

I would like to start by thanking Dale Walters for his years of service to the board of directors. Dale has left his position as golf course superintendent and taken on his new position in sales with Lesco, Inc. While serving on the board of directors this year, Dale contributed two great ideas, which we will put into use.

His first idea of starting a benevolent fund will get kicked off at the Florida Reception at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta in

(attendees) and then have a drawing at the end of the reception for a 50/50 split. This will be a great way to jump-start this fund plus it will be good for the lucky person whose ticket gets drawn.

Dale's second idea is to have an FGCSA booth at select LPGA and PGA Tour events. This will be a good way to showcase our involvement in the world of golf. Items that we will consider for this exhibit include involvement with ACSP, irrigation efficiency and IPM programs. This will take some time to produce but hopefully we will have it together for select tournaments coming up in 2003. We will need volunteers to help man this booth so let us know if you would like to help participate and please give us your ideas.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of Mike Cantwell and Jeff Hayden. Mike was the superintendent at Miramar Lakes Country Club in Ft. Meyers. He lost his life in November. A trust fund will be created to benefit Mike's children. Mike is the fourth golf course superintendent to tragically lose his life this year joining Al Cowing, Chip Fowkes and Tom Crawford. We need to get this benevolent fund underway to help these families in time of need.

Then the sad news that long-time superintendent and recent Golf Ventures sales representative Jeff Hayden also died in early December. The family requested that any remembrance of Jeff be made in the form of a donation to the UF/IFAS Environron. See the articles on Mike and Jeff in this issue. Coupled with the passing of 87-year-old, FTGA founder Joe Konwinski earlier this year, it has

been a tough year of loss for our industry.

If you attended the USGA Regional Seminars in November, you heard the bad news about MSMA from Leslie Smith with the DEP. Arsenic levels in soil and ground water at several of the older golf courses exceed levels allowed by EPA. This definitely puts the future use of the herbicide in serious jeopardy even though the product has been applied in accordance with the label. Plans are to meet with representatives from D.E.P. and DACS to see if more testing can take place and to work with the agencies to supply scientific evidence in deciding the fate of this herbicide.

Another dark cloud is making its presence known is Lobate Lac Scale. This insect pest has been a problem in several counties in Florida including Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin and, if left untreated, can kill such species as ficus, coco plum, wax myrtle, green and silver buttonwood. So far it has been seen on a total of 50 plant species. See the article by Dr. Howard from IFAS in this issue.

Time for the good news!

Joel Jackson, our director of communications, will receive one of GCSAA's highest honors, the Distinguished Service Award. The presentation will be at the Opening Session of the 2003 Conference and Show in Atlanta, Georgia. If you are attending the conference, please make the Opening Session part of you plans. Joel, the drinks are on you at the reception.

I would like to welcome Steve Wright back to Florida. He will be taking over the position of director of golf course maintenance at the Boca West Country Club. Some of

you may remember Steve from the Central Florida Chapter where he was the superintendent at Alaqua Country Club. Steve has also been involved as president of the Carolinas GCSA this past year and I know he will bring a lot of great enthusiasm back to Florida. Steve is replacing a legend in South Florida in Billy Wright (no relation). Billy will be starting a golf course construction/renovation business and will be leaving Boca West after some 25 years. Best of luck to both Billy and Steve.

Finally, I would again like to thank Shelly Foy for the work that she did organizing the ACSP workshops that were held in December. Last report is that around 150 people attended. That's a good start. Let's keep it up. I know that this is a great program and one that golf course superintendents must embrace if we are to truly be stewards of the environment.

May 2003 be your best year ever.

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Good News/ Bad News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



David Court, CGCS

February. We will be collecting donations at the door from contributors

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