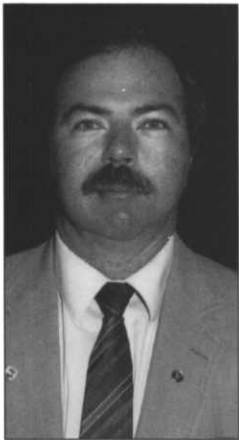


In the eye of the storm

**‘You too
have a
story
everyone
can
benefit
from’**

Editorial License



Tom Benefield, CGCS
Editor

Just when you thought it was safe to read *The Florida Green* again a shocking rumor was circulated, I have to admit it is true, they've asked me to be the editor.

Actually it's Joel Jackson's fault. If he had not asked me several years ago to be his assistant I would not find myself in this predicament.

Some say it is like letting the inmates run the prison, while more philosophical people say that even the best made plans of mice and men sometimes go astray. Well, I sometimes wander but hardly ever stray, except maybe in New Orleans while watching Florida play in the Sugar Bowl game. But no chance of that this year so I think we are safe for now.

I must admit however that I am honored to be asked to be editor and will work diligently to keep *The Florida Green* to the high standards it has become and which other industry publications are judged by. It will not be an easy task. To follow in the footsteps of Joel (and before him Dan Jones) will be a difficult mission. Two of the most ethical and dedicated men in the turf industry have steered this publication into the position of leadership it attains today. My hat is off to them, they have performed admirably and each of us in our association owe them a debt of gratitude.

This issue marks other changes in the magazine. With this special Hurricane Andrew issue we return to a quarterly publishing schedule. It also begins a positive restructured arrangement of duties and responsibilities with the publisher, Janlark Communications Inc. The old agreement was not fair to either them or us and the new one is beneficial to both parties. We are pleased to continue the relationship with Janlark and look forward to many fruitful years with Larry Kieffer and company.

However, the success of this publication relies more on you rather than me. For, you see, I am simply the steward, the figurehead and guiding hand who will mold the shape and focus of the issues. You, however, are the integral part of the wheel that will give the magazine back the flavor of superintendent-written articles. It is the responsibility of every member of the FCGSA to write an article for the magazine. Each of us have ideas and

stories to tell and we want you to tell yours.

It doesn't have to read like a Louis L'Amour paperback novel. All it has to do is make sense. We can make it read and flow in a proper editorial manner. But you have to do it first, just like the guy who puts his mole cricket mating-call tapes in an ice chest, floats it in the lake, and swears that the crickets are eaten by the fish when they land on the water, you too have a story everyone can benefit from.

You also have another direct role to play in the success of this magazine; you can support those who advertise in *The Florida Green*. These companies are putting their profits back into your magazine to help us educate and help fellow superintendents. The advertisers deserve your support in return for their commitment of supporting our association. So you see, it is just like I said before. You — not I — have the greater influence on how well our magazine will succeed. I promise you this: I will do my part. All I am asking is that you do yours.

This hurricane issue is a prime example of how your experiences have filled the pages for the good of all. I would like to thank all of those who returned hurricane surveys and wrote first-person accounts. While editing the articles for this issue I felt at times that I was right in the eye of the storm myself and thank God that I was physically 100 miles north of the destruction. It is truly a credit to the human spirit and strong moral fiber of Americans which allow for us to survive and rebuild when all that was left after the storm was sorrow and despair. The donations, the volunteers, the good will of the American people to come to the aid of others in times such as these demonstrates that we are the greatest nation in the world. The courage and dignity of American people were never so evident than in the stories which follow.

The real heroes of Hurricane Andrew are everywhere: neighbors, strangers, people of all walks of life pitching in and doing for others even when they had nothing left themselves. It makes one proud to be an American. Well, enough from me today. If I'm not careful I'll be singing the national anthem before I finish; I'm already humming it.

Before I go I must say a bit about the proposed GCSAA bylaws changes. I'm rather curious if there is anyone else out there who is as concerned with

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Tom Benefield

continued

the slick, glossy media blitz coming out of Lawrence, Kan. To read the "unbiased" GCM one would get the impression that the whole universe supported these changes. I guess what is so unsettling is that everyone I speak to in other states has an opposite opinion of what the GCM relates. If GCM can't present both sides of the issues now, how do we know we can trust it to fairly present the future candidates in their magazine? If delegate voting is outlawed, how can we trust GCM's editors to not pick their choice for directors and slant the information on those candidates to sway the election? The past few months have raised a lot of questions not only about the bylaws but also the "slick Willie" campaign to push them through. So until next time, take care and keep thinking those good thoughts.



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