

The light is beginning to shine at the end of another season's tunnel. Very soon will be the Institute and the close of another season. I'm sure this is a comforting thought to those of you battling water restrictions. Hopefully 2009 will bring adequate rain - in a gentle form.

Speaking of water, and the industry's most important issue to date, you should plan on attending the Institute at The Course Wente At Vineyards this year. We will discuss water and energy conservation, two things guaranteed to affect your decision making and bottom line. There are a bevy of informed speakers scheduled from various water districts and PG&E. Not only will you get the chance to play a beautiful course, but also you will have information to leverage on your budget dollars for the remainder of this year and the upcoming years.

The Board decided at a special August Newsletter meeting to switch to a web-hosted format. The switch will ideally take place around January but there are still details to work out. It will create significant savings that can be put into other member-oriented services. We are also gathering cost estimates to create our own website and online directory. The printing and shipping costs of the current directory are huge. A savings there would represent an opportunity to have significant cash assets to apply to other areas and allow your association to investigate services we previously could not offer.

Lastly, most superintendents would agree that one of our greatest strengths is our commitment to helping those in our association. On our dues renewal forms is an opt-in box for our benevolence fund that gives us the opportunity to provide modest, but important support to members in need or worthy organizations. For those of you that donate, thank you! Please know that a donation was recently made to a GCSANC member who suffered a family tragedy. Having this kind of fund and the commitment of the BOD to use it, made me proud to be the association's representative of giving. Not only was I able to convey money, but the thoughts and prayers of some 450 members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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OFFICE NOTES

Barb Mikel

GCSANC Association Manager

By this time, all of our members have received a written request to provide the association with a preferred method of receiving communications. For those of you have responded so promptly, thanks!

But many have neglected to get this information back to me. I know it's a busy time of the year but please search it out the next time you visit that place where we all file the "I'll get to it later" items. And please mail it, fax it, or scan/email it back to me. With so many ways to communicate, we are trying to 1) get information to you in a format you want, 2) reduce the association's cost of duplicate mailing, email and faxing and 3) transition away from paper and postage costs as quickly as the membership allows. Please help us save valuable resources and become better environmental citizens in the process!

The board voted on July 16 to solicit the electronic publishing of *Thru the Green*. The preliminary search resulted in an excellent company but was not affordable. We will continue to seek an electronic medium that will be available to membership yet offer the ability to produce a printed copy for those wishing to have a "hand held document" to read. I suspect some day in the near future only the very wealthy will be able to afford printed media. We have come almost full circle from times when the Guttenberg printing press made obsolete the copying skills of the monks in various western monasteries.

Last time I wrote a brief description of the Scholarship Research Tournament history as I remembered it. I got a call from Past President Joseph A. Rodriguez, CGCS who was responsible for starting the Scholarship Program for the association and hosting several fund raising events at

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Expect service in high gear.

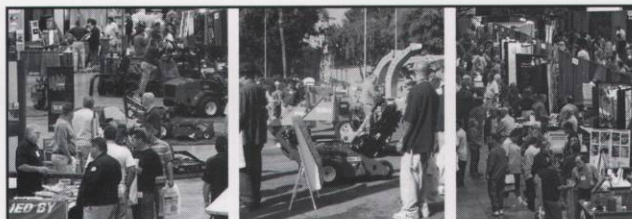


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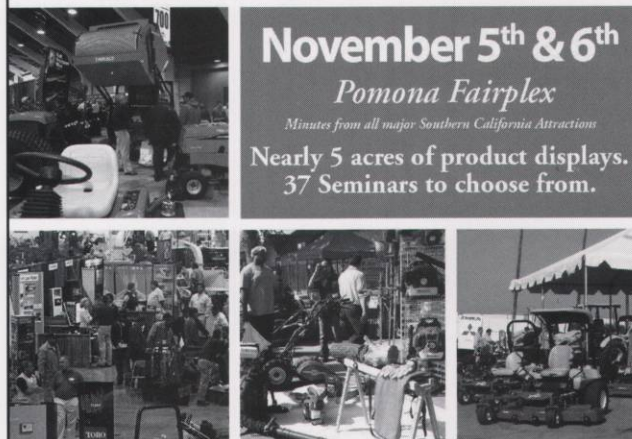
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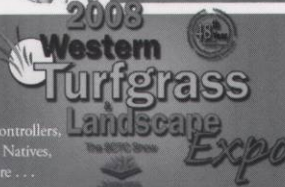
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OFFICE NOTES

Rossmoor. Joe reminded me he set up the first program when donations were made directly to colleges. These colleges then made the awards to deserving turf students or horticultural students. The scope of the program and award was expanded include Research and Education when Blake Swint was President. With formalization and written criteria written by a Scholarship Committee headed by Gary K Carls, CGCS, selection criteria and award structure made awards directly to deserving Northern California students selected by the Scholarship Committee. Expanded and corrected input on the history of this event is welcomed should be forwarded to Ken Williams, CGCS for the next issue of *Thru the Green*.



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