

THE
MUSSEY
INTERNATIONAL
TURFGRASS
FOUNDATION

of the H. B. Musser
Turfgrass Fellowship, Inc.



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Guest Editorial

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The time-honored adage "in union there is strength" never has been more applicable than now when the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association is working toward unification and greater strength. Those who are devoting time and energy to the full development of the FGCSA deserve high praise and warm thanks for the effort. The Open Letter by Tim Hier in the *The South Florida Green* for April 1979 tells the story well. The FGCSA deserves the full support of every golf course superintendent in the entire state. A unified VOICE is vastly superior to uncoordinated individual efforts which tend to be fragmented, weak and inconclusive.

Helping to organize turfgrass groups has been an absorbing passion of mine ever since my introduction to turf in 1927 at the University of Nebraska. The fates were kind in steering me to Maryland for my degrees and thence to Pennsylvania in February 1935. Then only two county agents took an active interest in turf — some sixty others couldn't have cared less. There were but two golf course superintendents (greenkeepers then) associations in the state. My extension travels permitted me to attend every meeting of the two organizations and obligated me to visit many golf courses in other sections of the state where organization was lacking. By 1945 when the USGA brought me to Beltsville as Director of the Green Section, there were six strong regional superintendents organizations in Pennsylvania and virtually every county agent was involved in turf. There was talk of a state association but Professor Musser (he of the Musser Foundation) and the leaders in the state developed the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council in 1955. As PTC grew, each turfgrass organization in the state developed strength and stature. My role as executive director began when Professor Musser retired. He died in 1968. Changes were made in memberships and PTC thrived as did the members. The several regional golf course superintendent groups look to PTC as their statewide organization which is strengthened by the inclusion of *all* turfgrass interests. There was no lost identity in any group. On the contrary, each group definitely was strengthened by the association. Nearly all superintendent's groups have directors sitting on the Board and, in fact, the president of PTC, Jim MacLaren, is a golf course superintendent.

This example of coordinated turfgrass effort in Pennsylvania is not intended to discourage efforts to have a statewide GCSA in Florida. It simply illustrates what can be done when people with common interests unselfishly work together for the good of *all* turf. Also it further points out that any state-wide organization will have fewer problems and will be infinitely stronger if its component parts already will have developed strength and leadership on their own.