

*I want you to feel free to call me if there is something going on you don't like or understand.*

It seems like only a few years ago that I began attending state board meetings and listening to what was going on in our state and the GCSAA. I had

volunteered to be the external vice president for the Central Florida Chapter. I remember attending FGCSA meetings when Bill Wagner was president, so it has been over 15 years ago.

As your president this year, I am looking forward to working with Mike Perham, Darren

Davis, Dale Kuehner, Association Manager Marie Roberts, *Florida Green* editor, Joel Jackson and all the board members to keep the association growing and informed of all industry-related news and activities. We will try to provide education and seminars that will benefit superintendents, assistant superintendents, and their employees.

I would like to see more superintendents become involved in local and state association activities. I would like to see more superintendents write more articles for the *Florida Green* to tell your story to everyone who reads

the magazine. I enjoy reading the magazine and everything it has to offer and I hope you do too.

I would like to congratulate Gary Grigg on winning the 1997 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award. Having served in all offices of the GCSAA, Gary additionally gave his time to keep the FGCSA informed of all GCSAA-related activities. He also has done a great job of improving the image of superintendents nationally and here in Florida.

I want to thank each chapter in our state for the great job they do in fund raising each year. I encourage them to keep up the good work. We will all benefit from the money spent for future research. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the University of Florida will have named the new Turf Coordinator so more research can be done in the turf program to benefit all of us.

I have met many superintendents in my 18-plus years at Winter Pines and I hope that you will call me if there is something you would like to see done. Also, I want you to feel free to call me if there is something going on you don't like or understand.

Here's looking forward to another successful and productive year.

*Looking forward, getting involved*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Joe Ondo, CGCS  
President  
FGCSA

***It is incumbent upon all of us to offer our suggestions on what can be done to improve upon the Conference and Show schedule to attract FGCSA members. We are well represented within FTGA***

It is with great pride and pleasure that I address the membership of the FGCSA as your vice president. As is the case with many of my predecessors, I am starting off on the wrong track by writing this days after the

deadline! Perhaps more than many others before me, I am distinctly aware of what goes into the making of each issue. I had the pleasure of serving as Dan Jones' assistant during part of his fine tenure as editor of the *Florida Green Magazine*. I have vowed to Joel that this will be my only tardy submission. I hope the next two years during which I will be

addressing you will enable me to hold true on that promise.

**FTGA**

What do those letters stand for to the majority of us? After the poor attendance by FGCSA members at this year's conference, some may say that it stands for the Forgotten Turfgrass Association.

We must not allow this to happen!

The FTGA must remain a viable entity in Florida. This organization has taken tremendous strides to improve the position of the turfgrass industry in the state. Ladies and gentleman, we are the most important component of the turfgrass industry.

This organization has repeatedly altered its schedule and programs to address the concerns of the golf course superintendent in Florida. It is time for the FGCSA membership to show its support to our sister organization. Three of the

four members of their Executive Committee are golf course superintendents. The president, David Barnes, represents a sod producer whose primary customers are golf course superintendents.

It is incumbent upon all of us to offer our suggestions on what can be done to improve upon the Conference and Show schedule to attract FGCSA members. We are well represented within FTGA

The vendors upon whom many of us rely for the majority of the year deserve our attendance. This is their opportunity to visit with each of us on a one-to-one basis. Due to the sheer size of the GCSAA show, personal contact is often not feasible there.

The FTGA relies upon the support of these vendors in order for the Conference and Show to be a success. Without our members attendance and support, the vendors will not be there to support the show, which will have a negative impact on FTGA.

We must rally behind this organization. Lend your support, and attend next year's Conference and Show!

**Ready or not, here they come!**

The winter masses have undoubtedly descended upon us by now. I hope that all our members are prepared for another season. Summer projects are a forgotten dream. The days are shorter, and the nights are cooler. Let's all take time to privately rejoice in our accomplishments. No one knows better than ourselves the fruits of our toils, which will become our golfer's reward for the coming season.

Finally, let us not forget our support at home. The holiday season will be rapidly approaching. We all deserve some Holiday Cheer!

***Turfgrass  
is as the  
FTGA does***

**PERHAM'S  
PAGE**



Michael Perham, CGCS  
Vice President  
FGCSA