

I began my year as president of the FGCSA by writing that it is important for our members to be involved with Audubon International. I will close the year stating the same: Audubon International has served up the challenge to get 50 percent of the golf courses to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Statistics show that we now stand at 15 percent nationally and close to 20 percent for Florida. Looks like we have a long way to go.

There's Always Lots to Do

Because Florida has more golf courses than other states, we are being counted on to help lead the way in making the Fifty-in-Five initiative become a reality. The Everglades GCSA has exceeded this goal with 76 percent of its FGCSA member courses

having membership with ACSP while the West Coast is second with 40. I urge all the chapters to help exceed the goal that we are trying to accomplish. Please fill out the membership enrollment form and pay the \$150 membership fee as soon as you can. Golf courses are constantly under the environmentalists' microscopes and we, as superintendents, have to show that we are doing our part for the environment. I can't think of a better way to show that we are doing our part than by getting our clubs involved with the ACSP for golf courses to document our real-world stewardship.

GCSAA has changed its course of action regarding relocating the association headquarters. A Headquarters Location Resource Group has been formed to evaluate all actions taken to date and will report their evaluation at the chapter delegates meeting in the fall. Florida has two representatives on this committee, Robert Randquist, CGCS of Boca Rio Golf Club and Kevin Downing, CGCS of Willoughby Golf Club. Florida will be well represented with these two individuals taking part in this major decision making process.

We lost a good friend in Jeff Hayden, as I have previously written in other messages earlier this year. Jeff's legacy will live on with the Jeff Hayden Endowment Fund at Lake City Community College. Twenty thousand dollars will be raised in order to provide future annual scholarships of \$1,000.00 to deserving students in the program at the college. If you or your chapter is interested in making a donation, please contact John Piersol, GLO Director at Lake City Community College.

I would like to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the FGCSA. I feel we accomplished some good goals this year:

1. Working with Shelly Foy, USGA and Jo Ellen Zeh of Audubon International in providing four ACSP workshops toward certification in the ACSP for golf courses.
2. Provided two chapter-spokesperson training sessions with Dr. Tom Morgan. Hopefully other chapters will take advantage of this instruction in the future.
3. Started an FGCSA benevolent fund. Raised \$3,100 at the national convention. This will continue in the future at our GCSAA Receptions.
4. Capitol Hill trip to Tallahassee to visit with state legislators and the Commissioner of Agriculture. We lobbied for no IFAS budget cuts and let them know that we are an available source of information on environmental issues should they need our real world input and assistance.
5. Work on the BMPs for Golf with Department of

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Environmental Protection and the University of Florida IFAS.

6. Research Project approval cofunded with GCSAA, "Alternative Methods for Nematode Management on Turf."

I would like to thank Joel Jackson for the fabulous job that he has done as director of communications. He is always striving to keep board members and chapters up on the latest current events. And what a great job he does with our publications. I would also like to thank Marie Roberts for being the wonderful person that she is and the great job that she has done for our association. Marie is the glue that has held everything together for so many years. Thank you to Mike Goldie for the tour that he gave us in Tallahassee. He truly opened many doors for us to meet the senators and representatives. Without Mike's assistance our trip would not have happened.

Darren Davis will be stepping down as external vice president for the EGCSA after many years of service. His knowledge and expertise has been invaluable.

Thanks to all the board members and external vice presidents for giving their time for the board meetings, travel time and getting the message out to the chapters members.

I know the association will be in good hands over the next year with Greg Pheneger as president. I truly look forward to working with him and helping him achieve new goals for the coming year.

Thanks to Geoff Coggan for his years of service on the board. I think we will soon finish the Best Management Practices for Golf Courses that you initiated during your term in office. Good things take time to shape.

The future outlook for our association depends on the participation of our members. We can't sit back and let events just pass us by. As members we need to stay up in current issues and take action where needed. We also need to keep everything in perspective starting with our families first. Don't lose perspective on your No. 1 priority.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



David Court, CGCS