

As I write this final president's message I can't help but have mixed emotions. I have always had trouble writing these messages and I am relieved that this is my last one. But, I have enjoyed this past year as president of the FGCSA and hope to continue to serve the association in some capacity for many years to come.

I want to thank Joe Ondo, Mike Perham, and Greg Plotner for their support and help during my term as president. I also want to thank Joel Jackson for his advice and patience with my always-late president's messages.

The person I need to thank the most during this year is Marie

Roberts. I couldn't imagine running this association without her. I want to wish Joe Ondo good luck next year during his term. Joe will make an excellent president and help move our association to the next level.

During my term as president the FGCSA has continued to grow and become stronger. We finished the GCSAA affiliation process along with most of our chapters. This ensures that Florida will remain a leader and have a strong voice in national issues.

We have also strengthened our ties to the FTGA. Kevin Downing is now co-chairing the FGCSA research committee and the FTGA awards committee. This will help better coordinate our research funding.

During this past year we also funded a public relations video. Darren Davis has

done an excellent job producing this video. I am sure all of you will find it to be a valuable resource.

Looking towards the future, we are laying the groundwork for a FGCSA web page. This will provide a place for better and more timely communication with our members and possibly give us a chance to educate some of the general public.

On a more somber note, this past May Tom Mascaro died at the age of 81. I consider myself very lucky to have known this great individual. Tom Mascaro was an innovator all his life and the golf course industry will sorely miss him. The South Florida Chapter meetings won't be the same without him.

I will always remember Tom's advice. He never ceased to amaze me with his insight and perspective on the golf industry as a whole. Tom advocated that superintendents should be more visible at their clubs. He thought that the superintendent should have an office in the clubhouse. He always said it was better to receive criticism directly as opposed to having the golf pro or others fighting your battles.

Tom also stated that superintendents should take on any job or project that is asked of them and volunteer even when the project isn't related to the golf course. The more you are responsible for at your club, the more indispensable you become. Tom spent his life fighting on behalf of golf course superintendents. He always stated that the superintendent was the best asset any club had.

Tom Mascaro is an individual that I will never forget, and I am sure that everyone else that has ever met him will agree that his passing was a great loss to us all.

Of Thanks and Remembrance

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dale Kuehner, CGCSA President FGCSA