

The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: *Island green, UF/IFAS Plant Science Center, Citra. Photo by Daniel Zelazek*

FOREWORDS

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded to the challenge of fighting the EPA on the methyl bromide issue. Due to the hundreds of letters, emails, and phone calls, the EPA has had a change of heart. They are now looking at a phase-out plan for methyl bromide. Great job, everyone, as the feelings of many were heard as one voice.

Hopefully, many of you will have the chance to go to the GIS in San Diego. A new format this year will have the trade show open on Wednesday and end on Thursday with no classes competing with the show.

Don't forget about the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic. This event also has a format change this year. The golf tournament will be held during the weekend prior to the GIS. You can compete in the tournament and still be able to take classes starting on Monday. I have already registered to play in the Golf Classic. It should be a great time. Everyone should play at least once in



Bill Kistler
President

this tournament. This is a great networking opportunity and making new friendships across the industry.

On Thursday night, Feb. 11, the Florida reception will be held on the rooftop of the Solamar Hotel in the Gas Lamp District. Watch for your invitation in the mail. Be sure to let Jennifer know if you and a guest are coming so we can order the right amount of food.

It's a new year, but we still have some of the same old discussions we had in 2009: fertilizer restrictions and water quality issues. Anyone who has attended these local government meetings knows how high the emotions run. The Sierra Club has been calling the University of Florida / IFAS turf research biased due to contributions from turf industry partners.

Who else would fund research to help us all do our jobs better? Besides that all the fertilizer research going on the past few years has been funded by a grant from the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection and not the turfgrass industry. An inconvenient truth omitted by the activists.

We need to stay focused on these issues and make our presence known at these meetings. Just like the grassroots effort with methyl bromide, our strength is in numbers and the unity of our message and purpose.

I look forward to seeing many of you in San Diego. Have a busy and profitable winter season.



FTGA Ribbon Cutting
Greg Pheneger, right, from the Johns Island Club is the new president of the FTGA. He is joined at the FTGA Trade Show ribbon cutting on the left by Immediate Past President Todd Himmelberger, and Vice President Mac Carraway. See Spotlight for more details. Photo by Joel Jackson.