

President's Message

Most times the subject matter for this message is difficult to come by simply because choosing the right topic is problematical. What do you say that will hold everyone's interest? What do you say that will be informative — enlightening — worthy of one's time? Today the problem is reversed — the issues are too numerous to cover properly but they are issues of such consequence that none can wait. So sit back and relax and read on — you may not like every word but, I encourage you to persist.

First and foremost, of course, is the election of John Hayden, CGCS, as a G.C.S.A.A. Director. For those who have not heard, John won with the highest number of votes ever recorded by a first time candidate. Congratulations to John, Chip Powell (John's campaign manager) and all those who helped in the action. We can feel assured that we will be represented.

Our golf team again performed as has come to be expected as they carried off the championship. Congratulations to Fred Klauk, Bill Whitaker, Dan Meyers, and Ron Hill. Not only do these gentlemen play the game of golf well, but they also serve as excellent ambassadors for our State.

Plaudits must also go to Fred Klauk and his committee which assisted in organizing and conducting the G.C.S.A.A. golf tournament. It was the largest ever (both men and women) and was acclaimed by all as a colossal success. Fred's committee was comprised of Butch Singo and Jim Ellison from the Central Chapter, Dan Meyers from the West Coast Chapter, and Kevin Downing and Tim Hiers from the Palm Beach Chapter.

Much praise is given to Larry Kamphaus for the excellent condition of the Disney World courses. No one could ask for better facilities. All would go for naught if the playing surface was inferior.

If you did not go to the G.C.S.A.A. Turf Conference and Trade Show in New Orleans you missed an excellent opportunity to learn, to view, to observe, to refresh, to acquaint, to renew, and to familiarize yourself with the past experiences of some, the future desires of others, the present state of affairs, the comparable situation of your near and far neighbors, the newest equipment and merchandise, and of course the inner workings and intricate mechanisms that make our organization tick.

The Florida Turf Grass Association is launching a drive for research funds which **MUST** and **WILL** be a success only if you understand it, get behind it, and contribute to it.

Congratulations go to Dan Jones, Dave Bailey, and all those who contribute to our award winning publication. What an outstanding year for the *Florida Green*!

And of course as this is being written (middle of February) we are in constant negotiations with the South Florida Water Management District regarding the water crisis, our impact on it and the Environment and, conversely, its impact on us. By the time you receive this article you will have been informed as to the content of their use restriction matrix.

Put this all together and what do you have? A profession that is worthy of support. A profession that places a burden on everyone. A profession that is demanding. A profession that is also rewarding and very gratifying. Unfortunately this is also a profession that provides the opportunity to garner a great deal without ever paying your dues. And I'm specifically pointing a finger at those who partake, and quite often criticize, but never reciprocate with objective participation. Sit back and enjoy the results of other labors; share the benefits of other experiences; play golf at the finest facilities, but don't be concerned about the education program; read the finest trade magazine, but don't be an active part of your association — in fact don't even belong to any superintendent's group and you still are able to reap most of the ripe harvest.

I trust I am preaching to the segment that needs chastising, but I fear these words will only reach those who already care. To those I apologize. To those who are the target, wake up; take your hands out from under your butt; pull your head out of the sand; become tuned to the action around you. The profession of golf course superintendent is making steady progress. Look what you have going for you! G.C.S.A.A. is alive and running on all cylinders. I can sense a dynamic reformation taking place. Outstanding, competent staff implementing the desired programs of elected, dedicated officers is a combination hard to beat. Your state and local associations are governed by committed fellow superintendents. This magazine is YOUR excellent communication tool. Everything is being unselfishly done for you. Why don't you respond by becoming an active part? Join your local association, the state association, the national association, and also the Florida Turf Grass Association. Florida cast a block vote of slightly over 200 in the recent G.C.S.A.A. election — there is absolutely no reason why that cannot be 300 next year. Join now and don't anyone tell me they can't afford the dues — you cannot afford NOT to be a member of all those associations. You want to share in the profits? Then share in the costs! Come out of the barn, put on a coat and tie, put down the beer can, and stand up and be counted. At the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Meeting held on Feb. 12, 1982, Mr. Robert Clark, Chairman, referred to us as PROFESSIONALS. Please let's look the part, let's act the part, let's BE the part, and let's BE it by the members. JOIN AND PARTICIPATE.!



Bill Wigner