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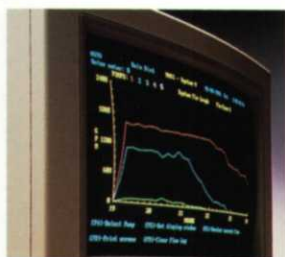
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*About the use of trade names:* The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.

# The Florida Green

Official Voice of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association

Published four times a year:

On the twenty-fifth of January, April, July, and October

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$20 for four issues. Contact the FGCSA office.

**ADVERTISING:** For rates and information, contact the FGCSA office at 800-732-6053

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The Florida Green is published with the assistance of Janlark Communications, Inc.

Publication Manager ..... Larry Kieffer

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208-B South Main St. • P.O. Box 336 • Auburndale, FL 33823  
 941-967-1385 Fax 941-967-4553

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By the time you read this article, my term as president of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association will have come to an end. I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am to have served this past year as the leader of

what is truly a great organization. The correspondence throughout my term with other people in and out of industry sector proves that there is a great deal of respect for the FGCSA, and these relationships must continue to grow and nurture. I leave office knowing that Dale Kuehner, CGCS, will continue to enhance these relationships and do a fine job as President for this upcoming year. Dale, I wish you great success during your term.

There are a couple of thoughts that I would like to leave with all of you. First, the relationship between the FGCSA and the FTGA needs to be strengthened. A friendship exists between the two associations, and some common interests and strategies are in place, but overall our alliance can greatly improve. Too many times independent actions are being discussed and finalized without the other organization being actively involved in the decision process. Joint committee work will solve this problem. It has been discussed before between the two groups, and now it is time to implement this idea.

Also, there are currently some superintendents out there questioning the FTGA on actions the association has taken recently. I want to ask those superintendents who withhold their support for the FTGA if they really know and understand what happened in the past, why changes were made within their association, and what the mission of the FTGA is at this time. If you do not know these answers, ask an FTGA board member and stop criticizing their association. The “hearsay” stories on the street need to stop. Join an FTGA committee and air a voice instead of spreading ill-mannered comments that have no merit.

Along these same lines, our association needs more interaction on FGCSA committees. This past year participation in committee work was disappointing. As much talent as there is among the superintendents in this state, our committee work should net a lot of positive results. Decisions are to be made in committee with recommendations from the committee coming to the board for board approval. This is not happening, folks! The FGCSA needs more participation from its members.

The issues that the FGCSA is dealing with today sets the tone for our future as superintendents as well as others entering the field. These issues, such as water conservation, water quality, environmental regulations, product analysis, cultural practices, education, turf studies, scholastic awards and public relations are just a few of the many issues that the FGCSA is actively involved in. And there are more — many more — issues that demand our attention. To continue to be the leaders that we are, it is imperative that the FGCSA find a way to address these concerns. Proactive, not reactive, is the manner in which our association needs to operate. Increased participation from our membership will ensure that the FGCSA remains proactive. I would hope everyone agrees.

In closing, I will say one thing. What a year! Thanks go to everyone who supported me through a year that had some bizarre twists to it at times. I am a firm believer that everything happens for a reason, and this belief was definitely applied to a few situations that occurred during the year. One of those situations led to my new position with International Golf Management. The responsibilities that I have with IGM allow me to remain a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. They will also allow me to do something else that I will truly love doing, and that is assisting other superintendents in their professional development. My father was an educator for many years, and I guess a part of me has always wanted to be one, too. What a great world in which we live!

*What a great world we live in!*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Greg Plotner, CGCS  
President  
FGCSA



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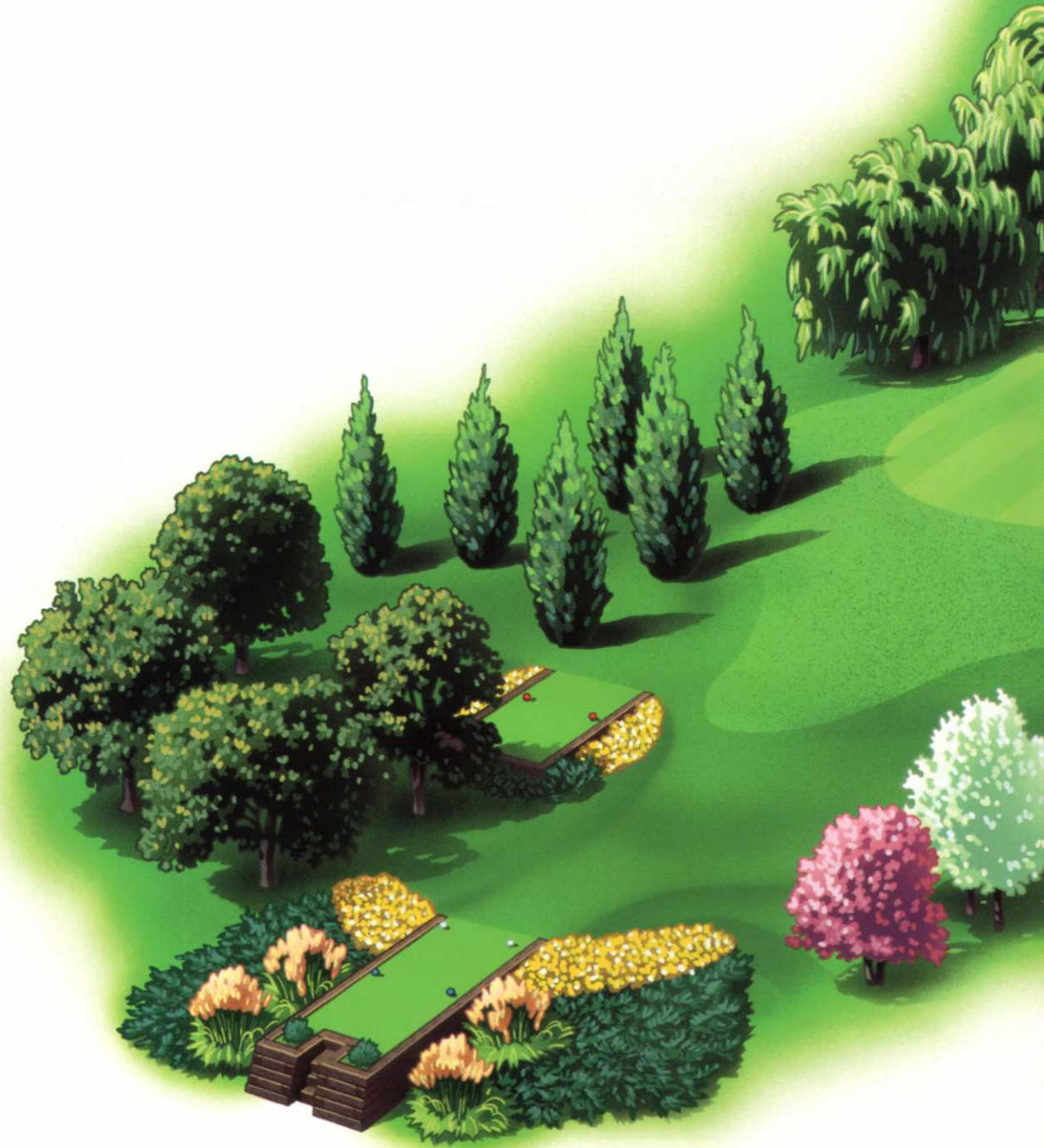


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Rick Wise, CGCS wears many hats and almost as many logos (PGA of America, PGA Club at the Reserve and GCSAA) for the PGA of America golf complex in St. Lucie, Florida. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## A funny thing happened on the way to The Poa



From left, Joel Jackson and Kevin Downing representing The Florida Green join Mike Graham and George Cogsdell from the Fort Pierce newspaper at the media day for the opening of the PGA Reserve's South Course. Photo courtesy of the PGA of America.

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

Two weeks before the Poa Annuu Classic, I received a call from Sherry Major, Public Relations Manager for the PGA of America. A copy of the latest Florida Green had just crossed her desk, and she called to see if *The Florida Green* would like to send a couple of folks to participate in the media day being held for the grand opening of the South Course of the new PGA Club at the Reserve. I had read an article in *Golf Course News* about this new venture and how the superintendent, Rick Wise, CGCS wore three logos on his golf shirt (GCSAA, PGA of America and The PGA Club) signifying the unity of purpose of this new operation. I was very interested in talking to him and seeing the new course. A few phone calls later and I had drafted Kevin Downing, CGCS, from nearby Willoughby GC in Stuart as my playing partner. Since the event was just one day ahead of my planned departure for the Poa, I took an extra day's leave and headed south.

I found that sleepy, laid back St. Lucie, Florida has just been put on the golf map for good! The PGA of America has moved into town, purchased the St. Lucie West course and has just developed a 36 hole

complex at the Reserve based on the Fazio Design Group's imagination. Tom, Jan Beljan and Steve Masiak have dreamed up a Carolina/Florida one-two punch that will test your skill and please your eye. The rolling, piney Carolina-look North Course with undulating greens stresses the short game while the coastal, marshy, wetland South Course requires more attention to driving and approach strategies.

The goal of PGA Properties, Inc. is to develop a chain of courses across the country that will provide public access golf to top notch golf courses at affordable prices. The PGA Club's rates for this year were \$49 during the winter and \$25 for the summer with even more specials for late afternoon and junior golfers. This first venture has been challenging and rewarding for all concerned, and especially from our perspective for Rick Wise, CGCS Turf Operations Manager.

Wise has been busy sprucing up the recently acquired St. Lucie West course just one mile east of the new PGA Club and overseeing construction and grow-in of the new 36 hole complex. Wise was assisted in this monumental task by: Su-

perintendents, Barry Lezark at The PGA Club and Mike Vannoy at St. Lucie West; Assistant Superintendent Clay Marshall at The PGA Club; Shop Manager Brian Layle, Irrigation Tech Stephan Deek, IPM Tech Mike Adams and Administrative Assistant Jackie Harris.

Wise said, "People have been looking at me this past year and a half, shaking their heads and asking if I was crazy! We started construction on the North Course in late '94 and got shutdown by bad weather in January 1995. We finally started planting in June of '95 and we replanted and we replanted while trying to start construction on the South Course. You know what kind of summer we had! We finished planting the South Course in November of '95 and there was much discussion of the pro's and con's about trying to oversee so we could open this winter. Realizing we would likely have to deal with a rough first year grow-in transition and keep explaining why the condition of the South Course was so far behind the North, the PGA agreed it was better to complete the bermuda grow-in and postpone opening till now. They bit the bullet and it has paid off in a much