

The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: #2 at sunrise. Coral Creek Club, Placida. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

FOREWORDS

Meeting the Challenges

It is with great honor and humility that I begin my service as President of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. I look forward to continue working with the Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Joel Jackson and our Association Manager, Jennifer Innes. I follow a long list of special golf course superintendents who have served as president of FGCSA. I want to thank our outgoing Past President Shane Bass and our Immediate Past President Bill Kistler for their dedicated service to the FGCSA.

I am proud to be a golf course superintendent. I believe it is one of the greatest professions a person can pursue. Whenever I get the opportunity to speak with young people that are considering a golf or landscape career, I always speak with pride about our profession and try to encourage their interest.

This is a challenging time not only for those who maintain golf courses but, the golf industry as a whole. Due to the economy and other factors we have seen rounds decrease over that past several years. Many of our clubs are asking us to reduce costs without sacrificing conditions. We are facing even more challenges from local municipal ordinances to national environmental groups with regards to water, fertilizer and pesticide use. As a group, we must work together to help strengthen the golf industry and educate the public with regards to these issues.

I recently sat on a Golf Summit panel discussion at the Florida Club Managers Association Conference. The panel included representatives from the North Florida PGA and The National Club Association. It was an open discussion and we talked about the challenges facing us today. We talked about maintenance budget cuts, capitol investment cuts, pace of play, difficulty of courses, rounds reduction, revenue reduction, and the environmental issues.

All groups have unique issues they are dealing with as individual associations.



Gary Myers, CGCS
President

A question that was asked that I believe is significant was "Who is the face of golf?" Is it the PGA Tour, the USGA, the PGA of America, GCSAA, architects, owners, builders? I believe we are all part of the face of golf and need to work together as a group to tackle the difficult issues that face us today.

Each issue I mentioned earlier affects all of us. If rounds and revenues are down, it affects maintenance and capital budgets which will affect course conditions. If pace of play is an issue, it also affects rounds and revenue. Water, fertilizer and pesticide issues can affect course conditions which also affect rounds and revenue. The reality is that all issues lead back to rounds. Rounds are the driving force and as long as rounds continue to decline, revenues will decline and everything else follows.

I am not sure what the total answer is, but I firmly believe that if we don't work together collectively as a group, we will not succeed. During the panel discussion, I mentioned that we need to meet more often as we go forward. The group should include the FGCSA, Florida Club Managers Association, North and South Florida PGA sections, USGA, PGA Tour, LPGA Tour and representatives from the golf course architects', owners' and builders' associations. I believe these groups as a whole do indeed make up the "Face of Golf"

I look forward to my year as president of the FGCSA. I encourage you to get involved with your local associations and to offer me any suggestions or ideas as we move forward.