

THRU THE GREEN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well sports fans, the "Big Show" is upon us. The GCSAA membership, 15,000 strong, from golf courses and their support corps throughout the world, will journey into the San Francisco Bay Area to partake in one of the most remarkable educational experiences accessible to turfgrass managers. The 66th International Conference and Show is set to open on Monday, February 20, 1995, in San Francisco, at the Moscone Center. Those of you never before attending this annual event are truly in for an experience.

You will encounter: world renowned educators presenting basic principles to their most progressive ideologies, an equipment show reaching

beyond any expectations, mingling with your peers not only from North America but from across many seas. The USGA presentation, the Society of Golf Course Architects, golf course builders, irrigation designers and installers, and manufacturers of equipment and supplies vital to the continued progression of our livelihood. Attendees will log many miles on foot throughout the Moscone Center and adjacent streets, so be sure to wear comfortable shoes.

The California Golf Course Superintendents Association will open the doors to a spacious Hospitality Suite for your enjoyment during the conference. The Hospitality Suite will be open Thursday, February 24 through Saturday, February 26 beginning at

6:00pm. By being a member of GCSANC you are also a member of the state association, so please "make yourself at home" and enjoy. Sponsorship of the Hospitality Suite will be undertaken by our very supportive affiliate members on Thursday and Friday nights, while CIBA will be the sole sponsor for one night. Please acknowledge their support by sending your business their way if you are given the opportunity to make a choice.

To those of you playing in the golf tournament, good luck and "May All Your Putts Drop."

See you on the
Randy Gai, CGCS
President

Greening of the Golf Green

From their fairways to their trim putting greens, golf courses evoke human perception of the ultimate in natural perfection. Over 100 courses entertain golfers in the Bay-Delta region. Maintaining these emerald islands in the midst of the region's naturally golden landscape can mean heavy use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and water. But golf course superintendents claim that a variety of new management methods may now be reducing the game's toll on the Bay-Delta environment.

Critics say a badly managed golf course can cause ground and surface water contamination, nitrogen leading or runoff, chemical drift from pesticide use, and other detrimental effects. In response, the golf industry recently published guidelines for course managers on how to reduce

chemical fertilizer use, dispose of clippings and other waste, and protect and conserve water. It also launched a \$3 million-a-year research effort aimed at developing new turf grasses that thrive on half as much water and require fewer doses of pesticide. An upcoming trade conference will emphasize techniques for environmentally sensitive turfgrass management.

"Golf course superintendents have refocused to ensure they're doing their share of environmental management," says Dr. Ali Harivandi, a turfgrass researcher at the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Manager Tom Thatcher has put some of this theory into practice at the Stanford Golf Course, where two holes play across San Francisco.

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