LONGTIME COLLABORATION WITH PGMS GARNERS GOLD AWARD FOR APPA

I had the distinct honor to represent APPA to receive the 2015 Gold Award presented by the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) at its annual awards dinner on October 23, 2015. I was delighted to receive the award from John Burns of the University of Texas Austin, who just completed his year as PGMS president and has been a longtime APPA and PGMS member.

APPA was selected to receive the PGMS Gold Award “in recognition of outstanding and long-term achievements and contributions to the green industry.” But that barely tells the story of APPA’s 20-year collaboration with PGMS.

In the mid-1990s APPA and PGMS entered into a strategic partnership agreement, wherein we shared memberships with each other’s association offices, attended each other’s conferences, and explored ways to share resources and assistance on publications, conferences, and workshops.

When APPA decided to follow up its success of the original Custodial Staffing Guidelines publication with similar books focusing on grounds and maintenance, PGMS became a natural partner in the development and co-authorship of the grounds edition, published in 2001.

The 2011 second edition of the Grounds book had additional input from PGMS contributors, including editor-in-chief Tom Flood of Elon University, past PGMS president Ellen Newell of Arizona State University, and others.

In addition, PGMS members have developed a powerful Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation program that we highlighted in the March/April 2015 issue of Facilities Manager. In 2014 PGMS awarded its first accreditations to the College of Wooster, University of California Davis, and the University of Delaware. At the same awards program at which APPA won the Gold Award, both Georgia Tech and Western Michigan University achieved PGMS accreditation.

These are just a few of the ways in which APPA has collaborated with our colleagues at PGMS, and we plan additional efforts in the future. There are many other associations and organizations with whom APPA collaborates, and plans to collaborate more deeply, as we support the new Strategic Plan 2020. No one person, or one organization, can do it all by themselves. It takes continued and nurtured collaboration that benefits all parties to achieve their goals for their respective members and constituents. APPA looks forward to our continued collaborations with other great associations.