

Have you ever been driving down a road and wonder, "How did I end up here?" You know, you're deep in thought and all of a sudden you are aware of where you are without recalling the driving part. Well I find myself in that position today... but not down a road in the middle of nowhere, but rather in the position as president of the

FGCSA. I say it, and I still can't believe it.

One reason is because when I look at the past presidents of the association, I consider them the elite of the elite of

golf course superintendents. These are the people that I look up to and aspire to be like. Heck, it even took me years to be able to call them because they intimidated me. Whether it was because the job they held at a particular facility, or their involvement in the association, they intimidated me.

I'm sure at least a few people out there can understand where I am coming from. In other words, I just wanted to say that I am truly honored to be in this position today.

I want to give a quick thank you to Joe Pantaleo for all the hard work and leadership over the past year. Joe did a fantastic job even after four hurricanes slammed into the state.

Just five months after the storms, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association was also host to the first "Golf Industry Show" in Orlando. Joe and the rest of the board of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association set the bar high for being a host.

I always look forward to attending the conference and show but as the writing of this message, it is unclear where or when our next show will be. GCSAA is working diligently to line up an alternative site. Houston has been mentioned as a possibility since the GCSAA Golf Championship is already scheduled to take place there at the Woodlands. I can only hope that New Orleans and all other affected by hurricane Katrina can recover from the Hurricane as well as Florida was able to.

On a happier note, the summer

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board meeting of the FGCSA was held at Isleworth GC. Wow, what a facility! Thanks go out to Kurt Kuebler, CCM, Steve Keller, superintendent, and the members of Isleworth for allowing us to use the facility for our meeting.

At this board meeting the directors unanimously voted to file for a Critical Use Exemption (CUE) with the EPA for the continued use of methyl bromide on golf courses in the state of Florida. This decision was not made hastily or without seeking the expert advice of Dr. Bryan Unruh, University of Florida who researched potential alternative products. At the present time, the alternatives to methyl bromide are not economically feasible or environmentally acceptable for golf courses in Florida.

Steve Godbehere of the Hendrix and Dail Company also discussed the Montreal Accord and the rights and procedures of commodities to apply for critical-use status, and some other facts about naturally occurring methyl bromide. If a commodity is not granted critical-use status, then those groups do have access to pre-existing stockpiles of material. How long those stockpiles will last of course is one of the critical issues considered in submitting this application.

As for the future of the FGCSA, plans are to continue the hard work that Joe and last year's board started. The committees are in place and specific task groups are being formed to implement the goal of our strategic planning session earlier this year.

Introduction

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Craig Weyandt
FGCSA President