

THRU THE GREEN**EDITOR**

Richard Lavine, CGCS
415-454-6450

OFFICE

Barbara Mikel - Exec. Sec'y
550 Main St., Ste G
P.O. Box 3360
Diamond Springs, CA
95619
Phone: (916) 626-0931
Fax: (916) 626-5132

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PUBLISHER
Jo Harlow
Key Publications
Phone: 510-827-9676
Ph/Fax: (510) 674-1688

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From The President

To Aer(ate) Is Human

Fall is my favorite time of the year. The pressure of the past season is behind us. We can actually go out on the course and do some *real* work. Aerification time has always been a time of mixed feelings. I love the work. Ever since my first season in college when we did a fall renovation of the hybrid Bermuda grass lawn at the horticulture unit, aerification has always been special. It's great to see the plugs everywhere, followed by the cleanup, verticutting, seeding, topdressing, dragging and fertilizing. Then sit back and wait for the rejuvenated turf to rise like a phoenix from the ashes. The down side to this whole operation is the renewed pressure to keep this operation up for the weeks it takes to complete the process. Sometimes I feel like a symphony conductor, pointing the baton to start each operation; when it's right, it's like a beautiful symphony. Sometimes I feel more like a juggler, trying to keep six balls in the air, knowing that at any moment the whole act can come crashing down around my feet.

Deep down, I get to snicker a bit when the golfers give me that dirty look. The typical question is, "Why do you always have to do this when the course looks so good?" A couple of analogies that I sometimes offer are those of the farmer and the doctor. Between crops, the farmer plows his field to open the soil for aeration. Core aeration pales in comparison to this, but it's the best we have. When a sick patient enters the hospital, almost invariably the doctor puts the patient on oxygen. That's all we try to do with aerification. It's such an important job, unfortunately it impacts the golfer more than any other routine job that we do.

Obviously, equipment plays a major role in this process. Keep the equipment running, and the job is a breeze. When the equipment fails, the whole operation falls flat. My nomination for the best new piece of equipment in the last six years is the core harvester. What other machine has reduced the labor needed on greens aerification days so much, eliminating the need for at least six men? Honorable mention in the new equipment category goes to the tow behind topdressers and large area tow behind fairway aerifiers. Both are big improvements over their earlier models.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in our very successful Scholarship Tournament. Many thanks to Joe Rodriguez, CGCS and the folks at Rossmoor for hosting us and making their golf course available to us at no cost. Thanks also to our many affiliate members who sponsored this tournament. The affiliate contributions pay for most of the costs associated with this event, leaving most of your entry fees to go directly into our Scholarship Fund. **Please show your support of our affiliate members with your purchasing decisions.** Thank you to our affiliate representatives on the Board, Bob Whittaker and Mike Ligon, for their efforts in this years successful event. And lastly, thank you, our members for your contributions to this event. You should know that our scholarship program would not be successful without your generous contributions.

Have a great fall,
Richard Lavine, CGCS
President

Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

It's getting to be autumn here shortly. In addition to the changes in time and temperature, it is time to tell us of the changes in your life. Dues renewal statements and questionnaires are the most important items to update your personal and career changes. Check the questionnaire very closely and make sure all the information is current. If you need to make corrections, please do so legibly. The forms are small as it is and I may need a new pair of glasses to read them.

We have added the fax phone number listing. We do not circulate the membership directory outside the Association, so we won't be broadcasting your fax number to the world. If you want to let your fellow members know, by all means include it. We also have asked for GCSAA numbers if you are a member of National. You may be eligible for upgrade to Class A or Class B so be sure you include "number of years at current position" information.

Please let your accounting office know we need at least the questionnaire returned with your check. I suggest you might keep a copy for yourself in case it gets "lost in the shuffle" because we cannot renew your membership without the questionnaire.