

## President's Report



Mike Barrett

2014 has been a very busy year thus far. I headed south to Orlando for a couple of weeks to broaden my knowledge of the golf course industry. In January, I attended the PGA Merchandise Show with my Head Golf Professional. We toured the trade show floor at the Orange County Convention Center looking at everything from equipment, apparel, software systems, shoes and golf course and driving range accessories.

In February, I headed back to Orlando for the Golf Industry Show (GIS). The GIS is comprised of the following associations: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, National Golf Foundation (NGF), National Golf Course Owners and Operators (NGCOO), the USGA and the National Association of Golf Course Architects. While there, I took several classes and spent numerous hours on the trade show floor learning about the latest technologies available to our industry professionals. Chris Harriman and I attended the New York Chapter's review of Best Management Practices for the golf course management industry and spent time with GCSAA staff discussing BMP's for our association. I also enjoyed the Chapter President's Breakfast with the GCSAA Board of Directors and CEO, Rhett Evans where the strategic goals were discussed. Breakfast was followed by a great round table discussion about the golf industry and it was reported that attendance and educational seminar participation were both on the increase in 2014.

A short trip across town landed me at the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) National Conference. I was able to take in some additional education, visit another great trade show and engage in some great networking opportunities. While at the show, I learned that one of my very good friends and mentors, Robert G. Paskill, CCM, passed away on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Bob was the General Manager at Argyle that saw something in me and gave me my shot in the industry as a Golf Course Superintendent. Bob supported my decision to obtain Certification and always pushed me to constantly improve myself both personally and professionally. I will miss him very much.

The MAAGCS Annual Educational Conference was once again a huge success thanks to Galen Evans, Steve Evans and our sponsors. It is a tremendous amount of work lining up speakers, assisting with travel arrangements, securing hotel rooms and scheduling meals for our out of town guests. In addition, many hours are spent obtaining GCSAA Continuing Education Units (CEU's), approving Pesticide Re-certification in multiple states and making sure the requirements for Nutrient Management Re-certification are met. This event continues to grow each year and with new laws and requirements headed our way, we are committed to providing our member's quality education and accurate information so that we can keep up with changes in our industry.

The Board of Directors is working hard to provide great value for your membership and implementing programs and services that enhance our profession. If you have any suggestions or comments on how we can improve, please let us know.