

EDITOR **Joel Jackson, CGCS**
6780 Tamarind Circle
Orlando, FL 32819
407-248-1971 voice/fax
FLGRN@aol.com

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

EDITOR EMERITUS **Dan Jones, CGCS**
Oviedo

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ON THE COVER: *Number 6, Island Country Club, Marco Island. Photo by Daniel Zelazek*

FOREWORDS

Overcoming Challenges and Looking Ahead

It's an honor and privilege to become president of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

I would like to thank Immediate Past President Shane Bass CGCS for his leadership last year, and also Past President Matt

Taylor CGCS for his numerous contributions throughout his many years of serving on both the FGCSA and FTGA boards concurrently.

Congratulations to newly elected FTGA President Greg Pheneger, director of maintenance from the John's Island Club. I'm sure Greg and his executive committee will provide great leadership in the coming year.

As fall approaches with cooler temperatures and increasing rounds, one of our industry's most challenging years is rapidly coming to an end. We had everything from extreme water restrictions to local governments writing prohibitive fertilizer ordinances. And the economy presented management challenges in 2009. As superintendents, we face various challenges daily but this year was an exceptional one. It comes as no surprise that our members have met these difficult challenges.

While monitoring local fertilizer ordinances or water restrictions, we continue our daily jobs as turf professionals. By thinking outside the box and implementing cost-saving ways to do our jobs with less, we have continued to produce the quality conditions on the golf courses that our members, golfers and customers have come to expect.

We must stay proactive rather than reactive to the issues facing golf and the green industries. You may have



Bill Kistler
President

heard this message before, but I cannot emphasize enough how important the Florida Golf BMP checklist is. BMP certification for the landscape/lawn industry is already here, spurred on by the fertilizer ordinances. How long before the Golf industry will be required to do the same? We must not only "talk the talk," but we must "walk the walk."

Make sure you are documenting the environmentally friendly practices established for dealing with fertilizer use and its potential effects on water quality. Practice water conservation (reduced use) by installing or tweaking your automated irrigation systems.

Convert maintained out-of-play turf into natural areas, eliminating or reducing the need for irrigation, chemicals and fertilizer. Become a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. All these things give us more credibility when we can bring documented facts to local public meetings, showing that we truly are stewards of the environment.

Please visit our Web site at www.floridagcsa.com for postings and information on the latest regulatory actions, events, and news about members. When at the Web site, please respond to the poll and survey questions. The poll question up now is, "Are you planning to attend the Florida reception at the GIS in San Diego?" It may seem early, but GCSAA housing registration is already open and conference registration for the GIS opened Oct. 1. We are already making plans and final arrangements for our reception. We need to get a solid idea of how many members might attend so we can submit a financially responsible guarantee for our rooftop venue at the Solamar Hotel overlooking the famed Gas Lamp District. If you are attending the GIS either respond online in the poll or contact Jennifer Innes our association manager directly at fgcsa@comcast.net. All responses will be greatly appreciated.

I wish everyone a successful and productive 2009/2010.