WATER-SAVING GROUP FORMED

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Thirteen area golf courses last October formed the Greater Monterey Bay Area Golf Course Association in a move to conserve water. It was a prudent move.

An ordinance enacted at that time required mandatory water rationing at 25 percent by golf courses on the Monterey Peninsula.

The association instituted a goal of 27 percent rationing and monitored members' water use regularly.

The 13 member courses averaged more than 40 percent reduction in water use from October through April. Heavy rains last March brought relief from statewide drought, and as of May 1, area courses were no longer subject to mandatory rationing.

Bob Zoller, superintendent at Monterey Peninsula Country Club's two courses and association president, said the group he heads will stay together and pursue methods of further water conservation.

"There is always something good that comes out of adversity," he said. "The water rationing forces us all to take a look at our water usage and figure out ways to cut back.

Four of our member courses — Spyglass Hill, Quail Lodge and Rancho Canada East and West — each spent nearly $1 million retrofitting and updating irrigation systems which ultimately will save thousands of gallons of water yearly.

Other member courses are Pebble Beach Golf Links, The Links at Spanish Bay, Old Del Monte, Poppy Hills, Cypress Point Club, Carmel Valley Ranch and Pacific Grove Municipal Golf Course.

SOUTHEAST

SPECIAL HELP IN COMMUNICATIONS

The recent rash of superintendent job changes in Florida may give credibility to the claim that communication is the No. 1 sin by those in golf course maintenance.

In order to provide its members with techniques and strategies for improving communication skills, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association has scheduled Dr. Bree Hayes, clinical psychologist and motivational speaker from the University of Georgia, to present a seminar on communications at the Crowfoot Open. The seminar will be held at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 4, in the Grand Cypress Conference Center in Orlando.

Hayes has given public relations and public speaking seminars at the GCSCA Conference and Show for several years. While many people initially avoid public speaking, and think public relations is something for the publicity department, Hayes' seminars receive high marks from superintendents who have taken her classes. She provides insights into the art of communicating with others.

This year's seminar entitled "Public Relations" will cover topics such as communicating with your staff, club management and members with regard to demands and criticism; handling the media with regard to negative publicity over pesticide usage and water consumption issues; and your personal and business image.

Pre-registration fee is $100 before Aug. 1 and $150 at the door. The four-hour seminar will be submitted to the GCSCA for .5 CEUs toward certification. The seminar is open to all FGCSA members and guests. An entry to the Crowfoot Open is not required to attend the seminar.

BASS, MEADORS CERTIFIED

Congratulations to Peter Bass and Gary Meadors who are the new Florida superintendents to become certified golf course superintendents.

Bass received an associate's degree from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. Shortly after graduation, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force. Upon returning to the States, he began his professional career in the New York state area — SUNY Cobleskill, Westchester and Auppaunee country clubs. In 1982 he moved to Florida and became superintendent at Cypress Run Country Club in Tarpon Springs.

Meadors received his degree from Lake City Community College in 1984. Since graduation, he has spent six years at the city of Jacksonville Beach. Meadors and an eight-member crew maintain an 18-hole course that plays 70,000 rounds a year. He is a member of the North Florida GCSCA.

ON THE MOVE

Mike Hamilton, formerly at Lanier Golf Club in Gainesville, Fla., is the new superintendent at Harbor Club in Greensboro, Ga.

Norm Wilson, formerly at Pine Hills Golf Club in Winder, Ga., has replaced Hamilton. Bill Newman, who had been Wilson's assistant, succeeds Wilson.


Bill Langer will add to his responsibilities for resort management, lending his expertise to the Buick Southern Open on the Mountain View Course in September. Langer has been head superintendent at Callaway Gardens for 26 years.

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION MOVES

The Georgia Turfgrass Association office has moved to 5198 Ross Road, Acworth 30101; telephone 404-975-4123.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE

The summer conference of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held Aug. 4-5 at Lake Lanier Islands Hotel and Golf Club in Gainesville.

A turfgrass conference was held at Griffin Experimental Station July 31.

TORNOADO CLEAN-UP

Chip Burchfield and staff at Dogwood Golf and Country Club in Austell are cleaning up after a tornado ripped through the course, taking out nearly 1,000 trees.

WELLS SNUBBED IN FLORIDA

It is becoming nearly impossible to drill a well in Florida, according to Larry Hawkins of Geoscientist Inc. in Gainesville.

"When you try to get an irrigation permit for a well to irrigate a golf course, they have a right in a lot of states to stop that process through administrative objections. We're seeing that almost become a matter of fact in some areas of Florida now. Every one is being challenged," Hawkins said.

Hawkins noted the state's ground water system is being depleted and many homeowners face strict water use regulations.