Following a five-year dormancy, the FGCSA was revived in 1978 as a federation, with local chapters retaining complete autonomy in their internal affairs. The chapters are represented equally on the board of directors, which elects the three statewide officers: president, vice president and secretary/treasurer.

Public relations, government relations and research funding were added to the association’s original goals.

Today, more than 600 superintendents and their assistants are affiliated with the FGCSA through 10 regional chapters, representing more than 400 golf courses from the Keys to the state capital in Tallahassee.

Monthly chapter meetings of the autonomous regional associations are the principal membership activities.

Functions of the state association are carried out by 20 different committees, whose meeting schedules vary according to their assignments. Their work is coordinated by a part-time executive secretary with a computer, answering machine and fax machine.

The FGCSA officers and directors meet quarterly — at the GCSAA convention in February, the Florida Turfgrass Association conference and show in October, and at two popular tournaments for superintendents, the Poa Annua Classic at Naples in May, and the Crowfoot Open at Orlando in August. At the latter two events, the FGCSA education committee sponsors seminars which carry CEU credit for certification.

The FGCSA also helps sponsor the annual day-long USGA Green Section Conference (which may be expanded to two sessions in different parts of the state), an annual bentgrass seminar in South Florida and two seminars for golf course mechanics at Lake City Community College’s School of Golf Course Operations.

The FGCSA’s latest project is a 20,000-square-foot research green — half of it built to USGA specifications and the other half built with the more typical so-called “Florida modification” (no choker layer of coarse sand) — at the University of Florida’s Research and Education Center at Fort Lauderdale.

In addition to building the green at its own expense — which topped $10,000 despite donated materials and labor — the FGCSA has contracted with a technician to maintain the green to playing standards.

Most fundraising for research is conducted at the chapter level, but the state organization does coordinate “Florida Golf Week,” which attempts to focus statewide attention on local
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Certified ............... 5
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Public relations efforts are funnelled through a variety of media.

A unique feature of the association’s public relations program is its designated feature writer, who writes columns and stories for outside publications and assists reporters from the news media with technical information.

The association’s award winning quarterly magazine, which began life as the newsletter of the South Florida GCIA, is distributed to three persons at every golf course in the state: the superintendent (regardless of FGCSA affiliation), the golf professional and the greens chairman or general manager. The magazine’s purpose is to speak for the golf course to the golf industry.

The bimonthly Green Sheet, on the other hand, is a newsletter aimed strictly at members and is the primary means of communicating official business.

The annual Membership Directory contains the rosters of all chapters, plus association history, code of ethics, bylaws, committee assignments, member services and winners of the FGCSA’s two awards.

The association sponsors two awards: the Distinguished Service Award and the President’s Award. Both recognize outstanding contribution to the profession of golf course management, but the President’s Award is intended to honor “pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs but who may no longer be actively involved in the FGCSA.”

The FGCSA has a booth which it takes to trade shows such as the Florida Turfgrass Association conference and golf shows for the general public.