

It is indeed a great honor to serve the FGCSA as your president. I have been a golf course superintendent in the sunshine state for over 20 years and I feel our state sets the standard for the nation with our association's activities.

This has been in no small part due to the hard work and participation by our past presidents and boards of directors and you, our

members. I'd like to thank Darren Davis for his leadership this past year, and I look forward to working with him and our new officers and directors for the coming year. Another part of our great success has been our super staff, Marie Roberts and Joel Jackson. They deserve a lot of credit for managing the daily affairs of the FGCSA.

In the past 20 years we have experienced some

unbelievable changes in our industry. It makes me wonder sometimes what the next decade will bring. The business of golf course management has enjoyed a rich history from innovations in cultural practices, state-of-the-art equipment, improved science, new turfgrasses and the list goes on and on. Who knows what new innovations lie around the next corner that will allow us to do an even better job for our employers, our customers and the environment?

What an exciting time to be a golf course superintendent. The opportunities are certainly plentiful. I believe its critical to keep your mind open and learn to embrace all the changes and challenges that are ahead of us. I would encourage you to strive for daily improvement, allowing this environment of change to push you into becoming a better person at work, at home and in the community.

I'm sure that like many others, I have sometimes allowed success to stop me or at

least slow me down. Don't misunderstand me. Success is good. We all want and need some level of success in our lives. What I'm saying is, that with all that's happening around us, it is easy to get comfortable with past successes, and rest on our laurels.

Too often we come to depend solely on what has worked well for us in the past. This is not all bad, but sometimes it leads to tunnel vision and stagnation. Before you realize it, you get too complacent and do things the same old way even though the world is changing all around you.

Dr. Gene Nutter, founder of the Lake City School for Golf course Operations, once told me, "Each time you go out onto the golf course, try to pretend it's your first time. Use all your senses to evaluate the operation with an open mind. Don't always expect to use yesterday's information to solve all of today's problems."

While I agree that experience is a great teacher, don't let old routines cloud your creativity. Remember when predicting the future the only thing we can say will be for certain is change.

As for the FGCSA's future I was asked recently what my presidential agenda would be. I said I didn't have an agenda but I do have some goals. I'd like to:

1. Continue to build alliances with the FTGA and other related associations, including the golf course owners and club managers, to better position the whole industry as united on critical issues.

2. Develop as much support for our local chapters as possible, allowing them the opportunity to continue their great work at the local level with help from the state when needed.

3. Support a more proactive approach by individual members to get involved in local issues that affect the industry. With involvement our members become part of the solution.

Feel free to call me directly at 727-894-5500 if I can assist you.

Yesterday's Solutions May Not Work Today

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Cary Lewis, CGCSA
President
FGCSA