



President **Shane Bass**, CGCS
St. James Bay GC
201 Crooked River Rd.
Carabelle, FL 32346
850-528-3839

VicePresident **Bill Kistler**
Tampa Palms G&CC
5811 Tampa Palms Blvd.,
Tampa, FL 33647
813-972-3375

Secretary/Treasurer **Gary Myers** CGCS
Walt Disney World Resort
9765 Gault St.,
Orlando, FL 32836
407-824-3031

Past President **Matt Taylor**
Royal Poinciana GC
PO Box 7039
Naples, FL 34101
239-261-4987

DIRECTORS

CALUSA **Nancy Miller**
Maple Leaf G&CC
941-255-3677

CENTRAL FLORIDA **Michael Stem**, CGCS
Legacy Club @ Alaquia
407-444-4991

EVERGLADES **Wayne Kappauf**, CGCS
The Island CC
239-642-5558

NORTH FLORIDA **Rip Phillips**
Windsor Parke GC
904-241-2837

PALM BEACH **Steve Pearson**, CGCS
The Falls CC
561-641-4439

RIDGE **Tom Barnett**
Lake Ashton GC
863-258-1047

SEVEN RIVERS **Mark Kann**
UF Plant Science REC
352-591-2678

SOUTH FLORIDA **Kelly Cragin**
Granada GC
305-460-5334

SUN COAST **Bob Wagner**
Coral Creek Club
941-697-3208

TREASURE COAST **Roy MacDonald**
Hobe Sound GC
772-546-7243

WEST COAST **Kevin Sunderman**
Isle Del Sol
727-867-8098

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Joel Jackson**
6780 Tamarind Circle
Orlando, FL 32819
407-248-1971 voice/fax
FLGm@aol.com

ASSOCIATION MANAGER **Jennifer Innes**
1296 NE Oceanview Circle
Jensen Beach, FL 34957
772-334-7515; 800-732-6053 (FL)
fgcsa@comcast.net

As I write this message, Hurricanes Fay and Hanna have dumped rain all

over the state. I hope most of us got by with much-needed rainfall and not a lot of damage. We have made it halfway through another hurricane season thus far without any major storms hitting Florida. With our summer beach-vacation season up here in the Panhandle winding down and your fall golf season preparations under way, I hope Ike doesn't spoil that record.

With the year ending in exciting fashion with the Presidential election, government relations seems to be front and center with our association. As I go through hundreds of e-mails, the subjects are not that mole crickets are bad, or this disease is taking over, or this new mower is the way to go. It seems like year-round water restrictions on residents are getting tighter and we could experience some backlash on golf-course uses. The City of Sanibel is taking a second look at its fertilizer ordinance with respect to golf courses instead of the original mandate to just follow the new Golf BMPs for nutrient management. With restrictions on residents applying nitrogen or phosphorus during the rainy/growing season, what may be in store for golf courses?

Our executive director, Joel Jackson, tries to stay on top of these issues around the state. What we need, though, is for everybody to do his part locally. We all need to get more involved — including me. I see reports on meetings or letters being sent and it always seems to be the same names and faces that are carrying the load for all of us.

When grass-roots letter-writing efforts are called for, we try to provide talking points and templates so all you have to do is change the name and send it or email it. As far as attending commission meetings, hearings and forums, You do not have to go and argue with anyone; just being there means something. It's OK to go on the record with some facts. Trust me the environmental groups are usually there in herds with their emotional viewpoints, factual or not.

This is a challenge that goes out to everyone, including the guys out in the far west Panhandle. We might not have the problems that South Florida is facing with these issues right now, but trust me, they will be here before we know it. Get involved. This November is a good time to start. It is an election year. There are approximately 72,000

golf employees in the state. Make time for yourself and encourage your employees to vote. It will make a difference.

There are a couple of other items on our fall agenda:

First, the Fund Raising Committee with Tim Hiers, CGCS as chairman, is getting ready to roll out a pilot program of voluntary contributions to provide a stable, renewable funding source for our turf research projects. All golf courses will be able to opt in; more details will follow after the experimental trial period ends with about a dozen courses to check out the full process. The General Managers Association, our association, the FTGA and several industry partners are all on board with the idea. Stay tuned.

The second item is some changes to *The Florida Green* magazine. The fold-out cover has gone away as you can tell from this issue, and we are working on changing how we mail the magazine in the future..

With rising costs and economic pressure on our advertisers, these changes do not materially affect the magazine, but do lower costs to produce and distribute the publication.

One final note: last year was the first year I played in the GCSAA golf championships and I highly recommend it if you ever get the chance. You don't have to play like Seth Strickland in order to enjoy yourself. It gives you a chance to really network with people that you might never meet at the show. Try something new this year. The courses this year are in the Gulf Shores, Ala., area and the time to sign up is now.

I hope to see you all in New Orleans.



Shane Bass, CGCS
President