

The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: 15th hole. Country Club of Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

FOREWORDS

President's Message

I recently had the pleasure of participating in the first all-women's FarmLinks tour. Organized by Chris Key of BASF with support from FarmLinks, a diverse group of women in the Florida golf industry gathered for education, a golf course tour, fun and camaraderie. Dr. Laura Basher led a lively discussion on the differing ways we communicate: men vs. women. I never gave the differences much thought, but now that I'm aware of them, I hope to become a better communicator. Being immersed in two days and nights of turf talk with these amazing, friendly and dedicated ladies, reminded me again of why I love my job and enjoy being involved with all of you who share the same passion.

Speaking of passion, we need to continue our proactive stance in dealing with critical regulatory issues. Whatever your connection to the golf industry, we need your help. Regulation changes may threaten our livelihoods, so we must stay abreast of current trends. I know we all have demands on our time from families to jobs and hopefully some downtime, but please carve out some time to become involved with your associations on some level. Get your course signed up for Rounds 4 Research. Participate in chapter meetings. Volunteer for your local board. Respond to Action Alerts. Take the G.C. BMP certification exam. Numbers count. Many efforts take very little time and can pay huge dividends.

Our BMP certification program is up and running. In order to forestall any more local fertilizer ordinances that may affect our industry, the FGCSA, GCSAA, USGA and UF/IFAS, with the support of the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, have produced an excellent, voluntary certification exam and education program based on the Golf Course BMP manual. Our aim is to stay ahead of local regulations and build relationships with legislators and regulators. We ask you to attend one education day immediately followed by an exam. The second class and exam will be given at the FTGA Conference and Show in Orlando Sept. 26. Future sessions will be held in various sites throughout the state during the coming year. CEUs have been approved for PDI, CGCS and Florida pesticide licenses.

FGCSA representatives continue to work with our allied associations on local fertilizer ordinances with Martin County



Nancy Miller, CGCS President

the latest target. We are also working with the allies to oppose changes to pesticide-use statutes that would eliminate some critical-use products from use on urban open spaces such as golf courses, sports fields, parks, etc.

The GCSAA has assumed the reins and opened participation in the Rounds 4 Research fund-raising venture originally developed by the Carolinas GCSA. Be sure to read the information on our FGCSA website or emails from Ralph Dain on how important and easy it is to sign up your course to participate in the program. Your course simply donates a round (or rounds) of golf to be auctioned off online. Proceeds are donated to GCSAA chapters, which the course designates. The chapter then donates the proceeds to research facilities at the chapter's discretion. It's a win-win situation. Golfers get to play their dream course while donating to turfgrass science!

I also want to thank our FGCSA Industry Partners and advertisers for their continuing support of our members and our mission. Your support allows us to reach out and educate golfers, legislators and regulators. We ask all superintendents to encourage anyone doing business with them that is not already in the program to call our association manager, Jennifer Bryan, at 800-732-6053 for details on how they too can become an Industry Partner.

Get in the habit of visiting our website: www.floridagcsa.com for a complete roundup of news and events around the state. There are links to all chapters so you can connect to everyone with a few simple clicks.

In closing, thanks to Mark Kann for being an excellent president last year. Mark and the BMP committee of Ralph Dain, Todd Lowe, Dr. Laurie Trenholm and Mike Thomas worked tirelessly on BMP certification, which we are now presenting to you.

I'm looking forward to a great year and I'm honored to work with the current board of directors and to represent you.