

WRITING AWARD

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for *Thru The Green*. The Board of Directors decided that you might need some incentive to write this article, so we have established an annual award, along with a substantial cash prize, for the best article written, submitted and published in the newsletter each year.

The deadline for each issue is the 14th of the preceding month. Simply fax or mail your article to our office or the publisher's office prior to that date. The addresses are listed on the inside of the front cover. Then, sit back and wait for your prize to come!

**1995 GCSAA
Tournament to be
Held in Bay Area**

Poppy Hills and Laguna Seca have confirmed as two of the golf courses on which the '95 GCSAA tournament will be held. Olympic Club, San Francisco CC, Half Moon Bay and Crystal Springs are also under consideration. CGCSA has informed national that we prefer the tournament stay in the San Francisco Bay area. Confirmation of all five courses is expected by the end of the month.

**Western Farm
Offers Scholarship
Money**

Rhone-Poulenc and Western Farm Service are soliciting your assistance in gathering information concerning pesticide usage in the state. In exchange for 75% of our

class A and B members filling out a brief survey, Western Farm Service has promised a donation of \$2,000 to the GCSANC Scholarship Fund. Additionally, each member who returns a survey will have the opportunity to have their registration to the Institute paid for them. Once compiled, the information will be made available to GCSANC for publication in the newsletter. The Board of Directors requests that every class A and B member participate in this program.

Note: GCSANC's participation in this program in no way endorses any particular product or company.

**Institute Plans
Complete**

Plans for the 4th Annual Superintendent's Educational Institute have been finalized. This year's Institute will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Santa Rosa. The golf tournament following the Institute is at Fountaingrove Resort and Country Club. Speakers will be **Ali Harivandi, Don Waddington and Fred Bliss. Joe Davis** will lead the first afternoon's seminar and CDEFA hours will be offered. About 100 are expected to attend. Watch your mail for more information.

*You're Kidding, Right?
A course developer in Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, reports Golf Digest, has plans for a floating green to be built on a steel barge in the middle of a lake. The hole will change depending on where the barge is towed to on a given day. Golfers will be ferried to the green by boat.*

**Tips from the USGA
Summer Salt Accumulations**

*by Pat Gross,
USGA Green Section*

It has been a relatively mild summer so far, however, in our travels, we have noticed that many courses are still fighting stress-related problems on greens due to excessive salt accumulation. This is not surprising, since the potable and effluent water in the western US tends to be relatively high in salt. Salts reduce the ability of the plant to use water and can produce drought stress symptoms and necrosis.

Excess salt accumulation also seems to be one of the major contributing factors to the development of such diseases as anthracnose (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) and summer patch (*Magnaporthe poae*). The stress induced by salt accumulation predisposes the plant to infection by these diseases.

Since there is no economical way to remove salts from the water source, the best approach is to implement management strategies to reduce the negative effects of this common constituent of our irrigation water.

Improve drainage.

Salt accumulation is more severe on poorly drained greens. Core aeration or solid tine aeration during the summer using 1/4" to 3/8" tines will

provide avenues in the soil for the flushing of salts. This may be necessary as often as once per month during the summer.

Monitor salt levels regularly.

You may wish to monitor a few "indicator" greens on your golf course on a weekly basis through the use of a portable electroconductivity meter (E.C. meter). These readings may not correlate directly with semiannual soil test reports, but they can give you an indication of when it is necessary to leach greens. A reading of 1.0 mmhos./cm for bent/poa greens is a good point to begin leaching operations.

Leaching.

Leaching is the application of water over and above normal irrigation requirements to move salts out of the root zone. This is best accomplished immediately following aeration by scheduling repeat irrigation cycles for a period of 4 to 6 hours. If your irrigation system does not have this capability, setting a low precipitation rate sprinkler on the green throughout the night can accomplish the same results. Just giving the greens an extra 20 minute cycle is not effective to leach salts out of the root zone.

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San Diego to provide association management services. DJ is also the manager of the San Diego chapter and the publisher of *Thru the Green*. CGCSA's address is now 7150 Shoreline Drive, #3215, San Diego, CA 92122. The telephone number is 619/558-4769. Fax 619/558-7387.

mer. Seeding with improved varieties of creeping bentgrass on a frequent basis will help improve stress tolerance on the greens. Creeping bentgrass is more salt tolerant than *Poa annua* and will help provide adequate turf coverage and density during the summer.

On a final note, you may recall that warm temperatures have persisted well into October during the past two years. Don't let your guard down too early. Remember that regular monitoring and early implementation of management programs will help avoid severe problems later in the season. Best wishes for the remainder of the summer. We look forward to seeing you during our travels on behalf of the USGA Green Section.

Summer Salt Accumulation

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Unfortunately, many courses experience black layer following leaching operations. If this is the case, try to combine aeration and leaching operations as suggested and then hand water dry spots for the remainder of the week. This is a difficult balancing act, but many superintendents have been able to find a happy medium with this program through experience.

Overseed with creeping bentgrass.

Despite these efforts, *Poa annua* has a tendency to "check-out" during the sum-



Tips on SB198 Compliance

Now that SB198 has been in effect for a while, most golf courses have set up a written safety program to comply with it.

However, at this point a compliance officer will also be looking for evidence that the program has actually been implemented and is being followed on an ongoing basis.

"Many clients believe they need only show a compliance officer that they have a written program, but the emphasis in enforcement of the requirement for an IIP Program is on the **effectiveness** of that program," says Colleen Britz, a safety professional with Marsh & McLennan Protection Consultants.

During an inspection, you should be able to produce evidence that shows:

1. Scheduled, periodic workplace inspections, including the names of the persons responsible for the inspection;
2. Documentation that hazards were corrected;
3. Documentation that employees were disciplined or rewarded for work practices;
4. Records of safety training or re-training, including employee names, dates, types of training, topics covered and names of trainers;
5. Safety Committee minutes;
6. A written Respiratory Protection of Hazard Communication program if appropriate. These need similar documentation to demonstrate that they are actually being followed.

Check your SB198 procedures to make certain you have these records current and available. It's not only important for legal compliance, but for the health and safety of your employees.

How to Keep Good Workers

When you can't offer cash or promotions to keep good workers on board, try these incentives:

- **Acknowledge** their sacrifices. And don't err by suggesting that they should be grateful for keeping their jobs during the recession.
- **Remind them** often to "keep in mind how much we value you here."
- **Involve them** more deeply in decision-making.
- **Offer them** the chance to learn new skills -- inside or outside the company.
- **Give them** new titles and greater visibility
- **Build bonds** by having lunch and an occasional coffee break with them.
- **Give them** some tangible award. *Example:* One company recognized outstanding performers by giving them antique Waterman fountain pens.

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