

Hey, why not? *Sports Illustrated* and *People Magazine* do it, so why not the *Florida Green*? This past year has been a very productive one for the FGCSA and I thought for my last Presidents Message I would highlight some of our accomplishments.

Foremost, I would like to thank the FGCSA board of directors, committee chairs, and our staff for all of the hard work this past year. Marie Roberts, who has been with our association for 15 years, continues to provide the FGCSA leadership

with operational guidance and continuity. She is definitely responsible for keeping things running smoothly. Also on staff for his second year, is Joel Jackson, CGCS. Joel has served on the *Florida Green* since 1990 and was hired by your FGCSA Board last year to serve as the FGCSA director of communications in addition to continuing to serve as the editor of our award-winning magazine. Joel has provided the FGCSA with representation

and communications in government relations, media relations and allied association affairs. Thank you Joel and Marie.

The Florida Green: Once again, for the ninth year our magazine, *The Florida Green* was awarded the Best Overall in Category by the Golf Course Superintendents Association at the Conference in Show in New Orleans.

The 1999 FTGA Conference and Show: The Florida Turfgrass Association, in an attempt to involve the University that is supported by the FTGA fund-raising efforts, moved the annual conference and show to Gainesville. The show was a success in many ways with the only negative being the poor attendance by golf course superintendents and others in the turfgrass industry. The 2000 FTGA Conference and Show will once again be held in Gainesville Aug. 14-16 and I am SURE that I will see each an every on of you there. Right?

University of Florida/IFAS: This past year we have seen a strong effort by the University of Florida, under the leadership of Dr. Mike Martin,

VP of IFAS, to strengthen its bonds with the industry and provide more necessary research, better organization and communications.

Research: At the 1999 FTGA Conference and Show in Gainesville, the FGCSA presented a check to the FTGA for the Research Fund for \$25,000 to help support research at the University of Florida. The funds were a combined effort among the local FGCSA affiliated chapters.

In addition to the \$25,000 donation to the FTGA, the GCSAA was presented with the third of five annual \$5,000 donations (\$25,000 pledge) to support the GCSAA "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign. The campaign is raising funds that will support applied research on golf courses. The FGCSA also continued its charter membership in GCSAA Foundation's Platinum Tee Club (\$5,000) which also goes for scholarships and research.

These donations were above and beyond the funds generated to support the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green in Ft. Lauderdale where the FGCSA has a paid employee who assists the UF faculty in maintaining real world conditions on the green. The South Florida GCSA lead this effort with its annual Turf Expo, raising \$26,000 to help pay for the on-site technician.

Meanwhile, the Seven Rivers Envirotron Classic raised \$50,000 which went into a FTRF restricted account which supports equipment and research at the University of Florida's Envirotron Research Laboratory.

Awards: The winner of the 1999 FGCSA Distinguished Service award were Dale Kuehner, CGCS at Colony West Country Club. This yearly award was established in 1985 and is presented to a golf course superintendent who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the FGCSA. Dale is most definitely a very deserving recipient! The 1999 recipients of the FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service were Paul Hickman, David Holler, Steve Pearson, Al Ross and Dale Walters. Congratulations guys!

1999 was also a great year for Florida golf course superintendents to receive national recognition. Gary Grigg, MG, CGCS was awarded the 2000 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award

The Year in Review



Darren Davis
President
FGCSA

during the Opening Session of the GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans. Also at the GCSAA show, Mike Blanchard, CGCS at Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club was presented with the GCSAA Leo Feser Award for the best article by a superintendent in *Golf Course Management* magazine.

Allied Associations: Mark Jarrell, CGCS at Palm Beach National GC, past president of the FGCSA, has served as president this year for the FTGA. Through Mark's efforts, and the whole FTGA board the relationship between the FGCSA and FTGA is at an

all-time high. Mark has done a tremendous job of keeping the communication channels open with the FGCSA and at the same time enhancing the FTGA's role as an all-encompassing turfgrass association. I hope that each of you has read his editorials in the *Florida Green* and the FTGA's *Florida Turf Digest* and will help us to unite as one strong organization of turfgrass professionals.

The biggest topic of discussion involving GCSAA this year has been the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). FGCSA's Dale Kuehner and Bob

Randquist have served on the Membership Standards Resource Group that has helped develop the program. If you are not aware of the PDI, you should be! No ifs ands or buts, this initiative has the potential to reshape how we are perceived in the industry and you need not only to be aware of the details but to provide input.

Government Relations: It has been a very busy year with regulatory issues. Chemicals such as Dursban, Orthene and Namacur have come under attack due to the Food Quality Protect Act. Unless you have been hiding under a rock you

should be aware of this issue and I hope that you have taken notice and acted when requested to do so. This issue and others threaten our ability to perform our job and it is up to every golf course superintendent to get involved. Please do not rely on others to always carry the load. Thank you for those who have taken the initiative and gotten involved in letter writing campaigns or making phone calls.

Thank you to each and every one of you who have helped make 1999 a banner year for the FGCSA. See you soon.

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