

**I**s turfgrass research important to you? Does the game of golf and your chosen profession mean enough to you to want to help find ways to make it more efficient and affordable, safer and more enjoyable, and less damaging to the environment?

Do you like living on the edge, or would you like new grasses, products, and practices developed that might help you to meet the extreme demands of your membership and increase your job security?

These questions are meant to be rhetorical, but the facts prove their validity. In 1997, only 27 golf clubs made contributions to the Envirotron or the FTGA Research Foundation. With 1998 nearly over, that number has dropped to 20. Contributions to the GCSAA's "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" Program so far are

overwhelmingly corporate — superintendent participation is less than 2 percent of our membership.

Our suppliers continue to bear the burden of supporting our research needs, while few of us earning our living in the golf industry make personal contributions, and those who benefit most — golfers — do virtually nothing except by the indirect costs passed on by our suppliers.

Those of us who serve our superintendent and turfgrass associations in Florida have scratched our heads for years trying to develop fund-raising methods able to meet our research needs. Our efforts have had some success — we have raised, on average, about \$150,000 per year as opposed to the \$30,000 a year back in the 70s and early 80s — but this increase has largely been offset by university budget cuts over the same period. The majority of this increase, again, has mainly come from our suppliers.

The ball game changed just as we became real players, and like it or not, this is how it will be played from now on, whether it be the University

of Florida or any other university. Each research faculty position costs the university between \$180,000 and \$250,000, and if we want them to do a research project, we have to pay for it. The University of Florida reports that it spent a total of \$1,985,556 on turf in 1997, committing 12.15 full time faculty equivalents working on 27 separate projects. Only \$109,273 of that nearly \$2 million came from industry.

Now we are once again faced with declining donations, just at the time we have finally gotten a turf coordinator in place and increased inputs and commitments to the turfgrass program from the UF IFAS administration. Some of our suppliers are questioning the value of their donations and are reducing their level of support, if not eliminating it altogether. This is the very time we all need to step up to the plate and help move our program forward, now that we have some momentum.

The FTGA now has Don Benham, director of public relations, in place to help with fund raising. There are several new fund-raising ideas being developed, such as an "initiative" to take to the Florida Legislature, a celebrity golf tournament, club assessments of \$2 per member per year, and the identification and solicitation of potential large contributors. The turfgrass certification program has begun to bring in a few dollars. Through Roy Bates and Ron Garl, we hope the new Florida Golf Alliance will bring in new research dollars.

These ideas may one day become reality and develop funding sources adequate to our needs, but in the meantime, donations are needed to allow us to fund our researchers and prove we are a viable and committed industry that can "partner" with our university turfgrass program.

I urge you to think seriously about your future and the industry you work in. If every golf club in Florida would donate just \$250 per year, we would have all the research funding we need. Don't leave everything up to your organizations and the volunteers who serve them! We're all in this together and it isn't fair for you to reap the benefits without contributing to the cause. Write that check today to your local chapter, the FGCSA, or the FTGA Research Foundation in support of turfgrass research!

## Small Gifts Make a Big Difference

### Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS  
Vice President  
FTGA

## Call for Articles

This is a call for articles for the 1999 issues of the Florida Green.

Contact Joel D. Jackson, Editor for more information. Phone: 407-248-1971. Fax: 407-248-1971. E-mail; FLGrn@aol.com. All slides and photographs should include identification of persons in the picture and the name of the photographer.

**HANDS ON TOPICS for 1999:** Share your best practices and tips for these upcoming topics. Slides or photographs are encouraged.

- **Spring Issue** - Superintendent and Vendor Relationships
- **Summer Issue** - Soil Amendments: From Ceramics to Organics
- **Fall Issue** - Superintendent Image and Visibility

**SPOTLIGHT:** People and events making news in Florida. From award winners to chapter tournaments and other accomplishments. Send in your story. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S JOURNAL:** Personal observations or experiences related to any phase of the turf management profession. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** General management topics beyond turf. Examples: Education, facilities, personnel, computers, training, etc. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**INDUSTRY NEWS:** News items of interest to Florida superintendents from allied associations in the turf/

horticulture industry. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**OPINION:** Exactly what it means! Articles voicing a personal point of view on any topic concerning Florida superintendents. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**RESEARCH:** A section reserved primarily for university and technical authors to report on research results within the turf industry. Also reports of practical on-course testing. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**RUB OF THE GREEN:** Articles and anecdotes with a humorous twist. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Superintendents are invited to submit ideas and articles about environmental issues and initiatives at their courses. Slides or photographs encouraged.

## 1999 Florida Green Photo Contest

**Category 1** - Wildlife on the Course: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians.

**Category 2** - Course Landscape – Formal Plantings: annuals, shrubs, trees, entrance and tee signs.

**Category 3** - Course Landscape – Native Plantings: aquatic vegetation, grasses, shrubs, trees and wildflowers.

**Category 4** - Scenic Hole Layout Shots: sunrises, sunsets, frosts, storms and any other golf hole view.

### Prizes

- First Place (\$100) and Second Place (\$50) in each category.
- Editor's Choice - Best Overall Photo - \$100.
- All winning entries published in the Fall 1999 issue.

### Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Only one entry per category.
2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a



member of his staff.

3. Attach a label to the back of the print or slide which identifies the category, course and photographer. **DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT.** Each photo shall be attached to a sheet of 8.5 x 11 lined paper. Line up the photo with the vertical and horizontal lines to square the photo on the page. Attach the print to the paper using a loop of masking tape on the back of the photo. Slides must be easily

removable for viewing.

4. A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the print or slide.
5. Judging will be done by a panel of FGCSA members not participating in the contest.
6. Mail entries in a bend-proof package to Joel D. Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando 32819. No entries accepted postmarked after August 1, 1999.

**They Seem To Get It, But...**

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the Food Quality Protection Act. It is good to hear from you.

In 1996, Congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act as the successful conclusion to a 15 year effort to repeal the obsolete Delaney clause. Unfortunately, Environmental Protection Agency implementation has not followed normal administrative procedures and there has been little or no opportunity for industry to comment.

There have not been incentives and streamlined registration for new products. The prospects have led members of the House Agriculture Committee to share their concerns with the EPA. I have cosponsored H. Con. Res. 290, and have also written to Administrator Carol Browner

# Letters..

**...to the Editor**

expressing my concern for adherence to congressional intent.

Vice President Gore has intervened and given the assurance that industry concerns will be addressed: that there will not be significant cancellations during this year and there will be enough time for implementation and a satisfactory transition to the new guidelines.

It is important that practical alternatives be developed before essential products are canceled, and industry representatives are able to respond effectively to pest management challenges. It is imperative that the decisions

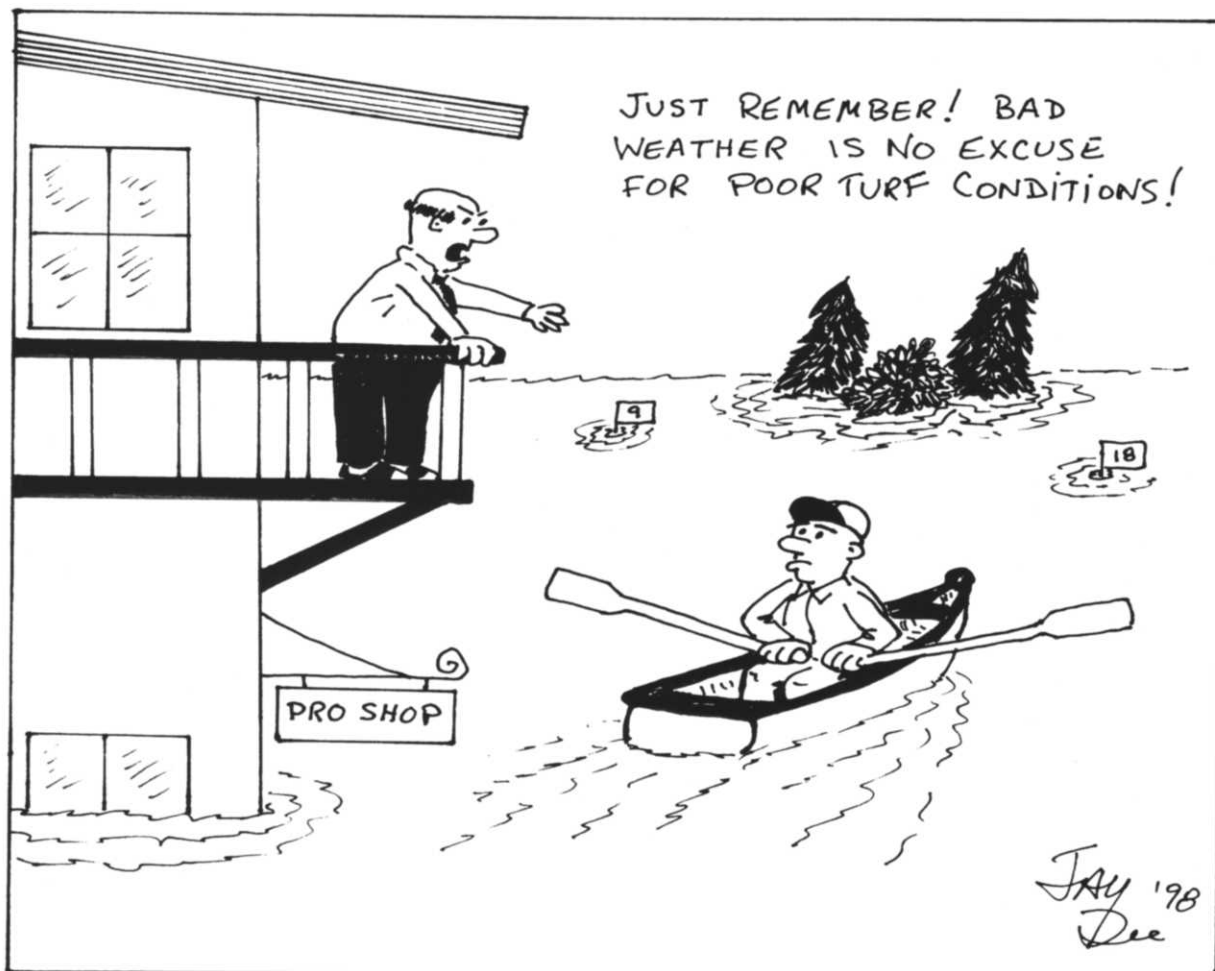
forthcoming are based on reliable data.

Thank you again for your correspondence. If I can be of further assistance with this or any federal matter, please contact my office.

Joe Scarborough  
Member of Congress

**The tone of the recent responses from Congress indicates they are aware of our concerns about EPA, but they are trusting that the agency is going to do the right thing. So far there is nothing to indicate that EPA has changed its overall approach and cancellation of products remains a real possibility. Please refer to the GCSAA Greens & Grassroots update in the Official Business section of this issue.**

Editor



There are so many “award shows” for every facet of the entertainment, media, and business industries. I thought I’d give out a few of my own. I call these awards the Editor’s Choice Awards or Echos. Some are serious and some are, well, you’ll see.

These awards are politically (in)correct, financially sound (cheap), medically approved (read side effects warnings) and environmentally sensitive (we use recycled paper). Did I mention low cal?

We tried to get Billy Crystal to host this year’s awards show, but he and Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams have taken on a new crusade dropping Comic Relief in favor of Green Relief. So for better or worse, acid or alkaline, I give you the 1999 Editor’s Choice Awards:

**Best New Management Tool.** Nominees: Computer, English-Spanish Dictionary, and Heritage fungicide. Winner: Heritage. A little dab’ll do ya!

**Management Practice Least Likely to Succeed:** Hand Mowing Fairways.

**Best Quote From a Turfgrass During El Nino.** Nominees: (1) “It’s not easy being green.” (2) “The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.” (3) “Don’t Let the grass grow under

your feet.” and (4) Help! I’ve fallen and I can’t get up.” Winner by a thin spot: Number 4.

**Best Newcomer Award.** Nominees: Champion, TifEagle, and Floradwarf. And the winner is... oops! Sorry the results haven’t been tabulated yet.

**Best Comeback Award:** Nominees: John Glenn, Bill Bailey, Lassie, and Greg Norman. Winner: Greg Norman at the Shark Shootout (not counting Steve Elkington’s approach shots)! Hey Greg, thanks for the use of the Medalist. We must do it again sometime!

**Toughest Act to Follow.** Nominees: Garth Brooks, Spice Girls, Bill Clinton and the FQPA. Winner: EPA’s version of the Food Quality Protection Act. Bad actors. Dialogue hard to understand.

**Best 1998 Election Results:** Nominees: Gray Davis in California; George Bush in Texas; Jeb Bush in Florida; Jesse Ventura in Minnesota. Winner : Jesse Ventura. Now Minnesota has a governor who really can “wrestle” with their problems. I mean isn’t politics just one big fake, staged media event anyhow?

**Best Print Ad and Thought For The Day.** From Harley Davidson: “Life is Short . The Road is Long. Go Now.”

**And the Editor’s Favorite, Best Line From a TV Commercial .** “Yo quiero Florida Green Articles.” Does that ring a bell?

Happy New Year everybody! Keep the Green Side Up and be careful out there!

# The ‘Echo’ Awards

## Green Side Up



Joel Jackson, CGCS  
Editor