Brian Silva restoration in 2007, but more on that later.

All guest rooms were renovated and other improvements included a state-of-the-art fitness center and spa. The

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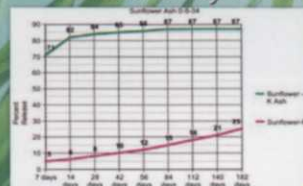
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Biltmore GC Maintenance Staff. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Location: Coral Gables

of Holes: 18 holes Yardage: 6,772 yards
Par: 71 Slope & Rating: 72.1/121

Ownership: City of Coral Gables/
Biltmore Hotel Management

Playing Policy: Public/Resort/
Memberships available. Average rounds
per year: 60,000

Designed by: Donald Ross. Opened: 1925

Management Team: Managing General
Matthias Kammerer, Director of Golf
Justin Bruton, Head Golf Professional
Lara Payloff, Golf Course Superintendent
Bryan Singleton

Special and Ongoing Projects: In 2007,
golf course architect Brian Silva did a
complete renovation of the greens, tees,
bunkers and greens irrigation. He also
redesigned the "short game" and teaching
areas.

**Total property acres under
maintenance:** 145

Greens: TifDwarf. Average size: 6,000
sq.ft., total 3.1 acres; HOC: .125 to .135
inches. Overseeding: none. Green speed
goals: 9.5 to 10.5

Tees: Celebration. 3.3 height of cut: .350
in. Overseeding: Ryegrass @ 15 lbs. per
1,000 sq.ft.

Fairways: Tifway 419 with some
Bermuda off-types. Total acres: 40.
HOC: .550 in. Overseeding: None.

Roughs: Bermuda and St. Augustine.
Total acres: 40. HOC: 1.50 – 2.0 inches.
Overseeding: None

Bunkers: 66. Sand type: G-Angle.
Machine raked. Equipment: Toro Sand Pro

Naturalized/Native areas/beds: 2 acres.
Pine straw under Australian Pine Trees
left of No. 10 fairway.

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: Acres: 10. The
Coral Gables Waterway runs through the
course.

How maintained: City of Coral Gables
and Lake Masters

Wildlife Inventory: Bald eagles, hawks
and songbirds of all varieties plus coyotes,
red-tail fox, and gopher tortoise inhabit
the uplands. Alligators, otters, turtles,
waterfowl, shore birds and wading birds
find food and shelter in the lakes.

Irrigation: Well water. Pumps: two 75-hp
pumps and a 20-hp jockey pump with

a Flowtronex control panel. Irrigation
Controller: Rainbird Nimbus II. Number
of heads: 752. Spacing: 90 ft.

Water Restrictions: None currently in
effect.

**Water Management/Conservation
practices:** Water greens, tees and fairways
as needed. Water roughs when they show
signs of stress.

Staff: Total including superintendent: 16
with 15 full time and 1 part time. Schedule:
40 hours straight time. Seasonal variation
in labor: Very little. May back off some of
the part-time hours in the winter.

Key Staff: Assistant Danilo Perez; Second
Assistant Ryan Hackert; Head Equipment
Tech Richard Ramos; Assistant
Equipment Tech David Figueroa; Pest
Control Tech Osman Escalante; Irrigation
Tech Chris Lopez.

Meetings/ Communications: Weekly
meetings with hotel general manager.
Monthly crew meeting or as needed for
special occasions.

Special Events: Host Junior Orange Bowl
Golf Tournament. Hosted the Miami
Open back in the early 1930's.

At top: Picture of the Par 4, 5th hole taken back in March when it was still cooler and much drier. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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huge 700,000 gallon, 23,000 square-foot swimming pool was emptied and completely resurfaced with polished marble. In fact I saw that renovation in progress during a family outing to the hotel back in August 2012 when we visited our daughter who was on assignment in Miami.

At the 1926 gala opening on the Miami Biltmore Country Club, Dr. Frank Crane, a popular local writer and columnist of the era, predicted, "Many people will come and go, but this structure will remain a thing of lasting beauty." That prediction came true in 1996, when the National Register of Historic Places designated the Biltmore a National Historic Landmark, an elite title offered to only 3 percent of all historic structures.

The golf course came into existence in 1925 and, 14 years later, the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association was organized in 1939 near the end of the Jazz Era. The history of this unique property and how the golf course fits into this landscape is one of golf's great stories. Next, we venture out on the course with the superintendent Bryan Singleton.

On the Course

We know the southern half of the property was sold and became the Riviera Country Club back in 1945. Essentially, Bird Road is the dividing line between the two courses. Most all of the holes on the Biltmore course run east-west, while the holes on the Riviera course run north-south to fit the original property lines. Like the Biltmore course, the Riviera course is also a classic "parkland" layout of the 1920's with no holes running between home sites. There is a cluster of homes on Bird Road that also separates the two properties.

I mention the Riviera CC, because ironically before coming to the Biltmore, Singleton was the superintendent of the Riviera CC from 1991 to 2006. He came on board just in time for the major 2007 Ross restoration by Brian Silva. Also ironically, Singleton also worked with Silva at Riviera in the late 1990s to do the renovation to that part of the old original layout. Bryan has been tied to this historical landmark in one way or another for the past 26 years.

In light of the historic landmark status of the property prior the renovation of the golf course, Silva had some interesting comments.

"If the Biltmore were a private club, the course surely would have been changed dramatically through the years," he said. "As it happened, the course was treated as any other underfunded muni would have been treated in tough times – it was left alone. This neglect was a blessing because the property was not planted with intrusive trees, and some of the most spectacular fairway bunkering was allowed simply to grass over."

Silva added, "These fairway bunkers were a real find.

SINGLETON FUN FACTS



Bryan is high-tech. Here he is using a hands-free phone.

Vehicle: 2006 GMC Canyon Pickup Truck

I stay home to watch: The Washington Redskins

Last good movie I saw: One of my favorites is "Saving Private Ryan"

Favorite performers: Jerry Garcia, Tom Hanks

What I've been reading: I recommend a good book by Wally Lamb *The Hour I First Believed*.

Favorite meal: Crab cakes, baked potato and coleslaw

Prized possessions: Family

Personal heroes: My parents

I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Reliability

Nobody knows that I: Was a good chess player.

If I could do it over: I would have bought the house I was renting on Key Largo

I'd give anything to meet: Pope Francis

My fantasy is: Sail around the Caribbean

The one thing I can't stand: Miami traffic

If I could change one thing about myself: Play better golf

My most irrational act: Doing a bungee jump

Most humbling experience: Having great greens one day and the next day I'm scrambling

The words that best describe me: Loyal

My dream foursome would be: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mike Collins (the Apollo 11 crew)

My best fish story: Caught my first sailfish off Miami Beach with Craig and Jason Maret.

My most memorable golf shot: While playing Westview CC in Miami, I hit a driver into a pond. Took a drop and then holed out from 135 yards for a birdie.



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These cross-bunkers are a classic Ross feature with the high berms behind them they become deep menacing hazards, and since this is south Florida and relatively flat, they provide dramatic relief on the landscape. This sort of design feature doesn't usually survive. Once again because the Biltmore was a public course, they did."

Singleton told me that when they did just a greens surface/soil mix rehab in 1990-91 they found the center stakes of the original Ross greens. So all the elements were there for an authentic restoration.

Another feature of the course is the Coral Gables Waterway, a meandering canal that separates six holes on the back nine from the rest of the course.

"Back in those early days the hotel actually had Venetian gondolas with authentic Italian gondoliers poling guest from the hotel to Biscayne Bay," Singleton said. During my visit I did see a couple of kayakers plying the waterway and sharing it with a few Egyptian geese and other typical Florida birdlife. Also in 2007 all the bridges that spanned the waterway on the course were upgraded.

Singleton's turf management challenges include goose grass and some St. Augustine issues. He tested Specticle herbicide on the driving range before applying it to the rest of the course and, while it did a pretty good job on the course, he still has someone continuously spot-treating goose grass as a second

job pretty much every day. He says in Miami there's no let-up. The St. Augustine areas are mainly in the outer roughs, so it's not a real problem affecting playing conditions. His challenge is to make sure it doesn't spread, so he keeps a sharp eye on any encroachment.

The one pest that does keep him on his toes is the hunting billbug. In all my years, I've never heard of people saying they had a real billbug problem. Singleton said he thought only the grubs caused problems, but he swears he found chewed stem evidence from adults. The good news is that Acelyprin® does a good job on them. The bad news – most superintendents have a hard time identifying them. Singleton has become the go-to billbug guy in Miami, when others are having trouble identifying some mysterious damage on their greens.

The Go-To guys in Brian's career were first and foremost his hard-working parents who taught him a good work ethic growing up. Upon moving to Florida in 1987, Lee Van Valkenberg CGCS at the Card Sound GC on Key Largo became his career mentor and southern turfgrass tutor. Singleton also credits others like Tom Burrows CGCS, John Foy and one of his club managers, Bill Wagner, for helping him along his career path.

The Biltmore Golf Club has golf members, but it also caters to resort guests and public play. So for Singleton, his maintenance goals are simple: keep the course in private-



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*(fig. w-42)
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In this photo looking east to west and left to right, are the 6th, 7th, 17th and 18th holes Photo by Joel Jackson.

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club conditions and everybody should be happy. It is a rare combination of clientele, but then the Biltmore occupies a pretty rare place in the golf world.

Footnote

After doing my afternoon photo shoot that first day and wandering the hotel soaking up the historic architecture and furnishings, and viewing the endless photographs of all the visiting celebrities decorating the hallways and rooms, I enjoyed a quiet dinner and a few libations in the Biltmore Bar listening to the music of a piano and bass duo. I was reminded that this landmark was still a modern-day celebrity hangout when Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell walked in and also sat down at the bar.

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LET THE CULTIVATIONS BEGIN

By Todd Lowe, senior agronomist, Florida Region

Warm season turfgrasses on golf courses require vigorous thatch removal to maintain a healthy playing surface. Photo by Bill Davidson.

Mower scalping followed by aggressive verticutting is an excellent cultivation practice for bermudagrass fairways. Over the past week or so, golf facilities throughout southern Florida have begun cultivating and “working” the turf through a series of maintenance practices.

Bermudagrass and seashore paspalum produce an abundance of above-ground and below-ground stems that can accumulate to produce thatch. Cultivation practices are necessary to reduce this stem layer, dilute thatch and improve overall turf quality and playability.

In Florida, cultivation practices generally take place from late spring through late summer, as warmer temperatures improve turf recovery. Each practice provides a slightly different benefit and several of them may take place at the same time to produce the desired effect.

Circle cutting – Mowing turf in a circular pattern reduces grain that can develop from mowing repeatedly in the same direction. This practice usually takes place on tees and fairways in the spring. Circle cutting is the least aggressive cultivation practice discussed in this update because it only addresses the surface canopy and does not dilute thatch.

Scalping – Scalping includes aggressively lowering mowing heights to remove much of the turf canopy and it generally takes place on golf course roughs. Bermudagrass roughs are often maintained at 1.25 to 1.5 inches but are scalped to less than

an inch for several weeks to improve turf uniformity. Scalping exposes the underlying stems and makes the turf appear yellow to tan for a week or two until new leaves are produced.

Verticutting – Verticutting, or vertical mowing, uses a series of vertically-oriented blades that thin the turf canopy and underlying thatch. Shallow penetration depths provide a light surface grooming effect, while deeper penetration dethatches putting greens, tees and fairways and requires a longer healing period.

Core aeration – Core aeration removes small plugs of thatch and soil. In addition to dethatching, core aeration reduces compaction and improves soil physical properties on each playing surface. This practice is quite aggressive and can require a week or more for recovery, depending upon tine size and spacing.

Sand topdressing – Sand topdressing is not necessarily considered a cultivation practice and sand is applied throughout the year on Florida golf courses. However, increased topdressing is applied throughout the summer months to dilute thatch and to backfill aeration holes. Budget constraints often limit its use to putting greens and tees, but sand topdressing dilutes thatch and improves surface firmness on fairways and approaches as well.

These practices are a bit messy and can temporarily produce unsightly playing surfaces, depending upon the intensity of each practice. Short-term inconvenience is certainly worth the long-term benefits that these practices provide.



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THE HISTORY OF HECTOR TURF



One of the early Toro fairway mowers

*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,



Hector headquarters office in Deerfield Beach.

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.



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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 Decker. 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.



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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

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!



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

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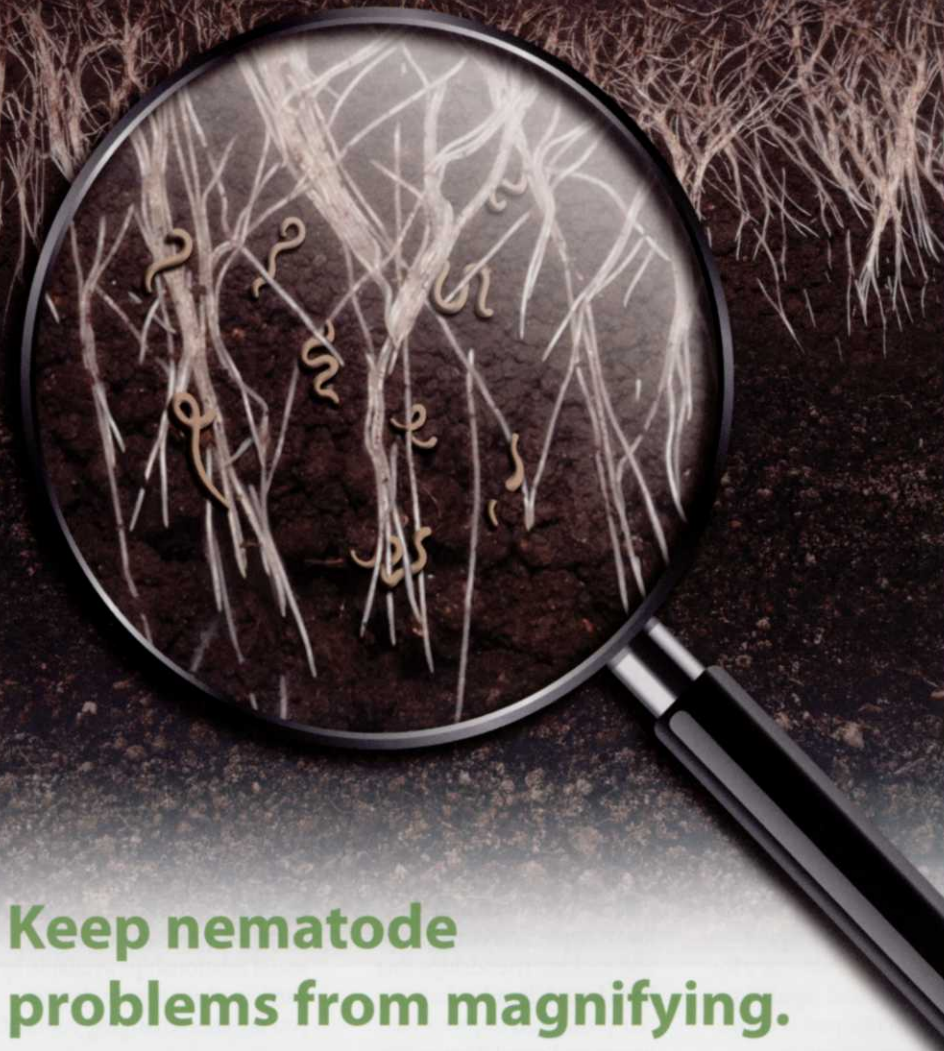


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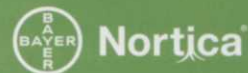
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**REMEMBERING
OUR HISTORY
AND TRADITIONS**



**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.



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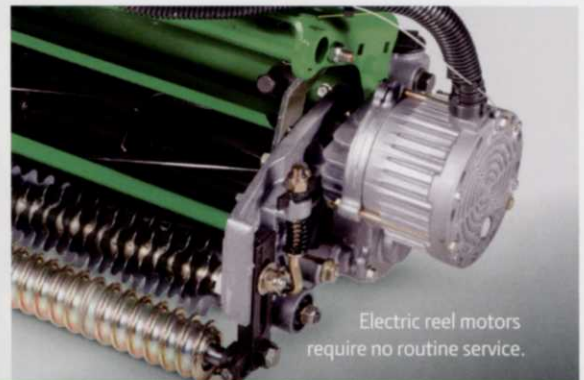
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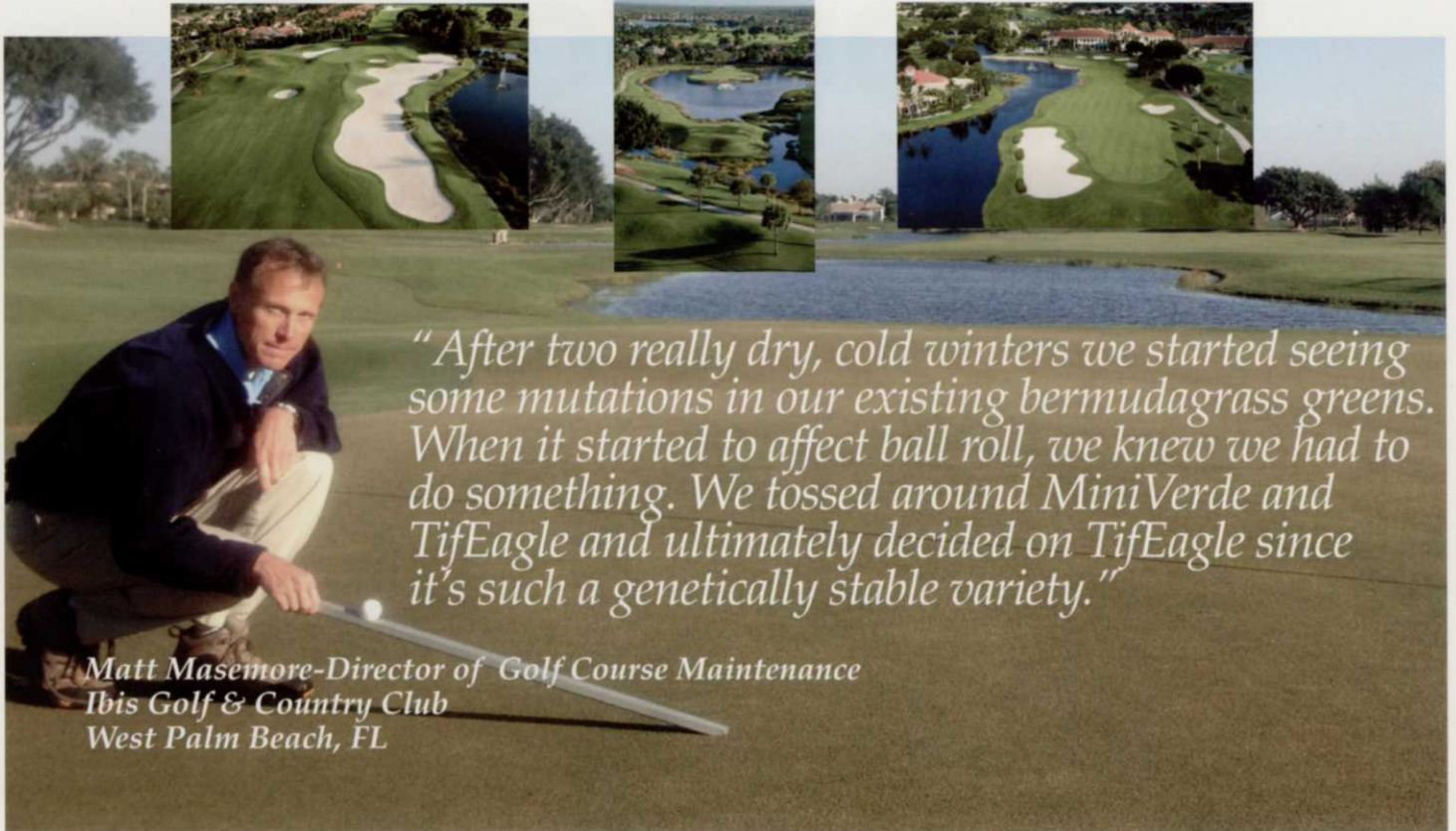
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*Matt Masemore-Director of Golf Course Maintenance
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problem. We looked at a lot of different properties, some with MiniVerde and some with TifEagle, but ultimately decided on the TifEagle. It's a genetically stable variety that's proven itself going on 20 years now, and we felt it was the best choice for us. We also needed a grass that could recover quickly after handling a lot of traffic. So far our members love it. My maintenance staff does too, even though we're using a little more Primo and doing slightly more fertility." Take a tip from Matt Masemore. Whether you're renovating your existing greens or planning a brand new facility, insist on the best. Specify certified TifEagle Bermudagrass by name. You can sod it, sprig it or even no-till it under the right conditions.

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