

Writers are always looking for inspiration, and I was hoping Hurricane Andrew would provide some. I've just completed my first tour of the course in the aftermath of the storm and I'm ecstatic at what I saw.

*Dynamic
organization
needs more
people
involved*

The course is extremely messy - many branches are broken, but not one tree was knocked over. More importantly, the three greens I planted two days ago are in fine shape. The 5 to 6 inches of rain expected from the hurricane only totaled 1.2 inches, though it continues as I write this. This was a Category 4 hurricane whose eye passed just 70 miles south of here, so I feel ex-

remely fortunate this morning.

How big a part does luck play in a superintendent's success or failure? Some would argue that you make your own luck, that those who plan ahead and stay prepared are always luckier than those who don't. Who could dispute that, but was I lucky or smart that all my trees were trimmed and the dead ones removed ten days prior to Hurricane Andrew? In June, was I unlucky or stupid when my overseeding went out like a light during record high temperatures followed by two solid weeks of rain and the greens were terrible? Define it however you wish, but the fact remains that much of what we do as superintendents is influenced by factors outside our control. Our success depends upon our preparedness and ability to react to changing or unforeseen events. The most successful superintendents are those who have mini-

mized their exposure and susceptibility to uncontrollable factors.

As I see it, the purpose of the FGCSA is an extension of this reality. Superintendents don't like these uncontrollable factors and work through the association to minimize our vulnerability, whether it be by funding research, educating ourselves, or working to influence regulation of our industry.

In the coming weeks and months your Board will be charting new waters on several issues and changing courses on some ongoing programs. By the time you read this, we will have met with the DER's Carol Browner in Tallahassee on water issues and with the FTGA Executive Board on the lobbyist issue, possibly the boldest step this association has ever considered. Our government relations committee is working with new agencies and devising new strategies, including the development of an affordable environmental audit program through a private company. We will soon be expanding the research green in Fort Lauderdale to include a comparison test on available putting green quality grasses. Changes in *The Florida Green* are taking place (note this month's cover) to improve it and make it what our membership desires. Innovative funding programs are being developed to raise the necessary capital to finance these activities.

In a few short years we have become very pro-active rather than reactive. It takes dedicated people to pull this off — more than are now serving on our Board or their committees — so please call any of us if you have input, questions, or a desire to help by serving on a committee.

I had hoped that this message would be focused on the lobbyist issue, but the critical meeting has not yet occurred. As it stands, most of us feel we must have a voice considered before damaging regulatory legislation is passed. The issue at hand is what form our lobbying effort will take and how it is paid for.

I'll be keeping you informed. Please call if you have any thoughts or questions.



Mark Jarrell

Mark Jarrell, CGCS
President, FGCSA