

THRU THE GREEN



November, 1997

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —

Davies Represents NorCal at Delegate Meeting

By: Dave Davies, CGCS

I had the recent privilege to travel to GCSAA Headquarters as the GCSANC representative at the Chapter Relations Meeting. As has been the case in past trips to Lawrence, it was a positive experience. There was much to be discussed in the day and a half meeting. What follows is a brief summary of some of the pertinent information.

- Membership Standards: preliminary discussion on entry level membership standards and requirements to maintain Class A (ie. continuing education). The committee is working on a schedule that work put implementation in the range of 2000-2002. The hope is to put CGSAA membership in a more professional light by requiring more than just years of service to achieve advancing levels.
- GCSAA hosted a meeting with executives from 28

management companies to open a dialogue on expectation levels and observations of superintendents. The information was contradictory in that most companies want superintendents to be more polished in the business aspect of the job but they still prefer "working superintendents."

- The web site is getting 250,000 "hits" each month. Registration forms for conference and show as well as seminars are available on the site. Discussion on chapter participation, costs and long range goals also took place. It will continue to grow and be refined. It is a definite work in progress.
- Review of minor changes in the Code of Ethics and the process that takes place for violations.
- A 3.5 million dollar fund raising campaign has been initiated to focus on applied research projects on golf courses and education for

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November Marks Return of The Institute

It all began seven months ago. The Education Committee comprised of Ali Harivandi, Dave Davies, CGCS, Gary Carls, CGCS, Brian Bagley, Ray Davies, CGCS and Bob Costa, CGCS, assembled for the first time with the task of developing the program for the Superintendents Institute. Much has been accomplished since that first meeting in March. With all the planning now complete the stage is set for GCSANC's premier educational event of the year.

The two day program kicks off with an affordable shotgun golf tournament at Windsor Golf Club (see related story). Day one is capped by what promised to be a lively 6:00 p.m. reception at the Hilton, complete with full Hors d'oeuvres and hosted bar.

Day two features the main event. An educational program that will focus on practical issues related to course renovation, the masterplan process and environmental projects. With a wide range of talented speakers, complete with trade show, the conference promises to be both entertaining and informative.

In an effort to make this the most enjoyable Institute ever, this year's program offers some added bonuses. Due to return to the 65 year anniversary memorabilia display. Also each attendee will receive a complimentary NorCal logoed travel mug and the chance to win one of several turfgrass management books donated by Ann Arbor Press. It's the must see, must do, educational event of the year.

Salary Surveys On The Way

Are you curious about how you stack up against the wages and benefits earned by your peers? Well the answer to those questions are on the way, assuming that you take just a few minutes to fill out the salary survey you recently received. The 1997 version has been slightly modified and includes geographical information and a separate category for multi-facility managers.

The credibility of any survey is increased by the number of respondents, so please, don't delay, return yours today. You owe it to yourself and your fellow industry professionals. (Only those surveys received before December 31st will be included.)

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Davies Report (Cont'd)

and golf course superintendents. It is called Investing in the Beauty of Golf'

- Discussion on dual membership and the paperwork issues it has brought on (verification, cash handling, applications).
- Fiscal plans and long term implementation of dues increase policy. Margin is currently budgeted for \$300,000. 22% of budget from dues (up from 17% prior to dues increase).
- Regional seminar rebates will probably be discontinued. Attendance varies greatly with topic and the program is not achieving its original goal of promoting the program. Volunteer efforts will still be acknowledged through comp registrations.
- GCSAA Committee volunteers will be screened for Chapter involvement. GCSAA is placing a premium on those that have served the local chapter first. Verification by the Chapter will be required on all applications. Currently half of those seeking committees are turned away. Deadline to GCSAA for verified applications is 10/31/97. Applications will be available at the joint meeting.
- Discussion on the Etonic Speakers program. Deadline for sign-up is September 30.
- GCSAA/Audubon for schools program has seen less than desirable results. Only 80 schools nationwide. Incentive program will pay the \$100 initiation fee for the next 25 involvements.
- Brainstorming on the needs of the Chapters. That information is being printed for distribution. My comment was find ways to reduce the paperwork requirement for the chapters (online forms, etc.).

Grass Carp Bill Signed By Governor Wilson

By: *Jim Husting, CGCS*

On September 29, 1997, Senate Bill 472 was signed by Governor Pete Wilson. This bill will allow the use of triploid (sterile) grass carp in approved golf course ponds throughout California, subject to a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) permit. The CGCSA in conjunction with their lobbyist George Steffes worked hard and long to get this bill passed this year. After countless meetings and political compromises between the CGCSA and the DFG a bill has come through that I feel we can live with — SB 472.

1. Permits the expansion of the use of the sterile grass carp, subject to the DFG finding that their use may be expanded, as follows:

- (a) beginning January 1, 1999, to the counties of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Kern, Ventura and Santa Barbara
 - (b) beginning January 1, 2000 statewide.
2. Requires that if the DFG determines that the use of sterile grass carp should not be expanded in either year, that it shall reconsider the question the following year.
 3. Requires that the DFG's findings be based on documented and verifiable evidence.
 4. Allows the DFG to limit the number of permits issued annually to 150. The intent of

this provision is to keep the administrative costs of the program, and consequently the fees, at current levels.

5. Allows the DFG to suspend the permits, either locally or state wide, if there is evidence that the sterile grass carp have escaped from authorized waters or are threatening other native fish and wildlife.

Sterile grass carp provide a non-herbicide, non-mechanical means to control unwanted aquatic weeds and vegetation. The USDA has found California's current program authorizing the use of over 70,000 sterile grass carp in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys since 1985 to be an effective, cost efficient and environmentally sound solution to the problem of unwanted aquatic vegetation, particularly hydrilla.

The California Golf Course Superintendents Association has long understood the need for non-chemical alternative methods of pest control on California golf courses. The Association's Integrated Pest Management program, which aggressively seeks to incorporate alternative methods to chemical usage on California's golf courses, is a national industry standard. SB 472 will make it a better program.

Research Update (Cont'd)

public use sometime after the first of the year. Research Coordinator, Dr. Ali Harivandi, stated the experiment will run for 3 to 5 years and he hopes to conduct field days at the site in the future.

Also under way is research which will evaluate the use of hard fescue from sod. Hard fescue is an excellent turfgrass selection for non-mowed areas, however establishment from sod can be a challenge, often resulting in significant competition from weeds.

The research project, coordinated by Dr. Ali Harivandi, will look at the use of sod as a means of establishment. Hard fescue sod which was grown at The Sod Farm in Morgan Hill, was harvested in late September and planted at the Research Field Station in Santa Clara. The ability of the sod to take root will be carefully evaluated.

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