

THRU THE GREEN

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

When things go well, we are doing our job and expected to move on to the next problem, real or imagined. This is about something that went well, so congratulations are in order. The Superintendent/Pro held July 13th at Lake Merced Country club was by all accounts a good time had by all. Our Association would like to take this opportunity to thank Lou Tonelli and his staff for the excellent conditions and the work it took to host our tournament. The Members of Lake Merced are appreciated for allowing us to use their truly wonderful golf club. Thanks is also given to all the participants who turned out to test their skills or endurance in this tournament. Ross Brownlie is congratulated for winning our Associations highest honor for golfing excellence, the Ayrshire Trophy. As a three time winner of the award, Ross has established himself as the finest stick in the organization.

The person who also deserves a great deal of thanks is Mike Basile for all the fine work it took to put the tournament together and make it work. I am sure Mike is very relieved that it went well and is completed. We will give him about a month to rest on his laurels and begin preparing for next years tournament.

Expect to be receiving information soon regarding the upcoming Institute sponsored by U.C. Cooperative Extension and the GCSANC. It will be held at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, the 11th and 12th of November. The weather will be perfect and the classes informative. This will be the fourth Institute and we hope to make it one of the finest of its kind in the country. The inspiration for the Institute is to recreate the extraordinary series of conferences held at Asilomar from 1973 through 1979. These conferences were sponsored by the University of California and the NCGA. The intent was to bring together as

many of the Superintendents in all of California and the turfgrass experts within the University of California for a week of mutual instruction in the science and the art of golf course maintenance. I was able to attend five of these conferences. The instruction received and the friends I made have proved invaluable to me over the years. Anyone who attended these conferences will tell you that the give and take between teachers and students and between fellow superintendents left us all as better superintendents. For those of you that missed the opportunity to attend a conference at Asilomar I would highly recommend that you attend. It is truly a special place.

Early bird registration packets have already arrived for the National, I mean International Golf course Conference and Show. I was a Superintendent for twelve years before I ever attended by first GCSAA Conference, since then I have only missed one. I feel that conference attendance including four days of seminar classes is required to maintain the skills necessary to do my job in a professional manner. Every year the changes in equipment and technology have made advances which require first hand knowledge to stay abreast of the changes in our field. Any golf course which is not requiring attendance of this conference the the Superintendent is certainly penny wise, pound foolish.

Rod

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