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Ready or not here they come! With the North getting cold weather and early snowfalls and Florida being mostly dry and sunny, this looks to be an excellent year for Florida golf courses.

*Here they
come!
Are you
ready?*

The fall has always been my favorite time of the year. The cool mornings, mild days, and the changing license plate colors say winter is approaching. This is the time of year when driving becomes a contact sport and shopping is a test of patience.

Since the summer of '96 was a picnic compared to the summer of '95, golfers will be in for a treat at their favorite courses.

This winter will provide a lot of opportunities for continuing education. In February the GCSAA will be holding its conference and show in Las Vegas. This is an event that should not be missed.

The conference allows superintendents to learn all the latest information and see the newest products for golf course management in one place. The FGCSA will be holding its state reception on Sunday, February 9. Look for more information in the mail. In March the South Florida chapter will be hosting its annual Turfgrass Expo in conjunction with the IFAS Field Day.

This event showcases equipment

from the major manufactures and allows you to compare them side by side at the Fort Lauderdale Research Station. The proceeds from this event support the research green at Fort Lauderdale.

During April the USGA will be holding its regional conferences in West Palm Beach and Orlando. The USGA program is an excellent one to invite your greens committee chairman or club manager to attend.

I am proud to announce that the state association has completed the GCSAA affiliation process. We received our certificate from the national after our November board meeting. By the time you read this, most if not all the local chapters will have also completed the affiliation procedure.

This past November I had the pleasure of attending the Florida Golf Summit in Tallahassee. The meeting was sponsored by the Florida Sports Foundation and included people involved with every facet of the golf industry.

I want to thank Tim Hiers for the excellent job he did at the economics and environmental roundtable discussions. We were able to meet a lot of important people at this event and hopefully were able to educate them about the importance of supporting turfgrass research.

Only time will tell if we were truly successful.

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**



Dale Kuehner, CGCS
President
FGCSA

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We are never too old to learn, and one of the best ways to learn is to ask questions!

In my eighteen-plus years of working in Florida, the one thing I've learned is to always ask questions.

Asking Questions

I have listened to and talked with a lot of people over the years who have said, "I wonder how he or she did this or that to their course, or why they did it." I have played a lot of golf courses in Florida

and around the country. I also see things I might like to try at my club or at least learn more about.

FORE!



Joe Ondo, CGCS
Vice President
FGCSA

When I have a question, I try to make it a point to ask that person after I play the course at a chapter meeting or to call later to find out about whatever caught my eye.

It could be a maintenance practice, a landscape planting or anything unusual that stood out while I played the course. I have been fortunate to work for and get to know a lot of superintendents in our profession who have helped me in

my career by sharing answers to my questions.

A word of caution. Be careful about what you say if you see a fertilizer burn or sprayer mistake. Some people are reluctant to discuss the bad things that happen. If you mention you have had a similar problem at your club, then it might be easier to bring up the subject in conversation.

There's another wrinkle to asking questions. I play a lot of tournament golf and I am often paired with members of various clubs. When they find out I'm a superintendent, they start asking why their superintendent does this or that.

If it is a simple question about grass types or weed identification, then I'll answer. But, I always tell them to ask their superintendent why he maintains the course a certain way, or why an area is a problem.

We are never too old to learn, and one of the best ways to learn is to ask questions!

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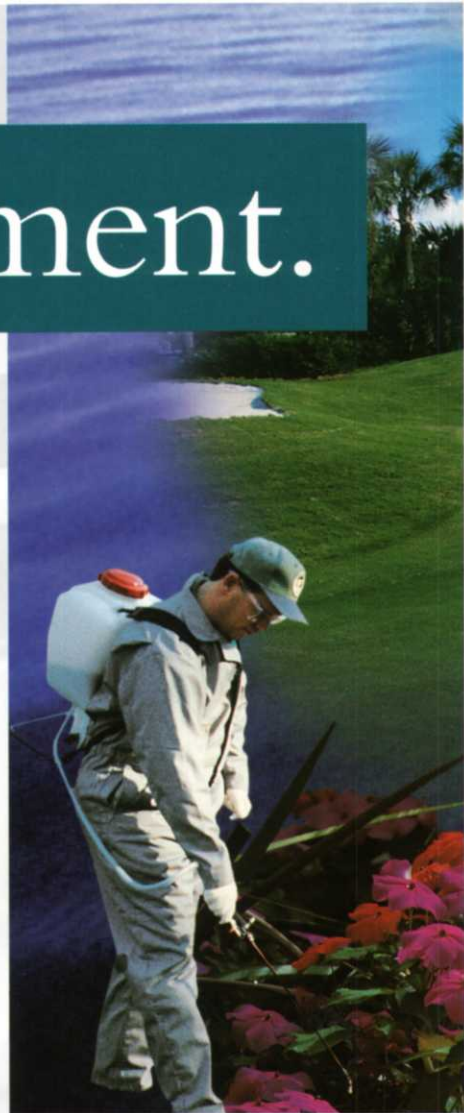
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