

It's been such a busy year I didn't realize that the last issue was my last President's Message for the *Florida Green*. I have a few thank-yous to pass along even though my presidency is now officially over.

First I would like to thank Darren Davis and Marie for organizing a combined two-day meeting and chapter planning session at the Grenelefe Resort last November. Joe O'Brien from the GCSAA was the facilitator and all chapters were represented. One of the outcomes of the meeting was that everyone agreed we needed to hire an additional staff person for the FGCSA. This idea had been talked about

since 1984 and it finally became a reality this year.

Joel Jackson was appointed in January of this year to the position of director of communications. The director has been and will attend chapter meetings, workshops, FQPA meetings and other functions around the state. We realized we couldn't get away from our jobs as much as we would like as volunteers, so now we have a staff person who will keep us informed of issues which affect the FGCSA.

We had another combined meeting this year with the Florida Turfgrass Association board which served to improve communication and cooperation between the two associations, particularly in the areas of FTGA conference education and

research fund-raising. We have also partnered closely on working out details on the new IFAS turf coordinator position.

I'd like to thank our education chairman, Geoff Coggan, CGCS for the job he did this year in arranging the statewide FGCSA Pesticide Safety seminars and the two Etonic Leadership seminars at the Poa Annuua and Crowfoot events.

A big thank you to Mike Perham, Darren Davis and Dale Kuehner and the rest of the board for their help and advice this past year. Thanks also to Marie Roberts, our association manager, for keeping me straight on what and when things needed to be done, especially when my *Green Sheet* President's Messages were due.

We are working every day in a great industry that is constantly changing. Whether it's EPA, FQPA, Mother Nature, employee problems or hydraulic leaks each day has a different challenge for us. We must try to keep abreast of everything that is going on and deal with it accordingly.

Hopefully you are getting the information you need from the GCSAA, FTGA and FGCSA and you are reading it. Thanks to Joel Jackson for proofreading and editing my President's Messages. I hope you gave the topics some thought and consideration.

As I write this, my term as FGCSA President is officially over, but I will continue to serve on various committees as past president and beyond. I will stay involved and write more articles to share ideas and experiences. Thanks for a great year and here's to continued success in the years to come for everyone.

Thank You

Fore-mer President's Message



Joe Ondo, CGCS
Past President
FGCSA