

The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: 17th hole Miami Beach Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.

FOREWORDS

Progress, Presentations and Participation

They say time flies when you're having fun. I also know that time flies when you are busy. That's exactly how my year as president of the FGCSA has been: fun and busy. I set out with a few goals that I wanted to accomplish and I hope that even if those goals are not accomplished by the time my term ends in August, we at least will have a solid plan moving forward to complete them.

One main project we worked on diligently over this past year was the Golf BMP Certification Program. I cannot express my appreciation enough to all of those individuals who played such a vital role in helping to get the program up and running, especially Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Sunderman who prepared the final detailed draft of the program.

It was a long and tedious process to get where we are today, but we made huge progress. At our last FGCSA Board of Directors' Meeting in May, the program was unanimously approved. We will schedule regional seminars throughout the year to provide opportunities for all members and individuals in the industry to become certified in the Golf BMPs. We are working with the FTGA to offer the program at the FTGA Conference and Show in September.

This year I had the privilege of presenting several awards to some outstanding individuals who made significant contributions to our association and industry. Bill Kistler received the Distinguished Service Award for his numerous years of service on the West Coast GCSA, FGCSA BOD including his service as president of the FGCSA.

Dr. Jerry Sartain received the Marie Roberts Lifetime Service Award for his extensive work in the field of soil and water management for turfgrass. Many of the fertilizer recommendations included in the Golf Course BMP Manual were from the work that Dr. Sartain has done during his 37 years as a professor at the University of Florida.

Also receiving the Marie Roberts Lifetime Service Award, much to his surprise, was Joel Jackson. Joel's accomplishments, work ethic, and passion for the FGCSA, golf and turfgrass industries go without speaking. He has been a constant



Mark Kann,
FGCSA President

ambassador for this association for many years and I cannot express the appreciation and admiration that I have for Joel. Congratulations again to all of the recipients of this year's awards.

Starting in January 2013, Joel Jackson will be reducing his role with the FGCSA and will step down as the FGCSA's executive director after 14 years of dedicated service in that position. Joel has indicated his desire to reduce his responsibilities with the association and begin his retirement process. However, he will remain in place as editor of the Florida Green and will contribute to the Green Sheet and Website.

The FGCSA will begin a search for a new executive director and, during that time, we will be relying more heavily on the FGCSA BOD and Jennifer to keep the association moving forward and keep communication flowing. I know that everyone will miss all of Joel's e-mails, but I am confident that he will transition from that aspect of his job slowly! You can never say you were not informed of something happening in our industry. If you weren't aware, then you didn't read your e-mail!

I have been fortunate over the last year as president to work with some extraordinary individuals that have often made my job much easier. In particular, I would like to thank the current officers, directors and staff of the FGCSA for all of their hard work, time, and energy. I have been pleasantly surprised by everyone's involvement in helping us continue to improve as an organization and remain a leader in the golf course industry. We spent a lot of time and energy over this past year looking at the inner workings of our association and we made some good plans moving forward for the future. We need to continue working together to accomplish the goals of the association.