



Golf Ventures celebrates 20 years —1986-2006



Golf Ventures
A Meadowbrook Company

We thank our customers and vendors who partner with us for their loyalty and support over the past 20 years!



Superintendent Facts



Roy MacDonald. Photo by Joel Jackson

Roy MacDonald

Originally From: Langhorne, Pennsylvania

Family: Wife Bonnie, son Mike

Employment History: 1997–present, superintendent Hobe Sound GC; 1988–1997 assistant GCS, Willoughby GC; 1982–1988 assistant GCS, Mariner Sands CC; 1980–1982 superintendent Bristol Golf Ranch, Bristol Pa.; 1968–1978 Langhorne CC, Langhorne Pa. At Langhorne CC I was exposed to all facets of the golf business. I learned at an early age that golf course maintenance was something I loved along with playing golf for free.

Professional Affiliations: Member of the Treasure Coast GCSA 1985–2005. I have held all levels of the board, including president from 2003–2005. Member of the FGCSA 1985–2005 and GCSAA 1987–2005

How did you get into the business?

Golf has always been a game the MacDonald family has played. My father taught my brother and me how to play golf at a very early age. Soon after we both could walk, we had golf clubs in our hands. My work ethic

most definitely comes from my mother and father — they both taught me about respect and to treat people the way you would like to be treated.

Who are some of your mentors? Two golf course superintendents who have had a major impact in my career are Dominic Fazio and Kevin Downing. I worked for Dominic at Langhorne CC and was given many responsibilities at an early age. Although I do seem to lose my temper once in a while, Dominic always was as cool as ice never seemed to lose it. I always respected that.

I worked under Kevin Downing at Mariner Sands and at Willoughby Golf Club as an assistant GCS. Although I am missing a three- or four-year degree from a university in my resume, working side-by-side with Kevin for 14 years was the best education I ever could have received.

Goals/Accomplishments: The renovation project in 2003 was a complete success and under budget. Serving as president of the TCGCSA. Looking back at the level of maintenance at Hobe Sound in 1997 when I first started, and comparing it to the level my staff and I maintain the golf course now, we have come a long way, baby!

Advice to prospective or new superintendents: It's a lot easier if you really love your job. I really love coming to work in the morning. I still have not figured out how to take weekends off. When things get tough, remember to leave work at work, shut the door to your office go home, work will be there in the morning.

Personal memorable moments: Meeting my wife Bonnie for the first time — she worked on the crew at Willoughby; winning the 1987 Martin County Amateur Golf Championship and 1988 Poa Annua Championship; our family trips to Hawaii, Nova Scotia and Maine — beer and lobster every night.

Hobbies and interests: Playing golf, kayaking, travel and family.

ear feet of cart path. They excavated an additional 2,500 yards of fill for projects; moved 1,000 linear feet of perimeter fencing and re-vegetated the new fence line.

This year they planted 200 trees to replace those damaged in the 2004 storms. Exacerbating the situation is that Hurricane Jeanne in '04 took off the maintenance shop roof and, with all the contractors and materials spread out so thin up and down the state, the roof wasn't repaired completely until February, 2005. So it has been a busy three years to say the least.

Superintendents across the state have been dealing with various combinations of projects and damage recovery the past two years, and it is only through patience, understanding, resources and teamwork that they and their courses emerge through it all.

MacDonald says he has an ace in the hole when it comes to his new general manager, Marc Lucas. Lucas, whose resume includes a stint as a PGA Tour caddy, came to Hobe Sound from Jack Nicklaus' Muirfield Village, and he and MacDonald have formed an effective team to meet the members' expectations under unusual circumstances, given Mother Nature's



General Manager Marc Lucas (left) and Superintendent Roy MacDonald have forged a strong working relationship at the Hobe Sound Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Coastal Equipment Systems, Inc.

JOHN DEERE GOLF & TURF

ONE SOURCE

Jacksonville, FL (904) 924-9624 – Tampa, FL (877) 484-4442

Chris McRae 904.553.3781 Jacksonville/Ocala	Steve Ciardullo 863.528.9116 Daytona/Orlando	Natalie Canier 863.557.8498 Vero/Lakeland	Tony Disano 813.434.6282 Crystal River/Dade City	Bob Kuzio 813.545.3784 Tampa/Bradenton	Edwin Scott 941.809.5941 Sarasota/Ft. Myers	Kim Ellis 239.272.3766 Naples
Ralph Brannin 813.545.3785 SW Region Mgr.	Steve Ciardullo 863.528.9116 NE Region Mgr.	www.coastalequipmentsystem.com		Tony Disano 813.434.6282 One Source Reg. Mgr.	Tom Price 904.759.4701 One Source Reg. Mgr.	
		•Phone 877.484-4442		•Fax 813.621.5715		



Tom Burrows, Consulting
Agronomist/Turfgrass Specialist
Independent Consulting using
"Brookside Laboratory"

Greens Reconstruction

- ◆ Soil Physical Analysis
- ◆ USGA Approved Testing
- ◆ Analytical Service
- ◆ Recommendations
- ◆ Specifications for Contractor Bidding

Soil Testing

- ◆ Greens, Tees, Fairways
- ◆ Analytical Report and Soil Fertility Recommendations

Water Testing

- ◆ Report & Recommendations

In the business 40 years

Jensen Beach, Florida

772-692-1221 cell: 772-215-1819

Laserturf.
Setting the Standard

Laser Controlled Leveling
and Topdressing For:

Golf Tees
Sports Fields
Tennis & Croquet
Courts

• **Dale Witting**

Main Office

• **Ron Butler**

Central Florida

• **Tom Mackanos**

Northeast Coast

772-225-3771

1535 NE Darlich Ave.
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

Fun Facts



Roy on the practice green just putting around. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Vehicle: 2005 Ram 1500 quad cab

Last good movie I saw: North Country

I stay home to watch: Penn State Football, English Premier League and Philly Sports.

The book I've been reading: The

Ben Hogan Story

Favorite meal: Any thing my wife cooks!

Favorite performers: Jimmy Buffet, Alan Jackson, John Prine

Prized possessions: My family

Personal Heroes: My father

Nobody knows that I: Would rather have been a professional soccer player

I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Sending flowers to my wife.

I'd give anything to meet: Donald Ross

My fantasy is: Going to Hawaii for two weeks. Oh yeah. I did that this year.

The one thing I can't stand: Hurricanes

If I could change one thing about myself: I would be 20 pounds lighter since I turned 40

Most humbling experience: Getting Married

The words that best describe me: Dedicated, loyal fan from Philly "Go Birds!"

rambunctious habits lately. Lucas calls MacDonald "Philly" for his ardent support of all teams from Philadelphia, his original stomping grounds and when MacDonald counters with "What's a Buckeye?" Lucas says, "Just a useless nut!" They have a good working relationship that helps gets things done.

MacDonald believes in being prepared and not taking chances when it comes to renovation.

He said, "Just prior to our official aerification dates we will go out to the practice green and chipping green and do a dress rehearsal. I want everyone to get on the same page on the process — the sequence — and get used to handling the equipment and materials. I also want to see how the products and materials are going to react. The weather before, during and after is never the

same from year to year so I feel better checking the results to make sure our process is going to give us the results we want."

"Another practice we have adopted lately is to wait two or three days after topdressing before we do that first mowing. We get the greens aerified and cleaned up and then we apply the sand and then we roll, roll, roll. They are kept smooth enough to give a decent putting surface until the sand works into the canopy. It makes no sense to me to spend the time and money to top dress and then go out too soon and mow it up and tear up the reels to boot."

"Our challenge on the fairways and roughs is to try to stay as lean as possible, and time the fall fertilizer application to avoid feeding too early (too warm), causing extra mowing and clippings cleanup or applying



**Native and
Ornamental Grasses
and Aquatic Plants**



Phone: 386-428-8889
Fax: 386-428-8879

Email: info@beemansnursery.com
website: www.beemansnursery.com



The number-one handicap hole (No. 4) at sunrise displaying a few of the 67 bunkers on the course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

too late (too cold), and the turf may get thin and weak. As they say, timing is everything. The three hurricanes we have experienced have been a major challenge. Our weed-control programs have been affected due to the timing of the hurricanes, so in some cases we have been playing catch up.”

With only a small portion of the 240-acre property dedicated to home sites, MacDonald contracts out the maintenance of the upland areas to control and remove exotic non-native plants and also to monitor and clean up the wetland areas. Pine straw, cypress mulch and crushed rock are used as mulch to control weeds in high visibility and playability areas.


And speaking of playability, I mentioned earlier that MacDonald was an avid golfer. His love for the game and for the business was well founded as he comes from a golfing

family and his early work experience had him at the Langhorne CC owned and operated by the Fazio family. MacDonald earned his turf pedigree working under Dominic Fazio and Kevin Downing, who has been known to play a mean game of golf himself. MacDonald said, “Dominic gave me many responsibilities at an early age which gave me confidence and experience. Working with Kevin for 14 years gave me more education than I could have ever learned at a university.”

And now as MacDonald and his crew work and shape the land once known as “Hobay” they also become part of Florida’s history.

AUTHOR’S NOTE: I would like to acknowledge the “History of Hobe Sound” compilation by D. Craig, S. Day, D. Walsh and S. Wax given to me by the Hobe Sound Golf Club for this article. ■

The three hurricanes we have experienced have been a major challenge. Our weed-control programs have been affected due to the timing of the hurricanes, so in some cases we have been playing catch up.



**From the companies
that supply and service
the Hobe Sound Golf Club**

**Congratulations to
Roy MacDonald
and his club for
being selected by
the Treasure Coast
GCSA as the
Winter 2006
Florida Green
Cover Story.**

Aquagenix

Roger Vick,
(561) 881-1291

Boynton Pump & Irrigation Supply

David Oliver,
(561) 533-1450

Disbrow Enterprises

David Disbrow,
(954) 345-8577

**Golf Agronomics Supply
& Handling (GASH)**

John Swaner,
(954) 650-9584

Golf Safety, Risk Compliance, Inc.

Todd Miller
(800) 965-8412

Golf Ventures

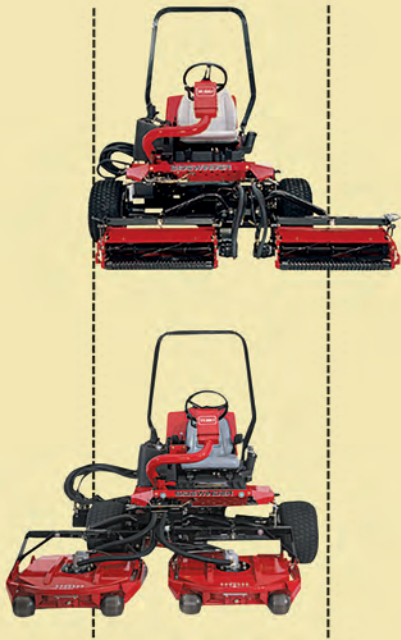
Bill Lanthier,
(772) 486-1701

Hector Turf:

Duane Cyr,
(561) 718-6447

Systematic Services:

Tony Crocco,
(772)-343-0327



Toro® Groundsmaster® 3500-D and Reelmaster® 3100-D: Two innovative trim mowers with the Sidewinder™ cutting system. The reels on the 3100-D and the ground-following rotary decks on the 3500-D move side to side for superior trimming.



Toro® Multi Pro® 1200 and 1250 sprayers: Featuring the innovative Spray Pro™ control system that directly links flow rate to ground speed ensuring precise application rate.



Who to better understand a perfectionist than a perfectionist.

At Toro we know when it comes to your course, no detail is too small. That's why pros like you are And keep it looking great year after year. To us, it's the perfect relationship. For more information, contact your



Toro® Workman® 1100 and 2100 vehicles: With the most capacity and power in their class, these vehicles get more done. They also feature rattle-free plastic beds for a quieter ride.



Toro® 800S Series sprinkler: Put the water just where you want it. Precision control is made possible with predictable head rotation and uniform nozzle distribution.



Toro® Greensmaster® Flex 21: The greens mower that flexes with the contour of greens to virtually eliminate scalping.

the best source for new ideas on ways to make it look great.
Toro distributor at 1-800-803-8676 or visit us at TORO.com.



A step-by-step explanation

How to renew your GCSAA Class A Status

What does professional development mean for the golf course superintendent?

Imagine if you could influence how the leaders at your golf course see you. You can. PDI offers you the opportunity. By taking personal responsibility to continually improve your skills and abilities, you will raise your credibility and perceived authority. With a commitment to being the best that you can be, by embracing continual learning and the knowledge gained from competency-based education, you will create expectations for your performance with your employer and then deliver on those expectations.

These standards have afforded you an important opportunity to confirm your commitment to life-long learning. By adopting standards, GCSAA members have very publicly committed to the golf world that they want to validate their achievements and competencies. Previously, there was not a way to document the skills, knowledge and abilities of a Class A superintendent and market them to employers as being consistent within the profession.

The result: PDI offers recognition and reward for your effective management of the golf course and the golf experience you provide for golfers.

STILL PLENTY OF TIME!

It's possible that you recently received a Class A Renewal Update from GCSAA and were awakened to the fact that you are in the initial three-year renewal cycle and need to acquire a combination of education/ and service points in order to remain a Class A member of GCSAA when July 1, 2006 rolls around. With less than a year remaining, is this still possible?

Here are a couple of things to remember:

There is still plenty of time to fulfill the required three education/service points, keeping in

mind that a minimum of 1.2 points must be "education" points.

Everything from attending local chapter meetings with approved education, to participating in one of the numerous GCSAA Webcast opportunities from the comfort of your office or home, to attending the 2006 Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference as a full-pack registrant — and much, much more — will earn you education points. And do not forget to record credit for serving on a local community board, coaching your son or daughter's soccer team, or giving a presentation to the local flower club, which are just three of the many ways to obtain service points.

So exactly how do I record points?

Be sure to visit Member Central on the GCSAA Web site at www.gcsaa.org. Member Central is your one-stop shop for managing your Class A requirements. It will allow you to record education and service points, as well as view your transcript for either your current renewal cycle or a comprehensive, lifetime record.

Education points may be earned for pre-approved, non-GCSAA educational events. An event approval code will be announced at some point during the program. To record your attendance, you must submit the event approval code to GCSAA by using either the online education point affidavit available in Member Central or a traditional paper affidavit.

Education points for educational events without GCSAA pre-approval – Submit the "Member Application for GCSAA Education Points" available in Member Central under the external education section to request a review of an education program. Applications must be submitted within 30 days of the event. If the program meets the criteria for education points, staff will record the education points to your transcript.

Education points for GCSAA seminars & Web casts – You must complete the evaluation form given at the end of the seminar and return it to the instructor. The evaluations will be scanned and the education points automatically recorded

Education points for attending the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show – You must be registered as a full-pack attendee in order to receive the 1.5 education points that are awarded for attendance at the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. Your points will be recorded automatically following the conference.

SERVICE POINTS

Service Points can be recorded using the online service point affidavit available in Member Central or by submitting a traditional paper affidavit. A few categories require additional documentation to be provided. For a complete list of the service-point categories, visit Member Central.

If you do not have access to the Internet, or would prefer to use a paper affidavit, we have developed a special automated, 24-hour, Fax-On-Demand telephone system (888-838-4419). Upon request, a blank education or service point affidavit form will be faxed to you. After completing the appropriate affidavit, mail or fax 785-832-3643 the form back to GCSAA, where staff will update your transcript. You can also request these forms by calling the GCSAA Member Solutions at 800-472-7878.

PESTICIDE LICENSE OR GCSAA IPM EXAM!

Along with accumulating a total of three points (minimum 1.2 education points), one of the requirements for renewing Class A status is to provide proof of possessing a pesticide license or passing GCSAA's IPM exam.