



## FIELD OBSERVATIONS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN FLORIDA AND KANSAS



By *Ralph K. Dain Jr.*,  
GCSAA Regional Representative Florida

I just received an email from Joel Jackson reminding me my column is due today (June 4), so he can edit and submit it for publication. Unfortunately for me I'm boarding a flight to Kansas. Talk about an instant case of writer's block!

All my thoughts are crashing into one another, much like the passengers on this very turbulent flight. And if the person in front of me leans back any further, I will be able to identify them from their dental work. But, I must push on.

Today's turbulence reminds me of how the weather impacts all of us in our work and, in the case of the rash of Midwest tornadoes, our lives and property. I am grateful we have been spared the consequence of such severe storms.

Florida has experienced its share of work-related inclement weather thus far this year. I recently participated in the Palm Beach Chapter's Future of Golf Event. I was overwhelmed by the rainfall totals that superintendents reported. I heard ranges of 31-34 inches in April and May and around 12-14 inches in the week prior to that event.

These totals don't make national headlines. They do, however, have an impact on revenue, daily course grooming and our summer renovation and construction projects.

I remember from my superintendent days that too often our seasonal members didn't understand how weather events impacted or delayed course maintenance operations. Back

sand was so inconsistent!

I want you to know that the GCSAA and FGCSA exist to assist you with information that will help your golfers better understand the impacts and resulting conditions. GCSAA has been instrumental in conveying such information to the public in situations like Hurricane Sandy and the recent tornadoes in Oklahoma. We also have been able to offer members financial assistance as well.

I am proud of the way that our field staff has been able to observe firsthand the needs of our members and help gather funds or other resources that are needed to get them through the most difficult times. The assistance that our Northeast regional representative, Kevin Doyle, provided in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy was impressive.



That same support is available to all our members. If you find yourself in need of assistance, do not hesitate to reach to me, the GCSAA, or the FGCSA. Our mission is truly "to serve our members and advance their careers."

I am hopeful that we have a quiet summer

and everyone is able to complete his or her summer projects without undue delays. If you do run into some problems and need help, give me call!

in 2004, they did ask about the hundreds of missing trees thanks to Hurricanes Florence and Jeanne, but at the same time they couldn't understand why the bunker

**Burrows** +  
*Turfgrass Services*



**= Accurate Information For Continued Success...**

**Laboratory Analytical Services - Environmental Testing - Compliance**

**Mark Burrows**  
(772) 215-1816

**Brett Harris**  
(407) 433-4907