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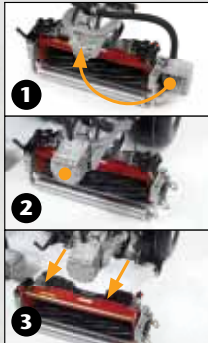
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View of the 5th green from Hole #6. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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

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.*



Harry & Family. Photo by Joel Jackson.