

## State GCSA Meeting

If you hurry, there might still be time to register for the state meeting and golf tournament to be held in San Diego. This year's meeting is titled, **BACK TO BASICS**. The San Diego chapter has lined up our own Dr. Ali Harivandi, Dr. Eric Nelson from Cornell, Dr. Dave Kopec from Arizona, and Dr. Joe Vargas from Michigan State to be among the featured speakers. The San Diego Chapter has arranged attractive room rates at the Princess Resort, golf at world famous Torrey Pines Golf Course and the flavor of America's Cup racing throughout our stay.

Call the CGCSA office for details at (619) 566-3400. See you there!.



## Think of Lawns As Rain Forests

*Release from The Turf Resource Center*

**W**hat does a rain forest do that a lawn doesn't also do? This was one of the many pro-turf and pro-environment questions posed to members of the Environmental Care Association at their annual convention during the keynote address delivered December 7 by Doug Fender, Executive Director of the Turfgrass Producers International.

According to Fender, "Both lawns and rain forests are made up of thousands or millions of plants . . . the average 10,000 square foot lawn has over 8.5 million individual grass plants with in excess of 8 million miles of roots. The micro and macro, flora and fauna populations living in that forest of grass are immense, serving very useful purposes." He concluded, "Who knows, maybe like the hope we hold for the

rain forests, the cure for many diseases may be waiting to be discovered, right under our feet!" He also noted that lawns, like the rain forests, moderate temperatures, hold soil in place and enrich it through decomposition of plant tissue and biodegrade many pollutants that would otherwise stay in the air or go into the water supplies.

During his hour-long presentation to the Idaho Association of Lawn Care Operators and Pest-Control Specialists, Fender encouraged them to increase their personal awareness and education about environmental issues. He also invited them to become more pro-active by sharing scientifically based facts about the benefits of turfgrass with the public to counter the pseudo-scientific attacks by people he termed "eco-terrorists." He suggested that if every-

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