

I hope that all of you had a wonderful and safe holiday season. After living in Florida for the past eight years, I still find it somewhat strange to celebrate the holidays without cold weather and some snow, but somebody has to do it and it might as well be me.

This past year was a very positive one for the FGCSA. We have seen an increase in

our research dollars due to some hard-nosed fund raising efforts. This gives the FGCSA an opportunity to actively participate in and support programs and projects important to the well being of the game of golf. We have also seen a bringing together of Dr. Nell's talented staff at the University of Florida to help solve the turf identity problems that we are now facing. Finally, we have seen the release of the all-important turf survey by the

Florida Turfgrass Association that shows just how valuable our industry is to the economy of Florida. With 1994 behind us and its successes still in view, we must now move on and try to be even more constructive in 1995.


A large obstacle that continues to potentially threaten our well-manicured golf courses is a lack of water or the threats of a lack of water. Our industry is looked upon by many as a water-waster and this image must change. The FGCSA must stand united behind the benefits of turfgrasses and continue to demonstrate to those concerned that golf courses are NOT wasting this valuable resource.

I actively attend water conservation meetings in the Tampa area and am appalled at the misconceptions that other

segments of the green industry have about turfgrass. Their biggest complaints are that turfgrasses use tremendous amounts of water and that it costs "mucho dinero" to maintain it. How can it be?! I actually sat in on a meeting where several individuals wanted to establish within an ordinance a limit on the amount of turfgrass that can be used in a landscape setting. If it's not grass, what will it be — concrete?! One can only have so many trees and shrubs.

Many of you have heard me talk about this important issue before and I sure hope you are listening to me now. Other segments of the green industry have consistent representation at these meetings and are aligned on their needs when it comes to water use and have proposed their own methods of water conservation. The turfgrass industry must do the same and do it now. The issues of water use on turfgrasses must be attacked before new laws are mandated and we find ourselves wondering what happened.

For those of you who have water use permits, take the time to review the permit and if you foresee any problems with your existing permit, start working on them now, not when it comes time for renewal. Changes in the permitting process are occurring and for some of us it will not be for the better. For those of you who are on effluent systems, your wake-up call is coming sooner that you would like it to. Better take a look at your contract because a new source of revenue has been found and guess what... it's your effluent water!

Water use on golf courses is going to be a hot topic in 1995 and the FGCSA as an association should be ready to justify our needs as an industry and be able to educate those "decision-makers" about our needs when the time comes. A state-wide effort is needed — let's all work together! 

Water use is the hot topic for 1995

Plotner's Page



Greg Plotner, CGCS Publications Chairman