

*We all have to get more involved*

**A**nother year, another board, another president. With every year that passes, the busier we get, life sometimes seems like a blur. The same can be said for this association.

Because of the hard work of all of the presidents and boards who have preceded the present officers, we all have a large, healthy, proactive organization that works well as a team. Yet, it is capable of drawing on stellar solo performances when things need to be accomplished.

Years ago, I was drafted into service on the Treasure Coast board by two golfing buddies, Mike Perham and Jim Callaghan. As I rose through the ranks of the Treasure Coast offices, I began to attend the state board meetings. Looking back, we did not have a research green, or a lobbyist, or the present fundraising capabilities, and Marie did not work as many hours as she does now.

What we had were many dedicated and forward-thinking individuals who, like their predecessors, worked hard to make this association what it is today. I am so proud to be president of this association, and I look forward to serving this next year. We have a full agenda to tackle and I may need every member's help to assure that we succeed.

The first thing I would like to do is congratulate Ray Hansen, our 1994

Distinguished Service Award winner. Ray was instrumental in getting the Otto Schmeisser Research Green built as well as many other projects. I would also like to congratulate The President's Award Winners, Lonnie Stubbs, Joe Snook, Paul Nevers, Bill McKee, Lou Oxnevard and Royce Stewart for their lifetime service to the profession.

As we move forward, I see us all having to get more involved. We are currently fighting a battle against the proposed Biodiversity Treaty. This treaty was the result of the 1992 Earth Summit. President Bush caught some heat for not signing it in 1992. However, President Clinton was more than happy to sign it.

Our first objection is that, once a worldwide treaty gets signed, it is hard to break.

Second, this is an unfinished document, not based on science. It will be finalized by radical preservationists and environmental organizations *after* Congress ratifies the treaty. This is like giving out signed blank checks.

In my opinion, the Biodiversity Treaty could drastically reduce recreational activity such as golf, boating, skiing and racing, as well as slow down or stop development of land used for housing and agriculture.

Obviously, we would all be greatly impacted. If you don't like these types of political issues, then consider what your job and the industry means to you. I think that it is worth contacting your public officials. Think about the future

*Please see Page 12*

**President's Message**



*Scott Bell*

Scott Bell, CGCS President, FGCSA

## Letter: Taking Care Of Some Old Business

Dear Tom:

As chairman of the GCSAA Tournament Committee, I am in receipt of your recent article (Editorial-Spring '94 issue) relating to the GCSAA Championship. Please allow me to respond to your concerns involving the event.

As you know, the committee system has been reinstated at GCSAA. On the agenda at this spring's Tournament Committee meeting was the subject of alternate times to hold the annual championship. I think it is safe to say that those present were in agreement to investigate various options concerning the timing of the event. In no way does the committee ever expect to satisfy 100% of our membership. We do, however, desire to provide a quality event for those involved.

The idea of holding the event at a different time of the year or even utilizing a different format is not new. These issues have been discussed for years. I

will make sure that your concerns are forwarded to all committee members, the GCSAA Board of Directors, and the GCSAA Tournament Director.

There are a number of changes in store for this year's event. If you are interested in knowing more about them, feel free to contact me.

Best regards,  
 Tommy Witt, CGCS  
 GCSAA Tournament Chairman

*Tom Benefield, former Editor, responds:*

To me, the important aspect of Tommy's reply is that "the committee has been discussing these issues for years," but not actively taking measures for change.

The present format effectively eliminates 97% of the membership from participating in "their" tournament!

The time to act is now!

**Scott Bell** —

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and think about the industry. If you feel strongly enough about your profession, then make a call or write a letter when one of these controversies arises.

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