

As I sit here contemplating a timely topic for my message in the winter issue. I wonder what the future will bring us in this ever-changing business of golf course management. The news we seem to be hearing is not all that uplifting at times. Water problems, loss of products, labor shortages, shaky management companies, fewer operational dollars, fewer golfers or at least a flattening of available golfers and the list goes

on. Lets not forget that most of the time it is only the negative things that make the news or the topic of conversation.

If most of you are like me you got into the business of golf course management for some of the same basic reasons:

- The love of the game.

We have always been considered and will always be the keeper of the green in the spirit of Old Tom Morris.

- Working outdoors and being stewards of our surrounds with Mother Nature as our greatest teacher on a daily basis.

- The fellowship of your neighboring superintendents. Knowing that they will always be there if needed to support you, assist you and guide you as needed.

- The opportunity to teach our youth the art of greenskeeping and responsible stewardship of the land.

- The privilege of witnessing the growth and development of our properties.

- The type of job that is one of the most versatile, challenging and self-satisfying jobs around.

These positive aspects of our jobs help us to get through the tough times.

With the New Year upon us it is time to assess our achievements and set some new goals. We have accomplished many good things through the guidance of our past boards. I feel one of the best things has been the development of our relationship with the FTGA and The University of Florida.

We are truly working as a team to address the future needs of our industry. If we can stay united in our efforts and maintain a proactive attitude much can be achieved in the near future.

We are now just beginning to actively work on the development of a complete set of Best Management Practices specifically for golf turf in coordination with the rest of the green industries in the state. FGCSA Vice President Geoff Coggan, CGCS will act as chairman of the FGCSA BMP Committee. Geoff and Joel Jackson, our director of communications will also sit on the steering committee for the statewide BMP project. They will monitor overall progress and make sure our BMPs are consistent within the green industry even if some of our practices are more specialized.

This tool will not only serve as a great resource for our members, it will better position our industry with our regulatory agencies, local and state governments and special interest groups. With this BMP manual we will send a huge message to all, that golf course superintendents not only care about the environment, but that we also do things right!

My sincere hopes for a great New Year to all of our members and our association. Don't forget we are only as strong as your involvement.

Accentuate the Positive

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Cary N. Lewis, CGCS

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