

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by John Engen, CGCS, Butte Creek C.C., Chico

Congratulations, Sohan, for the excellent meeting we had at Mt Diablo. Everything was just great--golf course was in tip-top shape, facilities, luncheon and the courtesy shown to all of us was superb.

Dr. Vic Gibeault did his usual good job presenting us with an interesting and enlightening educational session.

Remember the GCSA of America conference in Portland, Oregon is just around the corner. Now is the time to be thinking of any input you might want to have considered in the Advisory Committee. Contact any board member or better still come to our board meeting and discuss the items so they can be sent in to be on the agenda.

The Superintendents Institute at Asilomar is going to be held January 9 to 14th. Be sure to send in your reservation right away to Bill Davis, Dept. of Environmental Horticulture, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. I feel confident that there will be a full complement of superintendents this year and possibly some turned away.

#####

Norm Stewart, Contra Costa C.C., Pleasanton, summarizes Dr. Vic Gibeault's talk on the Effects of California Drought on Golf Courses.

Many counties this summer were affected by a severe water shortage. California may be faced with a shortage of water in the near future and placed on a limited water usage program

Saving water through efficient water control, some basic methods of approach:

1. When to irrigate
2. Amount of irrigation
3. Frequency of irrigation
4. Water Run off (lost water)
5. Relieve soil compaction due to heavy compaction thatch build up
6. Sun vs. Shade
7. Keep out weeds
8. Reduce use of high N fertilizers especially in summer
9. Know your soil type Sandy - Loam - Clay

There are 5 practices that should be considered. Let's call this our Year Round Management.

1. Mowing - Cool season grasses
Mowing height is very important to the species that you are concerned with. Raise the height of cut, for greater root development, better food distribution, more blade surface per plant
2. Fertilization - Cut down on fertilizer applications especially N with high N materials. You will receive more top growth and no root development.

3. Irrigation - infrequent irrigations are more beneficial than frequent irrigations
4. Rooting depths - Know Your species and its rooting potential
Examples to name 2 of each

Shallow Roots	Intermediate Roots	Deep Roots
Rye	Colonial Bent	Bermuda
Fescue	Kentucky Blue	Zoyzia
5. Aeration - without proper aerification, water is restricted from entering the soil, air and plant food, also this allows for soil gases that have been trapped to escape thru the open aerator holes

The selection of grass species to the local environment is real tough, especially drought and salinity.

Our thanks go out to Dr. Vic Gibeault for his informative talk. I am sure that Dr. Vic's talk has opened many eyes and ears especially to those who were not bothered by this situation, but maybe some day will be facing the same situation.

#####

Use of Mercury on the Golf Course by Bob Livesey, Editor

The Environmental Protection Agency has notified the Pro Turf Division of O. M. Scott and Sons that its three mercury-based products will be permitted to remain on the market. A major restriction is that they may be used only under the supervision of a Golf Course Superintendent on golf course tees, putting greens and aprons. The decision came after four years of hearings and negotiations.

Continued use of mercury for winter diseases will be strictly controlled. The mercury product will be classified as a restricted use pesticide. This will require Golf Course Superintendents to become certified pesticide applicators when their states establish the exam and qualification procedures for certification.

#####

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE SOUTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Ron Wrest, who was at Auburn Valley, is at Ft. Washington C.C., in Fresno. Bob Dalton moved from Sherwood Forest GC at Sanger to the Visalia C.C. Glen Petree moved from Ft. Washington to Sherwood Forest.

The Pacific Women's Golf Association held their finals at Plaza Golf Course in Visalia. The Golf Course Superintendents of Central California held their annual Pro-Superintendent tournament at Plaza the 24th of Sept. A great day of golf with a barbeque after. This was the second year for this affair and it looks like it will get better each year.

#####