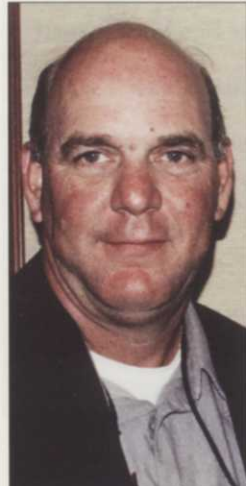


Advertiser Index

The Florida Green

*Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Cary N. Lewis, CGCS

As I write my last president's message. I can't help looking back on the past year and what the FGCSA has done and what lies ahead. But first I must thank all the past presidents and their boards for the insight they had to establish the many things the association enjoys today. For example:

- Developing alliances with all of our fellow associations and agencies.
 - Respecting local chapter autonomy, while providing a statewide organization to address common interests with a unified voice.
 - Working at every opportunity to get the golf course superintendent the recognition and respect that our profession deserves.
 - Development of *The Florida Green*, which is considered one of the best trade magazines in the country.
 - Providing staff resources to assist local chapters whenever needed.
- As far as this year is concerned, I feel we made real headway on some of our most pressing issues:
- Working closely with the water management districts to help protect our state's most valuable resource while helping to develop realistic water restriction for the future.
 - Having a direct dialogue with state and federal regulators and working with them to provide real world data and information so critical in reassessing chemicals and writing BMPs for our industry.
 - Building on the relationship with the University of Florida to ensure the turfgrass research in the future will be timely and assist us in finding the answers to our most urgent problems
 - Recognizing our past by creating a membership class for Lifetime and Honorary

members for retired superintendents who helped us to get where we are today.

- Making sure our association's business practices are in order through independent auditing and consultation with tax and accounting professionals.

These and other issues will always be before us. Superintendents have traditionally been the leaders through their associations to address those nuts-and-bolts golf issues like environment, water, chemicals and fertilizers. They are not glamorous but they go the very core of maintaining a golf course to everyone's expectations.

I was once told, "If the general manager doesn't show up for work tomorrow, the membership will be inconvenienced. If the golf professional doesn't show up for work tomorrow the membership will be inconvenienced. If the golf course superintendent doesn't show up for work tomorrow, the game is over!"

Well that might be a bit presumptuous. In truth we are part of a team at every golf club, and one way to become a better team player is to be active in your local association. You can help yourself become a better professional through continuing education and networking with your fellow superintendents and other members of the industry. Each association needs new voices and people to volunteer a little of their time to keep their associations strong and effective. Please consider giving something back to your profession. It is worth your investment of time and effort.

I would like to thank the directors for their work this year. With Geoff Coggan, CGCS, MG as your new president, I'm confident that great things will continue to happen. A very special thank you to Marie Roberts, association manager and Joel Jackson, director of communication; these are the people who help make the FGCSA the outstanding organization it is. It has been an honor to serve this association and I will remember this year forever.