

**A**s golf associations come together to address issues facing the golf industry, I'm excited about the potential of "We Are Golf." I'm seeing signs of a trickle down effect, as evidenced by some state allied association activities.

This year, the Florida Club Managers Association of America's Southern Region held two meetings on Florida's southwest and southeast coasts. During their conferences they held an allied association panel discussion on golf issues. It was interesting to hear the various topics of concern, and it was refreshing when some of those issues shared common ground with golf course maintenance.

The Hotel and Restaurant Association panelist discussed the H-2B workers visa issue, which the GCSAA has been tracking, along with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Numeric Nutrient Criteria. I commented on the fact that golf maintenance has other water, fertilizer and pesticide issues that clubs should also call to the attention of their memberships. Members may then be motivated to write and call their senators, congressional representatives and local commissioners. Members certainly have a vested interest in course conditions, and they could be important advocates, building support among their social and business contacts.

I also attended two public meetings hosted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in August. One meeting was on nutrient standards as Florida deals with EPA's Numeric Nutrient Criteria edict; the other was a peer review committee meeting on dissolved oxygen (DO) as an indicator of water body impairment. They had quite a panel of Ph.D.s around the table, including various experts on fresh and marine waters in disciplines like ecology and chemistry.

What impressed me the most was the Department of Environmental Protection's use of realistic scientific principles to identify and correct any impaired waters. One interesting fact was that Florida's and many other states'

## Meetings of the Minds

BY JOEL JACKSON



IT WAS INTEREST-  
ING TO HEAR THE  
VARIOUS TOPICS  
OF CONCERN, AND  
REFRESHING WHEN  
SOME OF THOSE  
ISSUES SHARED  
COMMON GROUND  
WITH GOLF COURSE  
MAINTENANCE.

current DO standard of 5.0 mg/liter of DO was based on a study done in Canada in the 1970s. The numerical standard was based on the study of salmonoid species in Canadian waters. Where's the salmon in the Sunbelt?

Florida's Department of Environmental Protection spent the last 10 to 12 years sampling pristine water bodies and waters near population centers. As a result, the department has found that Florida's lakes and streams have thriving populations of flora and fauna at average levels of 2.1 to 2.8 mg/liter of DO. The level fluctuates with the seasonal leaf litter, sunlight intensity and animal disturbances.

Some city and county officials and members of the Sierra Club in attendance were frustrated by the amount of time it takes to study and classify the various water bodies. It takes money to monitor, sample, test and compare results while state budgets suffer, but we don't need to rush to judgment either.

Back to golf associations and future collaboration. I took the opportunity to congratulate the attendees at the CMAA function for their aggressive 5-step career education program and remind them that superintendents also have continuing education requirements to be Class A and certified golf course superintendents. I said they need to encourage and support their superintendents' dues and education expenses and participate at all levels — including local, state and national levels.

Positive, productive meetings of the minds take place whenever superintendents and other professionals gather and network at meetings and events. I look forward to networking with you in Las Vegas at the 2012 Golf Industry Show.

---

*Certified superintendent Joel Jackson is Executive Director of the Florida GCSA.*