

# Spring Is In The Aeration

By: Mike Huck

**S**pring is here! The time of year when every golf course superintendent in the country is accused of fondly and maliciously performing the most sacred maintenance task of all - aeration of greens! Every golfer on earth knows that the only reason a superintendent will aerate greens is to completely screw up perfectly good putting surfaces, giving himself much joy while watching the golfer suffer.

**A conversation that can be heard on any golf course:**

**Harry:** "Hey George, that

superintendent guy was trying to tell me that there was some good reason for punching the greens. I don't understand, they just got them perfect and now they go tear them up again! Then to top it all off, they spread a ton of sand all over the darned things, to fill up all those little holes they just finished making!"

**George:** "Why do they have to do this anyway? What good can it do? Hey Harry, there's the superintendent over there by that broken down machine. Let's go ask him why they have to ruin the greens like this."

*Superintendent thinking, "Oh*

*no, not these two guys again!"*  
**Harry:** "Hey buddy, how's it going?"

**Superintendent:** "Well I'm kind of busy right now, this darned aerator just blew up."

**George:** "We were wondering why it's necessary to punch all these holes in the greens? They were finally perfect, and now they'll be terrible for weeks!"

**Superintendent:** "Well the fact is that if we don't do this in the spring, we will have more problems later in the summer. Believe me, no one hates aerating greens more than my crew and I do, but it has to be done!"

*Harry thinking: "Sure he hates aerating, I bet this guy has been planning this day for a year now. These guys live to aerate!"*

**Superintendent:** "Do you think my crew and I enjoy putting in a ton of overtime to do this hot, dirty job? It's real important that we get this done in the spring."  
*Superintendent thinking: "I wish these two would leave me alone, I've got a lot of work to do!"*

**George:** "Yes, but why is it so important? What would happen if we didn't aerate this spring?"

*Superintendent thinking:*

*Continued on page 4*

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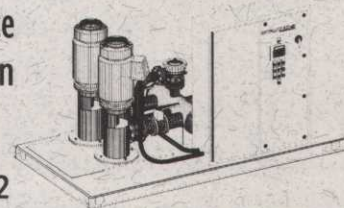
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# Annual Meeting Results

## Merit Award Winners

The selection of this year's merit award winners proved to be a difficult task for the Award Committee, comprised of last years' award winners and past president, Randy Gai. Many worthy individuals surfaced in the selection process, and after much deliberation, the following winners were announced:

### Superintendent of the Year

**Leon Snethen**, Saratoga Country Club

### Excellence in Turfgrass Management

**Ray Story**, Green Valley Country Club.

### George Santana Distinguished Service Award

**Robert E. Livesey**, CGCS

### Affiliate of the Year

**Mitch Fraiser**, West Start Distributing Company

Also **Robert Costa** received the newsletter "Best Article" check for \$500.00

## Committee Chairman Assignments

Membership	Roger Martinez
Program	Bob Costa
Tournament	Blake Swint
Education	Bob Costa, Chair Randy Gai, Asst. Chair
Scholarship	Roger Martinez
Bylaws	Randy Gai
Public Relations	Ken Schwark, Cochair Bob Costa, Cochair
Awards	Richard Lavine
Publications/ Newsletter	Richard Lavine, Editor
Affiliate Reps.	Bob Whittaker & Mike Ligon

The above board members are CHAIRMAN ONLY of these committees. A committee, by definition, is a group of persons. In order for our Association to function, participation is vital. Please get involved. If one of these committees interests you, call the chairman and volunteer to serve on that committee. You will find the service rewarding

GCSAA Past President, Joe Baidy's visit was cosponsored by GCSAA and H.V. Carter Co. Inc. We thank Joe and both sponsors for their cooperation.

## Aeration.....Cont'd

*"I'm never going to get rid of these two guys, guess I better give them the whole dog and pony show."*

**Superintendent:** "We aerate the greens for a number of reasons. All the traffic with spiked golf shoes causes soil compaction. Aeration opens the soil and lets the grass breathe.

*Harry thinking: "So he expects me to believe we're compacting the greens with our spikes?"*

**George:** "Don't we aerate the greens with our spikes?"

**Superintendent;** "Absolutely not! They contribute to

the problem, and besides compaction relief, aeration removes the thatch, stimulates root growth, increases the rate of water infiltration, enhances the decomposition of organic matter, allows for more efficient nutrient uptake, and helps release toxic gas in the root zone replacing it with oxygen."

*Harry thinking: "If the greens have a gas problem, maybe he just needs to load up that spray rig of his with Roloids and Malox."*

**Harry:** "I just don't see what benefit the player receives when you aerate the greens."

**Superintendent:** Well, you don't see the benefits because most of them happen under the soil surface. If we didn't aerate we would run a tremendous risk of having more serious problems come the end of summer. Aerating the greens now allows them to recover faster and gives them a better chance to survive the summer. Aeration is so important we plan our entire maintenance schedule a year in advance around this day."

*Harry thinking: "I knew it!"*

**George:** "Really?"

**Harry:** "Come on, let's go

George, we've got 9 more holes to play."

**Latter in the middle of the 10th fairway:**

**George:** "Think any of that stuff about aerating was true?"

**Harry:** "Just the part about planning it year in advance. As far as I'm concerned, the rest was all techno-babble."

**George:** "I don't know Harry, we're not the only course that aerates. In fact I can't think of one course in the area that doesn't. Besides, this place is always in great shape."

**Harry:** "Maybe you're right George."