

**N**ote: February 18, 1999. I am filling in for President Mike Perham, CGCS, as he recuperates from a second surgery in the past six months. It is not related to his recent lung surgery, but it was something he needed to take care of. He is easing back into work this week. Get well and back to full speed real soon, Mike!

If there is an overall theme running through this issue, it is about the many relationships superintendents have throughout the golf industry.

We had a strong working relationship with the GCSAA as many of our fellow FGCSA members were

involved in helping to make GCSAA's 70th International Conference and Show in Orlando such a tremendous success. Once again attendance records were set with attendance exceeding 23,000. See details in the Spotlight Section.

The all-important business relationships of superintendents and vendors will be discussed in the Hands-On section. Being a successful superintendent these days includes practicing good business etiquette and building partnerships with reliable sources.

In the Professional Development section, I asked Bob Lohmann, president of the American Society of

Golf Course Architects to write about the benefits of golf course architects working with superintendents to keep maintenance costs in mind when a course is being designed and built.

Relationships with the golf media took a positive turn with the debut of two new superintendent publications, *Golfdom* and *Superintendent News*. More on that and other public relations information in the Afterwords section.

Allied Associations continue to play a major role in our relationships with the turf industry as the Florida Golf Alliance forges ahead with the Golf Impact Survey supported by the Florida Golf Course Owners Association. Meanwhile over at the Florida Turfgrass Association, my counterpart Don Benham, director of public affairs is working with IFAS faculty and administration to develop a comprehensive fund-raising plan that will at last involve the grass roots golfer.

Relationships with government agencies and environmental protectionist organizations continue to improve as we learn to talk to each other instead of confront each other. While we have a way to go with the Food Quality Protections Act implementation, the potential for cooperation in the mainstream of common sense and common ground continues to look promising.

There will always be extremists who will have their 15 minutes of fame, but the real progress and change belongs to those who are willing to work together in successful relationships.

## Successful Relations

### WHAT'S UP DOC?



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