

*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