

## THRU THE GREEN

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## Thru the Green

Published monthly by the  
Golf Course Superintendent's  
Association of  
Northern California.

## FYI

by Barbara Mikel

## A New-Year Reminder for New Members

**W**ell, the Annual Meeting is upon us. I hope to see ALL of you at The Villages Golf & Country Club for the election of new officers and Board of Directors. This year, the Affiliate Representatives to the Board of Directors will be

elected. It is important for all members to attend.

Since we have a number of new members in the Association, let me take this opportunity to review meeting procedures. Registration for the meeting begins with return of your meeting reservation form and appropriate monies. We establish a cut-off date as a courtesy to the host superintendent to give his staff time to prepare for the meeting. On the day of the meeting, a registration table is set up for check in. At this

time, you will receive your receipt (prepared based upon reservation) and a door prize ticket. Next step is to check in with the golf chairman for foursome and tee assignments. It is important to check in at the registration table BEFORE checking in for golf. If you are grouped, try to collect your group and sign in at registration and golf together. It gets very distracting if 80-100 people are trying all at once to talk to one person. I try to bring

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Like Gary Cooper in "High Noon," it's time for me to get on my horse (or maybe that should be my greensmower), and ride on into the sunset. Unlike 'Ole Gary, who didn't get any help when times got tough, I have been very fortunate to work with a great, hard-working board, which made my term as President a pleasurable experience. At this time, I'd like to say "Thank You!"

Being on the Board isn't the most difficult job in the world, but it does require a commitment. I can't remember how many times I've had to finish something for the Board when, at the same time, some emergency (or three!) came up on the course which required my attention. It's happened to us all, but somehow we survived. Everyone got their responsibilities handled with the possible exception of that guy responsible for the President's Mes-

sage every month.

Besides being lucky to work with this board, I have had the pleasure of working with many other dedicated members of our association on various committees.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank two other people: Barbara Mikel for keeping me headed in the right direction and doing whatever it took to keep everything running smoothly, and DJ King for turning our newsletter around and making it what it is today - a national award winner!

Once again, it's been a real honor and pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors. To repeat something I wrote in a previous President's Message: When you're on the board and active in the business of the association, you really get a great feeling of being a part of the association. Like most things in life, the more you put into it, the

more you get out of it.

With the 1995 National Conference ahead and, with it, the challenge it brings to our chapter, I look forward to supporting our next President and Board of Directors. I urge you to become involved with our chapter during this next exciting year.

I can only hope that some of my President's Messages have gotten at least a few people thinking a little. When Mike Garvale first asked me to run for the Board, he said he wanted me to get on the board and "stir things up a little." I hope I have.

"I'm just the straw that stirs the drink."

Reggie Jackson

Respectfully submitted by  
Brian Bagley  
President

## USGA/NCGA Green Section Conference

by Rich Lavine

The annual USGA/NCGA Green Section Regional Conference was held on March 16th at Castlewood CC. Those in attendance heard great presentations by USGA staff members Larry Adamson, Tim Moraghan, and Nancy Sadlon. Their topics included Tournament Administration (get those entries in on time, folks.), US Open Preparation, and the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and the role it can play in a sound maintenance program. Dr. Don White from the Univ. of Minnesota separated the facts from fiction of *Poa annua* maintenance and/ or control, while Dr. Robert Green from UCR gave a very interesting talk on his research of spraying gasohol (you read it right, *gasohol*) on bentgrass turf to promote increased growth. Lectures on Green Speed by Paul Vermeulen, The Shrinking Golf Course by Larry Gilhuly, and Turf Tips by Pat rounded out the program.

As usual, this was a great event; one that should be attended by all. If you couldn't be there this year, don't miss it next year.

### FYI

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application forms and handicap information to each meeting. The handicap cards are normally out on a table for you to pick up and paste to the back of your card. If you have questions, by all means, ask! You won't learn unless you ask!

It's  
Spring!

## Now That's a Maintenance Headache!

Floyd S. Rood tackled the biggest course on record when he played the entire United States, coast to coast, in 1963 and 1964. He teed off in the Pacific surf and finished at the Atlantic shore more than a year later. No one knows what par was, but Rood took 114,737 strokes to cover nearly 3,400 miles.

## Tips from the USGA Be Gentle When Waking A Sleeping Giant

by Paul Vermeulen,  
USGA Agronomist

With the arrival of Spring and the accompanying warm temperatures, bermudagrass fairways across the entire southwestern region will soon awaken. For most golfers, this is a welcome event. Through their eyes, green, actively growing turf not only looks better, it plays better, too. Actually, it only looks better. If you analyze the handicaps of most golfers, the numbers do not change very much between March and April.

Ah, what the heck, if believing that the condition of the course is better because the grass simply turned green makes golfers happy, why not accept the compliment. Maybe in some small way these compliments help balance the scales of justice. After all, how many negative comments about the condition of the course have most superintendents had to endure from avid golfers. Especially the ridiculous comment such as, "I want the greens 'hard-soft', so I can hold a 3-wood without making a ballmark."

Since not-so-green bermudagrass (that has not been destroyed by uncontrolled cart traffic, of course!) plays as well as green bermudagrass, there really isn't a good reason to turn it green a few days early with excessive applications of soluble nitrogen. Furthermore, such applications should be avoided because of the possibility of aggravating spring root decline.

Spring root decline is the natural loss of roots on warm-season turfgrasses as they are recovering from winter dormancy. This event is caused by the rapid breakdown of carbohydrates stored in the root system for the production of new leaf tissue.

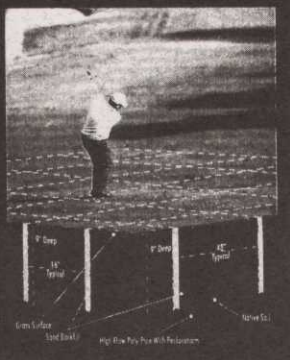
How can nitrogen applications play a role in spring root decline? If you think of a growing bermudagrass plant as

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