

## THRU THE GREEN

## EDITOR

Randy Gai, CGCS

## OFFICE

Barbara Mikel - Exec. Sec'y  
550 Main St., Ste G  
PO Box 3360  
Diamond Springs, CA  
95619  
PHONE: 916/626-0931  
FAX: 916/626-5132

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## PUBLISHER

DJ King  
King & Company  
10928 Caminito Alto  
San Diego, CA 92131  
619/566-3400  
FAX 619/566-3555

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have just returned from Lake Tahoe where I attended the joint meeting with the Sierra Nevada GCSA. Congratulations for a job well done to Steve Siebel, golf course superintendent, for having the course in such great shape -- although that is the norm rather than the exception. Also, to the 12 SNGCSA Ryder Cup players who "took apart" our own "Nor Cal" players in the first "Ryder Cup Match" between the two associations. Thanks to Jim Ferrin, CGCS, and the entire SNGCSA for hosting the joint meeting. It certainly was an enjoyable day meeting, playing and interacting with those from SNGCSA. Also as part of the day's program was an interesting presentation by Armen Suny on preparing your course for

a major tournament. Mr. Suny is a former superintendent at Cherry Hills and Castle Pines both in Colorado; currently he is a golf course consultant.

Mr. Suny wrote an article in *The Seed Researcher* this past summer entitled "The Possible Future Of Golf Course Maintenance." Many of his futuristic ideas seemed bizarre at first viewing, but most seemed very credible once the cranium took over. For example, could the injection of gasses through a USGA-type drainage system in a putting green cause the green to be better? Could irrigation water temperature be adjusted to extend the cycle of seasonal grasses whether it be hot or cold? Will all weed control be done with Roundup? If Roundup-resistant grasses are devel-

oped, poa annua and all other weeds could easily be controlled. Apparently this is underway in agriculture crops already. Plant breeding brings other advancements to us, such as the seeds resistant to insects because of endophytes, not to mention developments in disease resistance.

It is mind boggling as one tries to think these thoughts through, but it just goes to show we must keep our minds open to potential new technological advances as we encounter the day-to-day successes and failures of our job.

I will be happy to send a copy of Mr. Suny's article to anyone who has not seen it.

See you on the tee,  
Randy Gai, CGCS  
President

## Don't Miss These Important Workshops

GCSAA and GCSANC will hold joint seminars at the Hilton in Pleasanton on December 15 and 16

**Dec. 15 - Turfgrass Stress Management**  
**Dec. 16 - Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control**

Contact GCSAA for more information 800/472-7878. You should have received information and registration materials by now. If not, please contact GCSAA or GCSANC to request them.

## Quote of the Month

*Reprinted from GCSAA Government Relations Briefing*

"Along with the growth of golf clubs has gone the improvement in architecture and conditions of turf. Maintenance methods and machinery which were accepted as the best even five years ago, are many of them obsolete today. Golfers expect the fairways of 1931 to be as perfect a turf surface as were the putting greens of twenty years ago. The demand for excellence of playing surface on golf courses nowadays is such that new methods have had to be found in order to maintain grass to withstand what Mother Nature never intended to ask of it."

From Golf Course Common Sense  
by G.A. Farley  
published in 1931