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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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*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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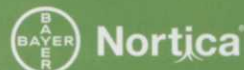
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**REMEMBERING  
OUR HISTORY  
AND TRADITIONS**



**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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