MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

by Barbara Mikel

The new office and house are great! Driving to the office on Friday, October 22nd, my car radio was still tuned to the San Jose radio stations. I was listening to the traffic report for the South Bay. The only congestion I encountered that morning was "lots and lots of trees." When you are in the area, stop by and say "hello."

COMPLETE RENEWAL FORMS A NECESSITY

You may have noticed your 1994 dues renewal form has changed. It is very important that we have the form returned to us complete when you mail your renewal check. If we get the check without the renewal form, we have to call or send you a notice. You cannot renew without the form, so save yourself, and me, some hassle and make sure your accounting department understands we need the form returned.

Also, enclosed with your renewal was the promised sticker for your directory. The back of the card is a "peel off" and can be attached to the directory.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Environmental President
Part II

There seem to be two different types of "environmental" golf course superintendents. First, there are those who are concerned about the potential dangers, both immediate and long term, that chemicals pose. The second type are those whose concerns lie primarily with presenting good public relations.

I identify myself with the first type because it is my contention that golf courses get their best PR when superintendents actually care about the possible consequences of applying chemicals and act responsibly. The key is to take a proactive approach to environmental concerns and regulations, not a reactive or defensive approach.

One of my greatest disappointments relative to environmental education was a GCSAA seminar entitled "Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management."

What I thought would be a perfect seminar for an ecologically concerned superintendent turned out to address primarily how to deal with the media and the public. As it turned out, little time was spent teaching how to take the environment into consideration in the management of our golf courses.

Some may ask themselves, "Why shouldn't we just wait for government regulations to stipulate what we can and cannot do?" I ask, "Why wait for the last minute? Why not look for alternatives or integrate pest control now? After all, the regulations are inevitable."

One of my wise old bosses once told me that a professional anticipates and plans ways to handle future problems, he doesn't wait and react to them.

I am certain that there are plenty of superintendents who don't agree with me on this issue, and that's OK. My goal in this and last month's "President's Message" is to at least get some thought and discussion on the "environmental" approach to golf course management. Whether you call me an environmental nut or call to tell me of some non-chemical way you have found to control pests, I will consider these messages a success!

"Where there is much desire to learn, there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making."

John Milton
Aretopagitica, 1644

Respectfully submitted by
Brian Bagley
President