

THRU THE GREEN



June, 1997

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —

Martin, Crow Canyon To Host June Meeting

It's safe to say that when Ernie Martin says he has seen it all as the Golf Course Superintendent at Crow Canyon Country Club, he's not exaggerating. For Martin, the Ted Robinson designed course has been his home away from home since it opened in 1977. That's quite an accomplishment in an industry where five years at the same location can be considered a milestone.

Martin's interest in golf course maintenance began rather unassumingly when he accepted a position as a greenskeeper at Castlewood Country Club in 1956. True to form, it was 17 years later when he was lured away by Castlewood's Superintendent, George Finin to assist in the construction of Pleasanton Fairways. Under owner/operator Ron Cortola, Martin assumed

the position of Golf Course Superintendent for three years before making his move to Crow Canyon.

A 23 year member of GCSANC, Martin describes Crow Canyon as a course layed out amongst the rolling hills of Danville. Its characterized by a variety of trees including ash, pine and redwood all of which Martin says were planted during construction. One of the unique features of the course are the concrete cart paths which function as drain swales, collecting winter runoff. As with most courses constructed in the late 70's, the irrigation system is currently being evaluated. Martin anticipates the system to be replaced in the near future and is presently involved in the planning process for the new Rainbird Maxi system.

Crow Canyon Country Club and Martin are scheduled to serve as the hosts for the June meeting on Monday the 23rd.

New Fungicide To Be Introduced At June Meeting

For years the turfgrass industry has heard talk of new revolutionary chemicals that could be applied at ultra low rates, offer increased control, and environmental safety. Slowly, over the past two years we have watched several of these products make their way into the California market.

Heritage, a new fungicide developed by Zeneca is the latest of these new breed of materials to receive California approval. You can learn all about it later this month at the June meeting where it will be featured in an hour long presentation.

Mr. Jim Petta of Zeneca Professional Products will describe the new fungicide class which features Heritage. His discussion will include a summary of the unique chemistry of the product which is derived from naturally occurring wood decaying fungi.

In addition to its low rate, less than .5 ounces per 1,000 sq.ft., Heritage controls a wide range of foliar and soil borne diseases. It's low ecological risk to birds, mammals and fish make it a potentially attractive alternative to traditional fungicides for use in IPM programs. Come see and hear for yourself on June 23rd.

State Meeting A Quiet Success

In spite of a disappointing turnout, punctuated by a mere 45 representatives from Northern California, Santa Clara Golf and Tennis and the Westin Hotel played host to the CGCSA Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 18th and 19th.

The two day event opened with the state meeting called to order by Association President, John Pollock. At the conclusion of the general business session questions were raised regarding the long range plans of the Association. Mr. Pollock suggested that a strategy session was planned for the August Board Meeting at which time a plan would be formalized.

The remainder of the day saw a host of speakers talk on a wide range of subjects. GCSANC Superintendents, Mike Basile and Sean Nicholson did an excellent job of sharing their experiences with courses management on landfills and Dave Davies, CGCS added to the discussion with, an often humorous talk, on effluent water. Meeting Moderator Ali Harivandi concluded

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue . . .

President's Message	2
A Look Back	3
Weather—You Like It, or Not . . .	4
Tall Turf-Type Fescue Performance	
In The Bay Area	6
Boardroom Briefs	7
Naumann's NorCal News	7

EDITOR

ROBERT J. COSTA, CGCS
408-373-3701

OFFICE

Barbara Mikel - Exec. Sec'y
550 Main St., Suite G
P.O. Box 3360
Diamond Springs, CA
95619
Phone: (916) 626-0931
Fax: (916) 626-5132

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AFFILIATE ADVISORS

JAMES W. KARRIK, JR.
Naiad Company, Inc.

JOHN HOLMQUIST
Automatic Rain Co..

PUBLISHER

Jo Harlow
Key Publications
Phone: 510-827-9676
Ph/Fax: (510) 674-1688

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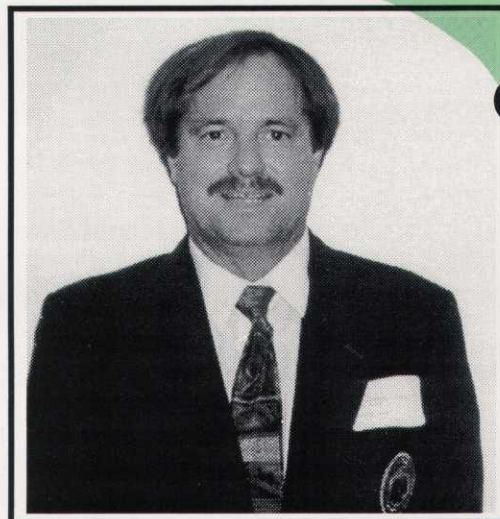
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From The President

The low number of GCSANC members that attended the CGSA Annual Meeting was disappointing. The poor turnout frustrated those that worked hard to organize the events of the Conference. I appreciate the support of our members that were in attendance. We were given the opportunity to learn from talented speakers. Two of our own, provided some light humor. Bob Costa and his committee deserve a great deal of our gratitude for planning the program.

The off site barbecue at the Savannah Winery was enjoyed by all in attendance to the extent that I overheard next year's host chapter members asking each other "how are we going to top this?" Don Naumann deserves a great deal of credit for planning that event.

Under the care of Superintendent Mike Basile, the golf course at the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Center following 3 days of hot humid weather, played great. The smooth bentgrass greens putted well from the first green until the last, some 4 and 1/2 hours later. The absence of poor lies allowed many low scores to be posted. Thank you Mike for all of your hard work. A public course like Santa Clara is the bread and butter of our business. I enjoyed playing there. I got to play a 100,000 round per year course that like so many others of it's kind will be the starting point of many of our future golfers.



Again two of our own posted the best scores in the Superintendents Division. Ross Brownlie won the low gross division by a single point over his close friend Scott Lewis. Mike Ligon proved that the GCSANC has the best Affiliate player as he won the gross division.

The hard work of a few resulted in a successful Conference. The absence of many sent us home a little empty. We will continue to provide strong programs. It is up to each member to establish the value of those programs and determine whether it is worth fitting the time it takes to attend into ones life.

I wish you well.

Blake Swint
President

Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

Plans for the 65th Anniversary are well underway nicely thanks to the efforts of Cliff and Myrtle Wagoner, Bob Costa, Gary Carls, Randy Gai, and Jean LaDuc. Program and displays are being developed for the August 11 meeting at Bayonet Golf Course, Fort Ord. **It is not too late for you to make a contribution to this effort.**

There are very few organizations as long lived as GCSANC. Considering this is an volunteer group, you should be proud and grateful for the continuing commitment to the industry, profession and organization your fellow superinten-

State Meeting (Cont'd)

the days program with a presentation on bentgrass/poa competition.

By evening it was time to relax in the Saratoga foothills where the group was treated to a delicious BBQ at Savannah Channel Vineyards. It proved to be a great setting amongst the red-woods. There was even entertainment for the children complete with a petting zoo and pony rides.

The gathering concluded on Monday with the Golf Tournament hosted by Santa Clara Golf and Tennis, Inspite of some of the horror stories told by Mike Basile the day before, the conditions were excellent and resulted in a highly competitive tournament.

Amid all the pre-meeting speculation when it was all said and done the GCSANC had done well.