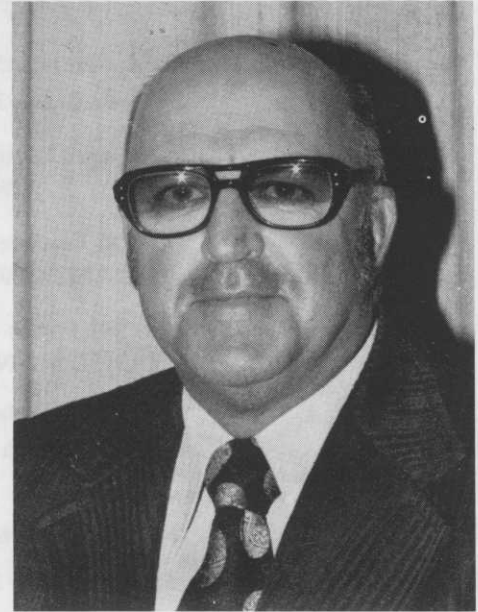


## President's Message



Even though redundancy breeds boredom, I feel compelled to again expound on the pertinent subject of water and its use.

**Water** — The colorless, transparent liquid occurring on earth as rivers, lakes, oceans, etc. and falling as rain; the life sustaining element which in useful form is in great demand and, unfortunately, in short supply especially in South Florida.

**Restriction** — Keeping within certain limits, confining, holding down, regulating.

Like it or not, the words water and restriction have become synonymous and it will be necessary to learn to live within the constraints of legislation.

When one surveys Florida, that relatively narrow land mass skirted with water and dotted profusely with wet regions, it hardly seems possible that we could be short of this absolutely vital, precious commodity. And yet the impact of years of what outwardly appears to be poorly regulated, accelerated growth and the whimsical behaviour of Mother Nature have produced the knock-down (but not out) punch which has brought us to our knees. Now it is up to **ALL OF US**, and **ALL OF US** are water users to some degree, to regroup and fight back in a manner which will continue to accentuate the wonderous life available here in Florida while still providing a future for existence. This most certainly does not admit defeat nor indicate victory for either side, it is simply recognizing the necessity to cooperate with survival as the ultimate goal.

Future development **MUST** recognize the need for restraint and politically oriented decisions **MUST** reflect the best ecological and economical interest of all. Unnecessary bureaucratic overlap and internal, interagency jurisdictional strife **MUST** be eliminated so sensible, workable progress can continue while current existence persists. The present cannot stop the future — neither can the future destroy the present.

The homeowner **MUST** become familiar with the water requirements of his landscaped domicile and the proper operation of an irrigation system. Setting an automatic timer to function regardless of conditions is certainly not water management.

Condominium Associations **MUST** govern their water use as judiciously as they do their operational procedures.

Industry **MUST** seriously examine the use of waste water and water recycling.

Our golf course industry has come to a pivotable posture with education and communication the probable keys to subsistence. Even though we are bonded more closely to "growth" than the average concept of agriculture simply because we produce our crop continuously, unfortunately we are classified recreation by statutes which overlook the favorable environmental benefits we bestow on our society. We **MUST** educate our neighbors as to the wealth of good derived from our green belt. Yes, it is a playground but it is also an urban oasis.

On the other hand, we **MUST** become ever better water use mangers and indoctrinate ourselves and the golfing world to the beauty of natural growth areas and the possible need for a regression from "wall to wall green" to contrasting brown and green zones. Brown may become beautiful!

Let us push for more research in the field of water requirements for plant life. Let us push for more efficient water pumping and distribution systems. Let us also rejoice in the fact that we are free to attack these challenging battles of life — we can **ALL** survive thru education, communication, and unselfish cooperation.

*Bill Wagner*