

The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: 15th hole, Shingle Creek GC, Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

FOREWORDS

Let's Get to Work!

It is truly an honor to serve as the next President of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. I would like to thank everyone for this opportunity and am anxious to get to work. I am blessed to be surrounded by great chapter leaders and a hardworking staff that are committed to seeing the FGCSA continue to thrive for its membership.

I would like to thank Bill Kistler for his service to the FGCSA, as he now steps down from our Board of Directors.

Also, I wish him good luck as a newly elected director for the Florida Turfgrass Association. Another thank-you goes to Gary Myers for his dedication as President of the FGCSA over the past year. The FGCSA faced several issues over the past year and Gary did an excellent job handling them.

In the near future, all FGCSA members will be receiving a member survey. The goal of the survey is to get direct feedback from our members concerning a variety of issues. This isn't the only way you can provide us with comments. We always encourage you to contact the FGCSA Office or Board members at any time with comments or concerns. However, this survey will allow us to get a better overall picture of what our membership wants and needs. Among the topics covered in the survey will be the collection of membership dues, Web site content, and the Golf BMP Certification Program.

One of the biggest projects that we are working on is the Golf BMP Certification process. Over the past year, we have made tremendous strides in launching the program. Several individuals have been responsible for getting the program to the progressive state that it is today. I would like to thank Ralph Dain, GCSAA Field Representative for Florida, for his tireless effort as the driving force behind the program. I am encouraged by the excitement of several chapters that already have asked to set up sessions for reviewing and taking the test. We are still a little way from launching the program full time and I ask for your patience while we iron



Mark Kann,
President

out the last details. This is a program that needs to be handled correctly to ensure its credibility.

At the Crowfoot Seminar in August, we held our first Golf BMP Review Session followed by a "beta" test. Although, the review covered only one out of three sections of the test, all attendees took the full version of the test. Results from the two versions of the test were quite similar and the scores revealed that the test was fair but, by no means, easy. Those who took the test were encouraged to make comments and we are in the process of refining it accordingly.

The next steps in the process are to request endorsement from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and to finalize the review presentations. A letter requesting accreditation will be mailed out in early September and we hope to hear back from the FDEP within a few weeks. A few more sections need to be made into presentations so we can have a consistent experience at all review sessions. It is our plan to have the program up and running on a full-time basis by the end of this year or early next year.

Again, I am greatly encouraged by the excitement and interest of our membership towards the Golf BMP Certification Program and I don't want to lose our momentum. Please keep in mind the importance of doing this right to maintain the credibility of the program. In the meantime, go ahead and crack open those books and get to studying!