

## FYI

## It's Official

**A**s of November 1, the GCSANC office location is in Diamond Springs, California. If you're on your way to Tahoe, stop by and say "hello"!

New Mailing Address:  
Golf Course Superintendents  
Association of Northern  
California  
550 Main Street, Ste G  
PO Box 3360  
Diamond Springs, CA 95619  
Phone: 916/626-0931  
Fax: 916/626-5132

### Monthly Meeting Reservations and Cancellations

I would like to start by thanking the 95% of you guys who make meeting reservations and cancellations in a timely manner. This procedure was developed to accomplish a more orderly registration process and remove the necessity of handling money at the monthly meeting. It reduces the time I spend at the monthly meetings and, thereby, reduces administrative costs for the association. Again, thanks for your cooperation.

But...there's always some grumbling in the ranks.

"Why do we need to make reservations for meetings? We didn't used to have to do this."

"Why do I need to cancel my reservation 48 hours in advance? I didn't know until the last minute that I couldn't make it."

"Why do the meetings cost

so much?"

Although we understand that there are sometimes circumstances beyond your control, we have to respect the needs of the host golf courses. Think how *your* food manager and golf pro would react to a surprise "tournament" for 80 to 100 people! Do you think you could convince them to "just wing it"? Does your food manager keep enough food items on hand for lunch for 100 additional people? My guess is you probably answered "no."

The clubs at which we hold our monthly meetings require that we give the food manager the number of people expected to attend, in advance. The number we supply is a **commitment** number. We pay whether you show up or not. If you telephone your cancellation in advance, we can adjust our numbers for the event with the host.

The golf shop needs to know how many carts they will need for our group. If you make a reservation and do not call in your cancellation, those carts cannot be used by the golf shop to accommodate other players outside our group.

Regarding receipts, most of you want a receipt for each meeting. My fingers just don't write fast enough to provide a receipt for each one of you at the door, not to mention the hold up in the registration line if I had to perform that function at the meeting. Therefore, I prepare your receipt based on your reservation. And if you bring a guest, treat them like one. Pay for them with your reservation.

## Tips from the USGA New Product Evaluation

by Pat Gross,  
USGA Agronomist

I am sure you read with great interest the last article by my colleague, Paul Vermeulen, regarding the magical powers of Yuban coffee on turfgrass. Although this was a "tongue-in-cheek" effort to raise awareness of questionable products in the marketplace, it does bring up the question "How can I successfully evaluate new products?"

Why not conduct some limited field research on your own golf course to objectively evaluate the merit of new products? Here are some suggested guidelines:

- ▲ **Obtain small quantities** of material and establish test plots in remote areas of the golf course or on your putting green nursery.
- ▲ **Compare** similar products.
- ▲ **Replicate** the plots, if possible.
- ▲ **Include check plots** within the test area where no product is applied. Without check plots, it is impossible to draw accurate conclusions.
- ▲ **Keep accurate records** and make regular observations of the plots.
- ▲ **Seek guidance** and input from county extension agents, university researchers, and experienced turfgrass professionals in your area.
- ▲ **Try to obtain** additional information about the product. The best unbiased source would be peer reviewed scientific research studies. As a reference source for this material, you may wish to contact the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University: (800) 446-8443.

Golf course superintendents are the greatest experimenters and improvisors in the world. Limited field testing can help determine the benefits of a product before incurring a large expense or possibly causing damage to turf. On a positive note, you may find products that benefit your management programs or provide a cost savings. Doing your homework and establishing test plots will give you objective information on which to base future decisions.

The Association arranges monthly meetings through the voluntary cooperation of the host superintendent and his club. The host club and superintendent set the charges for food and carts. Greens

fees are waived in consideration of the superintendent's association. GCSANC does NOT make money on these events, but we do want to try to cover basic costs.

*Continued on page 7*