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 underwater. 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 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 submersion, 3) depth of submersion, 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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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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submersion Tolerance</th>
<th>Turfgrass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Buffalograss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bermuda grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creeping bentgrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Rough bluegrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Poa trivialis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Meadow fescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kentucky bluegrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Annual Bluegrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perennial ryegrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Red fescue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 af-
fected 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 Presi-
dent, 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 ex-
pected. 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 B
David Saly.
Superintendent
Hiddenbrooke Golf Course

CLASS A
Terry Grasso,
Superintendent
Burlingame Country Club

Ram Pal,
Superintendent
Buchanan Fields Golf Course

Gerald Barber,
Assistant Superintendent
The Villages

ASSOCIATE
Mark Scott Jr.,
Superintendent
McInnis Park Golf Center

TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

A
n 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
a Russian visitor to spend a few days shadowing the move-
ments 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.