



DR. JOHN MADISON to receive the  
Golf Course Superintendents  
Association of America Distinguished  
Service Award

Dr. Madison, a professor at the University of California, Davis, is the author of two text books in the turfgrass management field, "Principles of Turfgrass Culture" and "Practical Turfgrass Management"

Madison came to the University of California from Cornell University, where he received his PH.D. in 1953. His initial research interests centers on the way different management practices affected one another, but he soon began concentrating on the relationship of soil and water in turf. His later work centered on sand characteristics and on the the practice of frequent light topdressing. This work was of great interest to golf course superintendents, and many courses have successfully adapted his techniques.

His two books published in 1971, reviewed turfgrass research in depth and presented a view of the principles of turfgrass growth and their applications in turfgrass management.

He has received research grants from a number of organizations, including GCSA of America, GCSA of Northern California and the United States Golf Association Green Section. Madison has been a frequent participant in GCSAA and GCSNC educational programs and has worked closely with other local, regional and national turfgrass organizations.

Dr. Madison was awarded an Honorary Membership in GCSA of Northern California in 1978 because of the many benefits he had given to the Association. He is now retired but his research at Davis campus continues on a part time basis.

Manuel L. Francis, a golf course superintendent, architect, designer and consultant whose association with golf courses has spanned almost 60 years is also being awarded a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award with Dr. Madison at the 51st International Turfgrass Conference and Show St. Louis

1979 AWARDS OF THE YEAR - Bill Nigh, Chairman

The last day for getting in nominations for the 1979 Awards is fast approaching. So far I have received twelve ballots. I can not believe that out of a membership of approximately 285, this is all I have received.

Our Association started the awards program five years ago, at the suggestion of the membership. Your Board of Directors feels very strongly that it is a good program, one that should be supported by the entire Association. To this end, would each of you please look around at neighboring course or talk to fellow members of GCSANC and see if we can't come up with some more names.

In the past year I have been and have heard about golf courses where progress and improvements have been made. I am also aware of both Superintendents and Class F members who have given extra effort to their profession. These are the people we want to single out and say "Thanks, nice job."

GET OUT YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER AND TEAR OUT THE AWARDS PAGE and mail to Bill Nigh, 319 O'Keefe, Menlo Park, CA 94025 or call 415 321-1118.

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WANTED WORKING FOREMAN responsible for scheduling and supervising operation of golf course crew. SEND RESUME TO RICHARD LAVINE Castlewood CC, P. O. Box 939, Pleasanton, CA 94566

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We are sorry to report that J. R. Hickey, San Mateo Municipal Golf Course who retired in 1965 and lived in Lakeport has passed away. Also Frank Green, Marina Golf Course, San Leandro passed away in November. Our sympathies go out to both of these families.

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NEW TREES PLANTED ON LYONS CLUB GOLF COURSE, Rough & Ready Island, Stockton. Over 100 trees were planted on the Lyons Club Golf Course. This project was part of an extensive replacement program initiated by course superintendents James Newell and Don Tisher. Many trees on the course were declining because of old age and some were blown down in recent storms. Newell and Tisher were helped by many enthusiastic volunteers who donated their time to this project, completed in less than four hours. Lunch was served and the volunteers played golf and admired their work.

Larry Feliciano is in charge of Bing Maloney and William Land Park Golf Courses in Sacramento.

Bill Nigh is located at Tularcitos Golf & Country Club, Milpitas

Norm Stewart is moving to Sonoma National Golf Course, Sonoma.

USGA Green Section is holding Regional Education Seminars Wednesday  
Wednesday, March 5, 1980, Registry Hotel, Newport Beach, CA  
Friday, March 7, 1980, Broadmoor Golf Club, Seattle, Washington  
Details USGA Green Section, 222 Fashion Lane #107, Tustin, CA 92680  
714 544-4411

Sierra Nevada Golf Course Superintendents Association in conjunction with Nevada Parks and Recreation Society will hold their 3 day seminar March 27, 28, & 29 at the Convention Hall at John Asuaga's Nuggett, Reno. Some speakers will include Lou Pohlson "Making a Budget" Joe Sheffield "Seed Production, Bob Guadagni "Rainbird". It starts Thursday, March 27th at 1:00 p.m. with educational sessions, golf and banquet. Information contact Vance West, Incline, Nevada  
702 831-2606 - Registration at the door.

NEW PUBLICATIONS RELEASED - Leaflet 21132 "Turfgrass Renovation" outlines practices used to improve an existing turf, and Leaflet 21137 "Erosion Control on Bare Slopes Around Your Home," is concerned primarily with areas too steep, rough or isolated to manage as turf. Contact your local Country Farm Advisors office or write to Carl M. Wick, Farm Advisor Butte County, 2279 Del Oro Ave., Suite B, Oroville, CA 95965

DUES FOR GCSA OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - There are a few delinquent dues not collected. Please pay by March 11, 1980. Also please correct any addresses, change of clubs, etc. Names and addresses will be printed after that date. The directory will go to the printers after the annual election meeting on April 10th.

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING - Contact Mike Clark nominating chairman if you know of someone who wishes to run for office. This is your Association.

GRADY SIMRIL, President is recuperating nicely from his heart attack. Come back soon Grady.

## Verticutting - Bob Livesey, CGCS, Visalia

About a year or so ago I had a chance to sit and talk with Dr. Fred Grau. As usual, most of us who know Dr. Grau knows that in his earliest years he was quite an inovator, working with ideas of his own and of Superintendents. This dates back some 40 years or more.

Our conversation got to the pros and cons of verticutting. What does verticutting actually do? One, it smooths the surface. As you know, most turfgrasses are made up of plants that do not grow at the same rate. Those that grow faster make for an uneven or bumpy surface. This is more so on a putting green, and particularly when *Poa annua* is present. The vertical mower removes the faster growing grass blade and leaves a smooth surface.

Verticutting or vertical mowing (whichever you prefer) helps turf to be healthier. As the grass blades become older they are more susceptible to diseases. By removing the older blade and stems you are keeping a younger grass blade, thereby keeping a more upright growth. Removing the older flat lying blade, you help reduce thatch build up. By reducing thatch you increase the effectiveness of insecticides. Another benefit of verticutting is the removal or reduction of "grain" in a putting green. Today you hear very little about it.

In summary, verticutting on a regular basis is beneficial in four major ways:

1. It smooths the surface
2. Helps give a healthier turf
3. Increases the effectiveness of insecticides
4. Reduces grain.

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## MEMBERSHIP

Class B, subject to examination - taken at any regular meeting  
3 month limit.

S. Dave Dutt, Mountain Shadows GC, Rohnert Park  
Kevin Ely, Carmel Valley G & CC, Carmel  
Tim Sedgley, Palo Alto Hills, Palo Alto  
Luciano Tonelli, Lake Merced G & CC, Daly City

Class D - Charles Richesin, Lake Shastina G & CC, Weed

Class F - Thomas Voges, Ferry-Morse Seed Co., Mountain View

The following article is from the Hudson Valley Foreground November 1979 issue. Thought you might enjoy it.

#### GARDNERS FIND AMPLE FERTILIZER ON CAPITOL HILL

Washington (UPI) They spread 40 tons of fertilizer a year on Capitol Hill and not one of those doing the spreading is running for public office.

The 77 member ground crew for the 180 acres that comprises the slopes of the U. S. Capitol, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress works around the clock and year round to make the high ground once known as Jenkins Hill one of the most pleasant places in Washington for a walk or summertime picnic.

Even in the midst of a blizzard, the streets under jurisdiction of the Capitol ground crews are likely to be cleared before any others in the city.

Right now, gardeners, laborers, tree surgeons, mechanics and cement workers are pitching in to rake up the "tons and tons" of leaves that are falling. They will be taken to a Botanic Garden nursery to be turned into mulch for use back on the Hill in a few years. Also underway is seeding for next spring, and in a few weeks next year's tulip bulbs will be put in.

Unlike the White House gardens, none of Capitol Hill's 3,053 trees or myriad shrubs is hidden from the public.

But many of the nearly 20,000 people who work there every day - and of course, the tourists - are looking up at the Capitol dome, instead of down at the manicured lawns or at the trees representing most varieties found in the United States.

The most common tree is the northern red oak. There are 455 of them on the grounds, mostly on the Senate, or northern side. Perhaps the most noticeable in springtime are the 259 flowering dogwoods and 215 Japanese cherry trees.

One of the most famous trees - an English elm planted 110 years earlier on the path between the Senate wing of the Capitol and the Russell Senate Office Building - had to come down last year, a victim of Dutch Elm disease.

It was known as the "humility tree", so dubbed by John F. Kenedy because of the long, gnarled branch that hung down over the sidewalk forcing anyone over about 5'10" to stoop in order to pass by.

Dutch Elm disease is the biggest worry of Paul Pincus, the Capitol's landscape architect and horticulturist, a job first held by the renowned Frederick Law Olmsted.

T H A N K S to these SUPPORTERS of "THRU THE GREEN"

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