

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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PUBLISHER

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

THRU THE GREEN

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From The President

I have just returned from Las Vegas and the annual Golf Conference and Trade Show. It's almost a relief to get out of there. It just seems like everything there is at an accelerated pace. Myself, I like to slow down and take things a little easier. The Trade Show was the highlight for me, but I also enjoyed and maybe even learned something from the Educational Sessions. Overall, it was five days well spent and I would heartily encourage all of our members who have never attended, to go and to participate. It will benefit you professionally and also your golf course.

One of the themes stressed throughout the conference was the philosophy of utilizing environmental principles in all phases of golf course construction and renovation, whether it be new or old. This is all very important and relevant right now, but I would venture to say that many of our Superintendents have been adhering to and addressing environmental concern for many years. So, now is the time to come forward and let people know that we do care about the world around us. There has been too much negative publicity about all the damage that golf courses have done to the environment. Now it is up to us as stewards of the land to counter that negativity and turn it into a plus. This can be done by letting the golfer know what you are applying. Explain its purpose and intent. Stress the fact that you only use what is necessary to do the job. Write or give a report to your Greens Committee about your pest control program. Above all, be up front and show that you do care about the golf course and the environment.

See you
Joseph Rodriguez, CGCS



Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

I hope your GCSAA Las Vegas Trip wasn't a complete "bust". I can safely say I came back with my pockets full. Not necessarily with money but shared ideas, problems, solutions from fellow chapter liaisons from across the country. Upcoming dual membership requirements will present a very challenging fall.

You should have received your 1997 membership card. If not, please let me know. Also check the "Member since" date and if you remember it differently, speak up. One membership benefit you receive as a Class A, B, C, Associate or Student member is job referral notices. The Association processed over 50 job notices last year. This service is not available to non members. If you refer someone to the office for job notices they should be prepared to join the Association.

All those pesticides use reports you filed have been compiled for 1995 and are available in full and abbreviated form according to GCSAA "Briefax" at a Department of Pesticide Regulations Web page. The address is <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>. The summary information (about 15 pages) details the history of pesticide report in California and briefly discusses the future possibility of direct electronic reporting.

Actually the entire "Web World" for better or worse will be a greater part of our lives. I see various members on the GCSAA home page in the discussion forums. I wonder how much interest there is in a GCSANC Internet member service. I currently underutilize my allocated business time. It might be productive to have a member service of this kind. Forward your feedback to a board member.

NCGA/USGA Conference Program Unveiled

The 1997 NCGA/USGA Green Section Conference returns to Castlewood Country Club on Wednesday, April 2nd. This year's program offers the usual wide range of topics with presentation made by several USGA Green Section Agronomists and other highly respected turfgrass researchers. Detailed registration information will be available in March