



## Limited Budget Outreach Update

By Bruce Olson, Emerald Hills Golf Course

The Limited Budget Outreach Program was initiated by GCSAA Past President David W. Fearis, CGCS almost two years ago. The program is to provide advice and assistance to golf facilities with limited resources, those facilities with a golf course maintenance budget of approximately \$100,000 or less. This definition varies by geographic area. These facilities may or may not employ a full-time superintendent. The mission is "to help superintendents enhance course conditions in order to help grow the game of golf". The primary goal is to match experienced superintendents (active or retired) with the individuals charged with the maintenance at these limited budget facilities in order to provide technical advice and support. As David noted in his President's message of October 2000, many superintendents started playing or working at these smaller facilities. He stressed that this is not a GCSAA membership drive. This is an organized program to bring assistance to limited budget golf courses. The hope was to identify 500 limited-budget courses by June of 2001.

Jim Irvine and I were asked to be the GCSANC's representatives for this program. The Limited Budget Resource Group met by conference call on March 28, 2001. The following is provided as a short summary of the conference call and the Member Group discussions.

\* The Limited Budget Resource Group members agreed to help oversee the program and have been assigned a list of chapter liaisons to contact. Roger Martinez of Twin Creeks Golf Course is our

Resource Group leader. The Group members are to promote the program (motivate the liaisons like me!) and provide information back to the Resource Group Chairman. Adjustments and improvements to the program can then be made.

\* The GCSAA is developing a "hold harmless" letter that advising superintendents may use if there is a liability concern.

The first requirement is to develop a list of limited budget facilities. I have developed a database of all California Golf Courses (gleaned from a book remarkably with the same title!) This database will be shared with the other California sections, which are all under Roger's Membership Group.

With this list we can take the first step of the program, (1) identify limited budget facilities within your chapter. We will now (2) develop a list of volunteer superintendents within each chapter. Get ready! Then (3) we are to develop and maintain an inventory list of low-cost equipment that can be purchased by limited budget facilities. Next (4) we are requested to publicize the program at most meetings and encourage participation of volunteers. Get ready again! Finally (5) we are to encourage meeting attendance by those superintendents employed by limited budget facilities.

The GCSAA has supplied all forms and information to get the program started. They will provide two free GCSAA memberships for limited budget superintendents. They promise to publicize the program and track/recognize the success/failures of the program and make necessary corrections. I

spoke with Don Bretthauer at GCSAA headquarters who stressed the individual approach Chapters must take to assist. There is no single or set way we must try to help these facilities as a Chapter. The purpose is just to help in meaningful ways.

This may not be the most exciting program developed, but it is certainly a worthwhile one. The assistance, information and encouragement from the GCSANC and from many of

you as individuals have helped tremendously at Emerald Hills. We no longer qualify as a limited-budget facility. We have "grown the game" here and are quite proud of the conditions we maintain. We could not have done it without the help of the GCSANC, the GCSAA, and most importantly many individual superintendents. I hope you will embrace this program and provide your assistance. We welcome your ideas. /

## Naumann's NorCal News

**Jess Pifferini** has accepted the Supt. position at Shoreline Golf Links for the City of Mountain View. Jess was at Coyote Creek Golf Course prior to his move....**Barry Mueller** has left Mountain Shadows GC and is the new Supt. at Franklin Canyon GC in Rodeo. As of June, CourseCo will take over the management of Mountain Shadows which is owned by the City of Rohnert Park. **Jose Aguilera** was the previous Supt. at Franklin Canyon

At Lahinch Golf Club in Lahinch Ireland, there is a sign in the Pro shop that says for a weather forecast, check out the goats. For decades there have been goats on the property and as forecasters, they were perfect. If the weather was to be good, the goats would be out near the 10th hole. If the weather was going to be bad, they were close to the clubhouse. It was a tradition to see where they were to determine what kind of weather the golfers would enjoy that day. This was another fine example of golfers totally losing a sense of reality when they play. Unfortunately, the fine weather forecasters at Lahinch recently met their demise due to Europe's Foot and Mouth disease.

## Bentgrasses (Cont'd)

difference between the mean value for two varieties within the same column is not greater than the corresponding LSD, then the two varieties are statistically the same for that specific quality component.

For example, considering the LSD value of 0.7 given for mean turf quality ratings, there is no significant differences between

the 12 top performing varieties (L-93 down to Providence), since their mean differences are smaller than 0.7.

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