

Where did the year ago? This is my final President's Message for the Florida Green. Next issue you'll see Paul Crawford's smiling face in this space.

I won't bore you with a farewell address enumerating the past year's many accomplishments and thanking everyone who contributed to our successes — it just doesn't seem appropriate. We have too many projects in the working stages to rest on any laurels. I do, however, feel satisfied that we are

moving in the right directions.

I suppose everyone that serves a professional association such as the FGCSA discovers some truths, or develops an agenda or set of guiding principles. I am no exception.

I truly believe that we must maintain and amplify our activism on behalf of the golf industry. Sure it gets discouraging when others within our industry seem oblivious to our common problems. But does that mean we should also stick our heads in the sand? Think of us as the Marines of golf, hitting the beaches and leading the way.

Does anyone doubt our worst battles are still ahead of us? A former employee now working for DER tells me that Carol Browner absolutely hates golf courses. Does anyone doubt the need for the research we sponsor, or the research soon to be conducted at the

Envirotron? Or the need for a lobbyist to look after our interests in Tallahassee? Does anyone doubt that South Florida golf courses would have gotten the shaft from the utility companies and the South Florida Water Management District if Tom Benefield hadn't effectively represented us in the rules-making workshops and made our concerns known?

I also truly believe that we must marshal our forces to have a chance of winning the coming battles. This means more superintendents need to get involved. It means let's not make the mistake of the Native Americans and get defeated tribe by tribe because we won't extend a hand to those who offer to help. Strength lies in numbers. Though I am stepping down as president, I still expect to stay very active, following the lead of many of our former presidents who still make significant contributions. Activism on behalf of the profession that sustains you should be thought of as a lifelong commitment and not a short-term promissory note.

Finally, let's not forget that it takes money to accomplish anything. We have developed some fund-raising programs which require some effort on your part to be successful. We will continue to streamline and expand these programs. Please take the time to participate and get your neighbors to participate — the results can be significant if substantial numbers of us cooperate.

Thanks for this opportunity — it really has been a privilege and a pleasure.

*No time
to rest
on laurels*



Mark Jarrell

Mark Jarrell, CGCS
President
FGCSA