

As we get into the golf season, we all will be busy at our courses and soon forget about all the rain we've encountered. The good thing about the rain is that we should have time to participate in an important new survey. The "GCSAA Golf Course Environmental Profile" has been sent to members in an effort to collect some factual data. This will allow the GCSAA to respond to the EPA and conservation groups about real practices on golf courses and help to combat any media misperceptions about the golf industry. Please take the time to fill out this important survey. If you have not received this survey it is available at <http://survey.ngf/r26002/facilitysearch.asp>.

The Board of Directors has been hard at work on several fronts. First and foremost we are committed to improving opportunities for our members. We will be trying a new concept this year providing roving educational seminars in an effort to reach more members. Don't forget, that in order to get credit for your participation and education, you must go to the GCSAA website and fill out your "Education Affidavit".

We are working to finalize our "Compensation Survey" and hope to have this out to the membership this June. This looks to be an exciting year for GCSANC. We have a great Board of Directors that is working diligently to increase the value of membership in our association. If you would like to volunteer some time to a committee, please contact any Board member. We are always looking for new ideas and energy. If we can be of help to you and your facility, please give us a call.

Keep a good thought; the sun will be out soon!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Gill Stiles
Santa Rosa Golf & CC



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OFFICE NOTES

Barb Mikel,
GCSANC Association Manager

What started a few years back from a basic idea has grown dramatically. The simple tool to repair ball marks has made a mighty contribution to GCSANC. Bob Costa, CGCS approached the Board with idea of distributing the Ball Mark Repair Poster and tools to our superintendent members for posting in their clubhouses and pro shops to help cure one of the largest problems identified by superintendents in a survey conducted by GCSAA. We did the poster printing and purchased ball mark repair tools and cards showing the correct way to repair a ball mark. Those first distributions to the superintendents have opened a new world of good to the game of golf, the industry and fellow industry professionals.

The next progression was to present the tool at a public event. Emmy Moore Minister arranged a GCSANC presence at the Senior PGA event at Silverado Country Club and then at Sonoma Golf Club. Then President Bob Lopic, Board members and fellow superintendents "manned the booth" to distribute the repair tools and repair instructions to the general public. First Tee programs in the Sacramento area along with Growth of the Game and various allied associations were included in the distribution of samples. The Charles Schwab was next.

Play Golf America, The Charles Schwab Cup, and Welcome to Golf Day are some of the events now showcasing the presence of the GCSANC. It is these and the cooperative efforts of various golf organizations, NCPGA, USGA, NCGA to grow the game, to make for better playing conditions and educate the golfing public. We've filled some big shoes for a program with such a small beginning. Thanks to all the dedicated board members, volunteer superintendents and the cooperative efforts of all.

On another note, many thanks to GCSAA for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the spring GCSAA Board of Directors meeting with GCSAA Executive staff. GCSANC, SNGCSA, CGCSA and the CGCSA Officers and Directors and Chapter Managers of were invited to participate. There was a great exchange of ideas and a discussion of the many challenges ahead for the golf community. Northern California Allied Associations, CMA, NCPGA, NCGOA and the NCGA all had representatives for the event.

Creation of *Super Journal* by PACE Turfgrass Research Institute Is Boon to Data-Savvy Superintendents, Turf Industry

Many industries have them—journals of technical data. There's the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Art & Architecture Journal* and even *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*. Today unpublished technical data generated by golf course superintendents, turf managers and researchers, interns and others now have a home in *Super Journal*, an online turf research journal published by the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute and accessible free-of-charge at www.paceturf.org.

Turf managers conduct virtually thousands of replicated experiments each year to evaluate products and practices. Until the creation of *Super Journal*, the technical data generated by superintendents and managers have been untapped by the turf community. PACE Co-research Director Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D. said, "This is a tragedy as far as we're concerned. How many mistakes could be avoided if turf managers could share their experiences with problematic turf management strategies? Research conducted outside of university protocols may be less stringent, but it is no less important because the research seeks to solve the actual problems the managers are experiencing."

Super Journal's submission requirements are not be as rigorous as an academic journal's, but Dr. Gelernter said PACE does require that the basic principles of experimental design, data recording and data summary be followed. For turf managers who are new to research protocols and writing data reports, a research guide has been provided at the www.paceturf.org website.

To introduce *Super Journal*, Dr. Gelernter said PACE has "primed the pump" with reports by researchers, including a just-posted article by Mary W. Olsen, Ph.D. and Michele J. Kohout, Ph.D., both University of Arizona plant pathologists. Drs. Olsen and Kohout discovered that bermudagrass is a reservoir for the inoculum of the cool-season turfgrass disease, rapid blight. Visitors to *Super Journal* will find this article, as well as others ranging from insect management to reclaimed water management to how to conduct your own research project to how to photograph turf diseases. Over time, superintendent and turf management reports will be added as they are submitted.

Super Journal, Dr. Gelernter summarized, seeks to provide a venue for:

- Superintendents to publish the results of their turf research projects and to share their conclusions with fellow turf managers
- Turf researchers to rapidly publish and disseminate their experimental results
- Superintendents who want assistance in designing, carrying out, interpreting and/or summarizing turf research experiments

The 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. www.paceturf.org.

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