

I want to challenge every member

I am honored to be the president of the FGCSA this year. I am looking forward to working with Joe Ondo, Mike Perham, Greg Plotner and the rest of the state board to

make this a successful year. I am proud of the amount of talent and diverse expertise that the members of this association possess. I want to challenge every member of this association to get more involved at both the local and state level. If there is a committee you would like to serve on, or if you have an idea on how to improve this association please call me. I want to congratulate Paul

Crawford on receiving the Distinguished Service Award. Paul is the epitome of the talent and dedication that our association possesses.

I would like to thank Greg Plotner for the great year he had as president. I value the advice Greg has given me in the past and will continue to rely on him this year during my presidency. Greg pointed our association in the right direction and it is my intention to continue the course he set for us.

This year we will complete the GCSAA affiliation process. Florida will remain a leader in both state and national affairs. I want to strengthen our ties to allied associations in the turf and golf industry. At this year's FTGA show I met Roy Bates, the new FTGA president, and I am looking forward to bringing these associations closer together.

While both associations have different priorities we both have a common goal. This goal is to get the state of Florida to recognize turf as a major player in the state economy. We provide a multitude of well paying jobs and bring in large amounts of

tourist dollars. By using the strengths of our two associations we will be able to accomplish much.

Both associations have been lobbying the University of Florida to take turfgrass research more seriously. The University of Florida is finally realizing this need. Due to the structure of the University system, change is coming slower than we would like. The FTGA has agreed to allow the chairman of the FGCSA research committee to also co-chair the FTGA awards committee. This will allow both associations to get the most out of our dollars by avoiding duplication in research.

One of the primary reasons for the existence of a superintendent's association is to provide education for it's members. This coming year the FGCSA will continue to offer strong educational opportunities for superintendents throughout the state. Continuing education is the key to

allowing our members to provide some of the finest playing conditions in the world.

The opportunity to access knowledge is more important now than ever. With computers becoming common place in today's golf maintenance operations the Internet will be a major information source for sharing ideas among superintendents. We are now in the computer age, you can't turn on your television set and see a commercial without it giving an Internet address. Computers are playing a more important role in the golf industry with computerized irrigation, word processing, budgeting and forecasting, CAD, and electronic pesticide databases. The University of Florida and the GCSAA now have web pages on the Internet. With this type of information at your finger tips I can't fathom anyone not owning a computer. If you don't know how a computer can help you, make sure you read the articles on turf web sites on the Internet in this issue of the Florida Green.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dale Kuehner, CGCSA President
FGCSA