

Strictly Business



OFFICE NOTES

Barb Mikel,
GCSANC Association Manager

The May 2006 meeting of the California Golf Course Superintendents in Temecula is history and was historic also. It actually rained in Temecula for the education sessions! But overall, this was a very good venue for the CGCSA Annual Meeting.

Water and environmental issues continue to be the focus of the golf industry for the future of the game. The "About Face" article by Hope Yu, Environmental Specialist for the City of Golden, Co., pleasantly surprised me. (Find it in the "On the Road" Quarterly Bulletin <http://www.ncga.org/turf/onroad.htm> April 2006) It quotes an actual study of Fossil Trace Golf Club. This club was built on the site of an old mining operation and the article concludes that the course and its management practices actually create a desirable environmental and water asset for the community!

The "French Solution" to water issues was another surprise. (GCSAA Newsweekly http://www.gcsaa.org/newsweekly/this_week/divmix.asp) The R&A is reporting that irrigation to greens on French golf courses is now guaranteed even during drought conditions. Questions are asked about water source, storage capability and the implementation of water use economy measures. Further it questions potential pollution sources, details of chemicals used to treat turf and other methods employed for dealing with pests, diseases and weeds. I believe a well-served golf industry would utilize financial resources to accomplish the needed studies by unimpeachable researchers to confirm best management practices. Not to do so invites other than rational investigators to substitute opinions & speculation.

Unexpected Results Reported During 2006 Disease Update

At PACE Turfgrass Research Institute Seminar

Surprising research results on gray leaf spot on turf and a new annual bluegrass disease were discussed at the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute's 10th Annual Turfgrass Research Seminar held April 7th in San Diego, CA. Findings, presentations and handouts from the seminar are available on the PACE Member Edition's website. Non-members may sample the website through a free three-week trial membership available at www.paceturf.org.

Dr. Frank Wong of the University of California addressed 145 turf managers in a presentation update on disease management. He said there were several areas in which his research yielded some unexpected results:

The genetic diversity of gray leaf spot isolates from the western

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Unexpected Results Reported During 2006 Disease Update

U.S. is much higher than had been expected, possibly indicating that the disease has either been introduced many different times, or that it has been present in the West longer than previously believed.

Gray leaf spot resistance to QoI fungicides (Heritage, Compass, Insignia) has been detected in the West, though it is not yet widespread.

For optimal control of gray leaf spot, Wong saw the best results when planting resistant varieties of perennial ryegrass (such as the variety Paragon), as well as tank mixes of contact fungicides (such as chlorothalonil or mancozeb) with systemics (such as Banner, Bayleton, Cleary's 3336, Compass, Heritage, Insignia).

A new Rhizoctonia-like disease has been causing problems on annual bluegrass in the West recently. The symptoms are similar to those caused by yellow patch, but unlike yellow patch, this disease occurs during warm weather. Genetic analysis indicates that the disease may be caused by *Waitea circinata*, a fungus that is closely related to *Rhizoctonia*. In preliminary lab tests, it was controlled best by Banner, Chipco 26GT and ProStar.

PACE Turfgrass Research Institute (PACE) is a membership organization that provides research, education and information services to the turf management community. Founded in 1993 by its research directors Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D. and Larry Stowell, Ph.D., the PACE mission is to generate and share independent and objective agronomic information among turf professionals so they may develop management programs that are effective, practical and scientifically sound.

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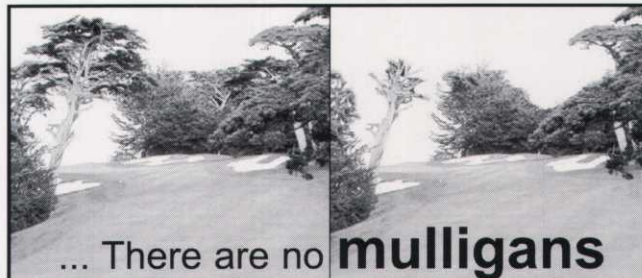
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