

# USGA

## SNORKELS AND SWIM FINS

By Pat Gross

The "hundred year flood" has caused considerable damage to golf courses in the west. I've heard many superintendents tell me that their golf course has been closed for weeks. They joke about having to break out the snorkels and swim fins just to get around the golf course. Aside from super saturated conditions, some less fortunate courses are having to deal with flood damage in the form of large soil deposits on the

turf and vast sections of the course that are under water.

This was bound to happen since many courses were constructed in flood plains during the golf course construction boom of the 70's and 80's. What can you do if your course is covered with water or a thick layer of silt?

The best thing to do is try to pump off the extra water

once it stops raining and allow the turf to dry out. If

*"If you can't get the water off, the best you can do is hope that your turf can hold its breath for a good long time."*

this is not possible, don't panic, since many turfgrass species can survive prolonged periods of submersion without injury. According to Dr. Jim Beard, the potential for injury will depend on 1)

the turfgrass species, 2) duration of submergence, 3) depth of submergence, 4) physiological condition of the plant tissue, 5) temperature, and 6) light intensity. To give you an example, creeping red fescue can be killed in as little as one day with high water temperatures of 86 degrees F. or may survive

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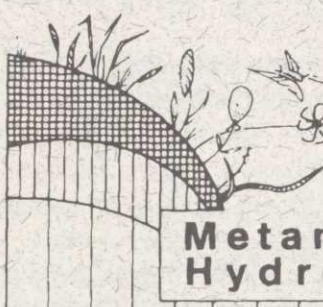
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## SNORKELS AND FINS

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for more than 60 days at a low water temperature of 50 degrees F.

The following table from Dr. Beard's book lists the relative submersion tolerance of various turfgrasses:

### Excellent

Buffalograss  
Bermudagrass  
Creeping bentgrass

### Good

Rough bluegrass  
(*Poa trivialis*)

### Medium

Meadow fescue  
Kentucky bluegrass

### Fair

Annual Bluegrass  
Perennial ryegrass

### Poor

Red fescue

If you can't get the water off, the best you can do is hope that your turf can hold its breath for a good long time.

If large areas are covered with soil or silt deposits, it is ideal to remove this material as soon as possible. Have patience though, because the

use of heavy equipment may be doing more harm than good. The goal is to remove as much of the soil as possible and expose the leaves. Some courses have used a mechanical bunker rake fitted with a small grading blade without causing damage. For greens, remove the soil with shovels and try to wash off as much of the silt as possible using a high pressure hose. Once everything has dried out, be prepared to aerify the affected areas to break through any soil layers that may have been deposited. It may also be necessary to rope off these areas and do some extra seeding to restore turf cover.

One final note, don't forget to take photographs. This will be helpful for possible insurance purposes, and to document the extent of the damage for yourself and various golf course officials. If you have a picture of a green half covered in silt, it may be easier to explain latter in the summer why that exact same part of the green isn't doing so well.

## GCSAA ELECTION RESULTS

Gary Grigg, CGCS, was elected President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at its Annual Meeting. Bruce Williams, CGCS, was elected Vice President, and Paul McGinnis CGCS, was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The elected directors were Tommy Witt, CGCS; George Renault, III, CGCS, and Dave Fearis, CGCS, were nominated from the floor for Director's Positions, as expected. Mike Wallace, CGCS, was appointed to fill McGinnis' one remaining year on the board.



## Welcome To The Green

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:  
(Subject to 30 day wait)

### CLASS A

Terry Grasso,  
Superintendent  
Burlingame Country Club

### Ram Pal,

Superintendent  
Buchanan Fields Golf Course

### CLASS B

David Saly,  
Superintendent  
Hiddenbrooke Golf Course

### Gerald Barber,

Assistant Superintendent  
The Villages

### ASSOCIATE

Mark Scott Jr.,  
Superintendent  
McInnis Park Golf Center

## TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

An overseas goodwill program has been developed by Gale Love CGCS, retired. The intention is to help and hasten the fruition of qualified golf course maintenance personnel into the Embryo stage of developing potential golf course superintendents. This hopefully, could be approached by volunteers offering their time in allowing Russian visitor to spend a few days shadowing the movements of superintendents and, or assistant superintendents in their day to day activities.

In developing this program it will also be necessary to establish a support base of Sponsors investing into the potential of future contacts in the new frontier. The need will be to help pay the expenses of these visitors.

Should you feel compelled to assist in any way, please call:

Gale L. Love  
11596 Lower Circle Drive  
Grass Valley, CA 95949-9412  
916-477-8313 (Phone & Fax)

## Naumann's Nor Cal News

Mike Snyder has left Oakhurst Country Club to become the Superintendent at a private club in Banning, California. Mike Nunemacher has accepted the Superintendent position. He was the assistant prior to his promotion. Mike Clark, Superintendent at Oakmont C.C. in Santa Rosa has been busy this soggy winter. He is in the middle of installing a new Network 8000 irrigation system (Toro). Christianson Irrigation is the installation contractor.