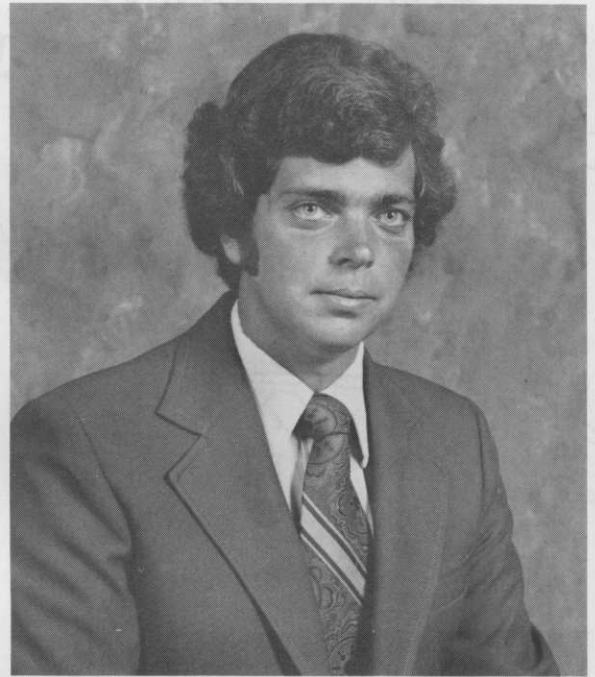


Guest Editorial



JAMES P. CALLAGHAN
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Drought of '81 — Where Do We Go From Here?

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Minimal rainfall during the last four months and for some us for the past 12 months has made all of us much more conscientious in dealing with the management of our most precious resource — WATER.

Some municipalities such as Hobe Sound where Bob Hurst is golf course superintendent at the Jupiter Island Club and Boca Raton further south are limiting water use on golf courses. Other areas have asked for either voluntary or some type (15% or 25%) of mandatory cutback in water use. Golf courses in Florida are falling victim and may soon be a target for wasting water.

In the near future, we may be monitored in a more scrutinous manner by the regional water management districts because of our large thirst for water. In fact, at the last meeting at Sandpiper Bay, Joe Snook stated that South Florida Water Management District officials politely demanded that a water meter be placed on his irrigation pump. It seems that "Big Brother" is lurking in our shadows.

With the ever increasing population placing more demands on Florida's water, its use for recreational facilities such as golf courses may soon be severely limited. We, as golf course superintendents, need to sit down and examine all facets connected to water management and come up with effective means to produce quality, healthy and appealing turf with less water. We have a responsibility and, sad to say, it takes a crises of great magnitude to prompt us to give more attention to the problem at hand.

In closing, remember, as each day passes we are one more day closer to the day that the rains will arrive. But when that day comes, don't put water management at the bottom of your priority list.