

Greenkeeper in Paradise

Let me begin by thanking all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your president. It will be an honor and a privilege to guide this association through the coming year. This job is facilitated in part by the strength and commitment of

those who have gone before me, as well as those currently serving on the board. My thanks go to

Cary Lewis, CGCS, who served our association admirably this past year; I know I can rely on Cary as I can the rest of the board for advice this coming year.

We have a very supportive staff in Marie Roberts and Joel Jackson, CGCS. They are the people who work diligently to make this association as good as it is through the changing of presidents and of the board members.

Working and living here in Florida is a far cry from what I had imagined my life would be while growing up in the coal mining area of northern England. Most of my schoolmates followed in their fathers' and grandfathers' footsteps and entered the mining industry. I was lucky enough to venture further afield thanks to Tim Hiers, CGCS, who offered me employment as an intern in 1986.

To be able to work outside in what can only be considered paradise is great.

Couple that with the fact that your colleagues share the same enthusiasm for their work as you and now you're talking. Sometimes the pressures of maintaining the course to others' expectations, dealing with Mother Nature, repudiating bad press and so on, can wear on you. But if I think back to what might have been, I certainly prefer doing what I'm doing now.

To maintain our work in paradise, we will need the efforts of all of our members, not just those of a few. As each month goes by, more and more legislation is passed, more ordinances written, and more restrictions are applied. I don't want to appear as if I am against legislation or ordinances—far from it. We should look at the work we do closely and make sure we don't adversely affect the environment and others.

My hope is that we as superintendents will be some of the first people who are contacted for input when issues are being discussed. We can offer real life experiences that can help produce quality, workable, and worthwhile directives. Our director of communications is our point man when it comes to the issues. Let him know as soon as you hear of something. He will get the word out and share it with others to see if we can't become involved as a partner, not as an adversary.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a very successful overseeding season, free from torrential downpours, and *Pythium* and most of all enjoy what truly is a great profession.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Geoff Coggan,
CGCS, MG