

## President's message

Global Warming – ha! I don't know about you but I've yet to see any signs of it in 2009. Maybe Mother Nature just received her first copy of Scientific Journal and decided to squash the rumours. After a long drawn out winter we thought it was time to let the snow melt, dust off the equipment and pull the covers for another season. I write this in early May and I've yet to see the temperatures meet the norm for any length of time, not exactly what we wanted to see as we began our journey. Many if not most of us have had our hands full trying to recover from nature's wrath and really didn't need anything else thrown on top of our heaping plates. Economic fears and worries along with the struggles to continue our increasing demands for perfect conditions while cutting our expenses; pesticide bans and IPM accreditation, more paper work and office time to go along with the decreased staffing and dollars. It seems like a pretty bleak picture, doesn't it?

Well the challenge has been thrown! We've all made mention as to how large golf is in the world yet how small and tight knit we are as a group. Never has there been a time to come together and take advantage of our association ties and friendships. It's pretty easy to pick up the phone and call a fellow OGSA member to share thoughts, ideas, worries, concerns and stories. We all need to hold our heads high and show the golf world that the behind the scene bodies are the glue to the game. One of the best catch phrases of our time "if you build it they will come" has never had more meaning both for the game and our association. We've spent many years building our association and the friendships that came along, we've become the true professionals that our predecessors had in mind. Now more than ever we need to make full use of the hard work and come together to show the non-believers that golf is stronger than ever. We've been pushed hard by Mother Nature, the environmental movement and our governing body. Let's show the world what we're made of, let the professional in all of us come out – dedicated individuals with a method to our madness.

May spring turn to summer and the thoughts of full courses reappear to squash Mother Nature and show her who is truly stronger. Now get out there and win one for the duffer!