

THRU THE GREEN



December, 1999

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

Pete Bibber and Old Del Monte Golf Course Legends of the Monterey Peninsula

by Ken Williams, CGCS

The story of Old Del Monte goes back to 1897 when Charles Maud sat down in a large oak grove (Spanish for Del Monte.) He was joined by two of his best friends from Scotland, a new friend from the old country and a bottle of the finest malt that could be found. By the time they finished the bottle, they had a design for the golf course and a plan.

The course went along largely unchanged from Maud's design until 1974 when the 7th green was rebuilt for agronomic purposes. Four more greens were rebuilt to a sand base to accommodate the 1992 US Open. The turf from the greens was used to

grass four of the new greens at Pebble Beach. This was to insure that all Pebble's greens would match for tournament play. This past March, Mike Oliphant rebuilt and enlarged the first green to California specs.

There is a certain uniqueness about Del Monte. The course is built upon 101 acres that consist of 18 holes and three beautiful native areas. The course has four relatively short par 4's and the overall yardage is consistent with courses from that era. It is not long by today's standards, but it is definitely challenging. The best

See "Old Del Monte" Page 4

Pine Pitch Canker Inoculum Found in Imported Pine Straw

The California Department of Forestry has discovered an incidental importation of pitch canker disease into California. In September, the CDF routinely inspected imported pine straw bales destined for the Truckee area. They were primarily looking for evidence of the imported fire ant. But needle samples taken from the interior of the unopened bales were found to harbor the Pine Pitch Canker fungus. The needle samples, processed by the Department of Food and Agriculture's plant pathology labs,

were analyzed using sterile media culture. Every sample tested produced the pine pitch canker fungus. The bales also contained pieces of cones, branches and soil – all substrate that probably contain the fungus. According to CDF Pathologist Dave Adams, sales of southeast states' origin pine needles to California locations represents a potentially significant means of disease entry into the State.

The implication is that viable pitch canker fungus has been delivered

See "Pine Pitch Canker" Page 9

NorCalendar

Dec. 10
Holiday Meeting, Del Monte GC,
Monterey Beach Hotel

Jan. 5, 6, 2000
GCSAA Seminars
Sustainable GC Landscape Design
Lake & Aquatic Plant Management

January 18th
Annual Meeting at
Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course

February 14-20
GCSAA Conference & Show

March 6
Stanford GC - Etonic
"Enhancing Your Job
& Securing Your Future"

March 23
USGA/NCGA at Castlewood CC

April 10
Media Forum at Coyote Creek

Highlights

President's Message	2
Chapter Delegates Meet	3
In Memory of Al jDeschene	4
Institute Recap	6
Board Room Briefs	9



Boardroom Briefs

November 2, 1999

By Ken Williams, CGCS

- ◆ Present: Carls, Costa, Davies, Grasso, Franzen, Williams
- ◆ Absent: Kilcoyne, Nunemacher, Sayre, Swint
- ◆ Treasurer's report found the Association to be operating in good shape.
- ◆ Eighteen incomplete scorecards from the Hiddenbrooke meeting were disqualified.
- ◆ The Media program was discussed. Board members were to submit a list of questions to be answered by superintendents and issued as press releases. The Board felt the Media Director needed to step up his performance in the coming year. Bob Costa, CGCS was to draft a letter from the Board to Greg Crawford.
- ◆ The Board reviewed the criteria for the annual awards. It is becoming extremely difficult in choosing award winners. Since this year was a short year for the GCSANC (April-Dec.), the board voted to suspend the annual awards for this year. But the question still remains, how does a committee select just one winner in each category?
- ◆ The annual meeting at Palo Alto in January was discussed. Terry Grasso is going to invite Jerry Berrow from the Alameda Junior Golf Program to accept our donation of golf equipment. A candidate list for the upcoming election was due soon. Already confirmed were Gary Skolnik, Jeff Shafer, and Roger Robarge. It was hoped that the Past Presidents would run the election. Ray Davies, CGCS will present and answer questions about the GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative.

Ali Harivandi will also present some of the things happening with himself and the UCCE.

- ◆ Ken Williams, CGCS was to write a letter to a GCSANC member who disrupted the educational session at the Institute.
- ◆ A crab feed was scheduled for the 2001 Holiday Party. It was hoped that Ron Rogers, Adrian Bertens, and Mike Ravel would coordinate the meal.
- ◆ Delta College of Stockton has started a two-year turfgrass program. Professor Mike Toscano has numerous turf plots that could be used for research.
- ◆ The Board asked Ken Williams, CGCS to draft a five year plan for Scholarship and Research funded by the GCSANC. There are so many avenues now to direct research dollars, the Board felt a specific plan of action was needed.
- ◆ Barb Mikel has taken over as the California GCSA Manager. Barb adds this responsibility to her current workload which includes the GCSANC.
- ◆ The CGCSA has coordinated the Overall Economic Impact of Golf study. The study is being funded by the NCGA, SCGA, CGCSA, PGA, and the GCOANC. The study will be used to show legislators how important the golf industry is to the California economy. This will aid our lobbyist George Steffes in fighting for our causes.

Pine Pitch Canker (Cont'd)

into California in a manner that was very unexpected. Delivery and use of infected/infested pine material from pitch canker areas of the US into un-infested locations can aid disease spread. This issue is particularly important in situations in which the imported pine needles are used as mulch around golf course and park plantings contain pines. The disease persists in soil and mulch for at least two years and will fruit during moist times. Native insects could close the infection loop by bridging the gap between the fruiting structure and a nearby susceptible pine host.

If you have used imported pine straw, please contact Dave Adams at the CDF. He can be reached at 530-758-0306 or e-mail at david_adams@fire.ca.gov.



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