



President's Message By GARY INGRAM, CGCS

2014 looks to be a very challenging year, however, with these challenges comes wonderful opportunities!

One of our biggest challenges this year is to find a new executive manager. As many of you know, after 23 years with our association, Barbara Mikel has decided to start a new chapter in her life. With her patience and expertise, she has guided us into the 21st century. She has seen numerous boards come and go, strategic plans developed, and has continued to keep our association moving forward, relevant and economically stable. We will not be able to replace her, but hopefully we will find someone that will continue in her footsteps.

The Education Committee is working diligently on developing GCSANC educational and networking events for 2014. We plan to continue our successful regional meetings throughout 2014. Collaboration with other associations will be one of our goals as we continue to focus on our relationships with other golf course industry associations. Please check your email for upcoming events and or visit the calendar on our association webpage. Our plans are to continue supporting University of Riverside turf research through the California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation. We will continue to have numerous research projects throughout northern California golf courses. Information on results of these projects may be found on our website.

As I write this article, we still have one month of possible rainfall, but it looks like 2014 will be one of our most challenging water years on record. We have helped organize northern California regional meetings with superintendents, general managers, head professionals, and water district representatives to discuss potential solutions for our communities and industry. If you need the association to help arrange additional regional meetings in your area please, do not hesitate to call and ask for support. Members can now get on the GCSANC website under research/water and get information and webcasts relevant to water issues

As we focus on the current water situation in California, we must start developing long-range plans so we do not continually focus on immediate problems. Numerous other states have created state BMPs that are now being used by governments and communities for water management, nutrient applications, and IPM programs. In these states the golf community has become a major ally in helping them develop programs and regulations. We have started to investigate how the golf industry in California can develop a set of state BMPs so that we can continue to be recognized as leaders in environmental stewardship and natural resource management. If you are interested in being part of this process, please contact me. We welcome your input and support

I personally look forward to 2014 and the opportunity to work with all of you!

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