



Mark Kann,
President

is finalizing a presentation that will incorporate much of the information needed for certification. The test for certification in the Golf BMPs is broken down into three sections. Superintendents will have the option of taking each section separately or all at once. Keep in mind that to take the full training and test in a day will take about 7-8 hours. It is our hope that, by the time you receive this issue, some superintendents will have had the opportunity to become certified through the process. The Seven Rivers GCSA will be sponsoring one of the first events that will provide a full day of Golf BMP training and testing on March 22. The session will take place at the University of Florida Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra. I hope everyone is taking advantage of the work on government relations being done by numerous individuals. The GCSAA has been extremely diligent at sending out action alerts and form letters that can be quickly filled out and sent to the appropriate legislators. Thank you to Chava McKeel and Ralph Dain from the GCSAA for their efforts on many of the issues affecting the Florida GCSA. I know that Ralph has made a great impact by attending chapter meetings and allowing members to email the letters at those meetings. We try not to bombard our membership with emails, so when you see an email from the FGCSA, please be sure to read it. We are only as strong as our membership, so please take the time to act when action is needed. Every letter counts!

Happy New Year

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. I am sure there was quite a bit of money spent on presents, a great deal of food and drink consumed, and by now, even a few New Year's resolutions have already been broken.

Over the next few months there are a great deal of educational opportunities. The FTGA will be holding its Turf Seminars throughout the state. These seminars present a great opportunity to obtain some PDI points and CEU's, especially Core CEU's. For those able to make the trip, the GCSAA Educational Conference and GIS will be held in Las Vegas at the end of February. The event will include numerous educational seminars, workshops, peer interactions as well as the trade show.

We will be hosting the Florida Reception in the Jet Night Club at the Mirage Hotel on Thursday night, March 1. I can't promise that we will have all the fireworks we had last year, but there will be some great food, drinks, and fun!

The GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic will be held the week before the GCSAA Conference and Show. Good luck to the Florida Chapter Team of Steve Bernard, Bob Harper, Steve Wright, and Deron Zandt. There are new incentives this year to play in the event that will benefit GCSAA-affiliated Chapters. The first is the Chapter Team Competition which will split 75 percent of the entry fees between the gross and net winning teams' chapters. Second, the Toro Company has agreed to pay chapters \$200 per registered participant who has not played in the last two GCSAA Championships. There is no limit to the number of participants per chapter. Both incentives are great ways to make some money for your chapter.

We are continuing to make great progress with the Golf BMP certification process. We received a letter of accreditation from the Department of Environmental Protection in November. The BMP Testing Committee has met often and

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