

It is unfortunate that deadlines often occur just before important events transpire. I wish that I could be announcing here the name of the University of Florida's new turf coordinator, but the interviews are taking place several days from now.

Of course, it will all be past tense by the time you are actually reading this. Four outstanding candidates have applied for the position and I am confident we will soon have the leader we have been waiting for to take the University of Florida turf program to the next level.

I've never before been as excited and optimistic about the future of our industry as I am right now. We have more

superintendents, suppliers, and university personnel making significant contributions for the betterment of our industry than we have ever had in the past. I'd like to highlight a few of these with the remainder of this column.

The first "Attaboy" goes to Darren Davis of the Olde Florida Club for the outstanding video he has created showcasing golf courses' positive environmental contributions and the superintendents' role in it.

Those of us attending the FGCSA Board meeting in Naples were treated to a preview of the video, and it is simply first rate! Some of the wildlife footage is incredible! The uses of this video are limitless, and every superintendent will have a copy. Great job, Darren!

Darren is also building a test green at his golf course to compare four putting green quality bermudagrasses, which will generate information that will help all of us.

One of the grasses that Darren will be testing is 'Floradwarf', developed by Dr. Al Dudeck at the University of Florida. Dr. Dudeck recently published an excellent technical bulletin called "Floradwarf Bermudagrass" which he is sending out to all members of FGCSA.

This is the kind of information, along with field testing, that our industry needs to be able to make informed choices. I've always held the

belief that there is not, and never will be, one "supergrass" to meet everyone's needs in the Sunbelt.

A public course in North Florida that overseeds and plays 100,000 rounds a year may be better served by a different grass than a private course in South Florida that never overseeds and plays 20,000 rounds a year.

Field trials will help individual superintendents make better decisions.

How about the last few issues of the "Florida Turf Digest"? Through the efforts of Scott Wahlin, Irv Betrock, John Cisar, and others, the publication has evolved into an extremely useful and attractive magazine.

It is particularly gratifying to me because I've always felt that the FTGA magazine should focus on the turfgrass research that the FTGA funds, and that it should be written in easy-to-understand style and language so anyone can read and comprehend the scope and results of research projects.

Want to know about porous ceramics for greens construction? Or the usefulness of the choker layer in USGA spec greens? Or bacteria that can control Sting nematodes? Check out the "Turf Digest." There really is more turf research going on at the University of Florida than any of us knew about, and publishing it in the FTGA magazine is the best way to inform the industry.

What's that? You're not a member of FTGA and don't get this publication? Borrow a copy from one of your neighbors, then call me and tell me why you still don't think it benefits you to belong to the Florida Turfgrass Association.

Whether you acknowledge it or not, if you are working in the turf industry in Florida, you are getting benefits from the activities of the Florida Turfgrass Association. Why can't you join and add your financial and political support to an organization that works for your best interests?

Great things are happening due to dedicated individuals, but we cannot move forward without a larger membership base! While on the subject of FTGA, I'd like to publicly acknowledge the fantastic job that Roy Bates has been doing as this year's President of FTGA. Two "Attaboys" are due Roy!

Right in the middle of writing this article, I

Heading in the Right Direction

Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS Assistant Editor

just realized that trying to list all the great things individuals and chapters were doing for our industry and our communities would be impossible in the space allotted my column.

From the Seven Rivers' Envirotron Classic to the Treasure Coast's Blue Pearl Tournament, superintendents and their suppliers are giving back to their communities and the industry that sustains them.

The University of Florida is committing more resources to the turf program. We have reached out to other state golf and green industry organizations to try to forge more effective and cooperative alliances.

I feel very good about the direction we are heading and am proud to be a Florida superintendent.



Darren Davis previews the almost completed video for the FGCSA Board at the spring meeting in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Florida's Premier Producer

- Custom Blended Soil Mixes
- White Trap Sand **37-M** & **37-C**
- Premium Greens Mix Sands
- Dry, Sterilized Top Dressing Sands
- USGA Gravels



Call today for prices • test information • free demonstration.



Standard Sand & Silica Co.

1-800-475-SAND (7263) or 941-422-1171