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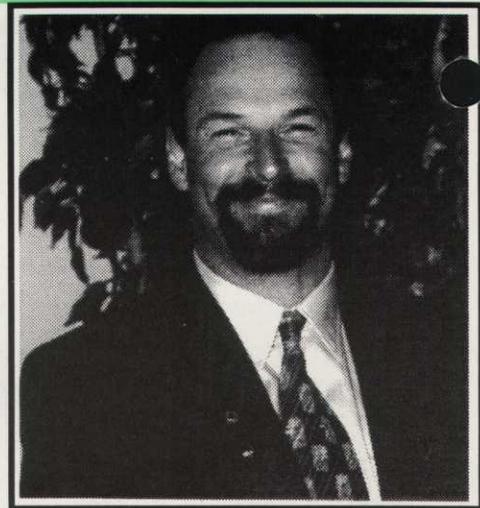
THRU THE GREEN

From The President

The annual meeting has come and gone and the transition to the latest edition of the Board of Directors is complete. Congratulations to Terry Grasso, Ken Williams, CGCS and Craig Kilcoyne for their commitment to our Association. The remaining one year Director term vacated by Forrest Arthur has been appointed to Mike Nunemacher. Mike will continue to chair the Membership Committee. The remaining committee assignments will be published after our first board meeting. The Board is very enthusiastic about the coming year. I know they will be working hard to find members willing to give of their time to help with our direction and programs.

Involvement is a word that will be used over and over this year. It is nothing new, it does not reappear with El Niño, but it is the cornerstone to any successful volunteer effort. Our Association has no paid employees. We contract with one company for most of our business operation and the rest of the work is done by members that have stepped forward to be part of the solutions. In 65 years we have initiated some wonderful programs such as the scholarship and research programs. They may not have been original ideas but someone started them within this group. The anniversary meeting at Fort Ord last August touched on how much we remain creatures of habit. We still complain about meeting prices and golf pairings yet we continue to want more and we maintain a very low average of participation.

With the help of this Board, I hope to generate more enthusiasm about what we do as an organization. Our 600 members each have their own sources of information, perspectives and experiences. Our industry is very close knit, we should be working together in some way to make our industry and profession better for everyone. The



Dave Davies, CGCS

effort does not have to be monumental but a small effort by everyone will go a long way. We are faced with very real problems in this industry. Pesticide regulation, emission controls, noise regulations, customer expectation and public perception continue to influence everything we do. One united voice from this group will be more easily heard than a quiet side-bar from a few individuals.

Thank you, Craig Bestrom, from the San Jose Mercury News, for your column in the Golf Extra on April 9. Craig was able to join us at Castlewood and spoke with a number of the attendees on the latest industry trends. He is always looking for information for his weekly column. Maintenance issues, human interest stories from your facility, anyone have a local qualifier pursuing a spot in the Open?

Enough preaching for this month. I have 11 more opportunities. I am committed to finding the directions and solutions that this membership wants. Enjoy the drier weather as we work toward summer and remember to keep that sense of humor it's critical.

Did You Know

Gasoline-powered leaf blowers would be regulated by the State of California under S.B. 1651. All blowers sold and those in use for commercial purposes after January 1, 2000, could not exceed set maximum noise levels. The bill would establish a trade-in program for blowers that do not meeting the state standards. Violation of the law would result in fines ranging from \$100 to \$500 for each infraction.