

THRU THE GREEN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

EDITOR

JEAN LADUC
1356 Munro Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008

OUR OBJECTIVE: The collection, preservation, and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge and to promote the efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses.

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PRESIDENT

JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ, CGCS
Rossmoor GC
3312 Mountaire Drive
Antioch, CA 94509

VICE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL GARVALE, CGCS
Palo Alto Hills CC
3000 Alexis Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94304

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GILBERT BIBBER (PETE)
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Carmel Valley, CA 93924

DIRECTORS

PETER J. GALEA, CGCS
Crystal Springs GC
6650 Golf Course Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010

STEVE GOOD

Napa Golf Course
1625 Sierra Avenue
Napa, CA 94558

JEAN LADUC

Vets' Golf Course Bldg. 22
3801 Miranda Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304

BRIAN BAGLEY

125 Brook Lane
The Villages Golf and Country Club
Boulder Creek, CA

OFFICE

ALISON GOOD
1745 Saratoga Avenue, Suite A
San Jose, CA 95129
(408) 865-0360

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

With the passing of the dues increase and the By-Law revisions by the membership, it would indicate a positive and optimistic feeling about the Golf Course Superintendents Association of North-



Pete

ern California. The vote of confidence expressed was the culmination of many hours of hard work and meetings over the past few years by preceding Boards of Directors. It was this foresight and concern for the organizations future which enabled the past years Board of Directors, led by President Pete Bibber, to complete the task initiated by our predecessors.

As the incoming President and also speaking for the Board of Directors, we will also look to the future and the establishment of new goals and standards to pursue. One of these goals is the involvement of more of our mem-



Joseph

bers. It could be on the committee level or as an active participant at our monthly meetings. Whatever form of participation is chosen, we should always remember that we are representing the Association. Which brings to mind another goal or standard I feel is very important. That of perpetuating the image of professionalism in our chosen field. This is one standard that we can all be a part of and benefit from.

In the coming months I am sure that many of our members may have concerns or problems they want to discuss. I will be available on Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 12:30 pm to answer questions, take suggestions, etc. Phone (415) 939-1211 extension 610.

Joseph Rodriguez, CGCS

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Carl Rygg has left the Links at Spanish Bay to become the new superintendent at Squaw Valley Golf Course at Lake Tahoe. Squaw Valley is a course under construction in the valley just before you reach the ski lifts. Nine holes are planned for seeding this year and nine holes in 1991. ...

Jim Taylor, from Colorado, has accepted the superintendent position at Incline Village Golf Course. He will be working with Mike Hane, the new director of golf there.

NEXT MONTH IN THRU THE GREEN

- *Evaluating Your Systems' Pressure Requirements*
- *A Review of the Annual GCSAC State Meeting*

OVERCOMING INADEQUATE IRRIGATION PRESSURES

Last month we touched on the fact that water must be supplied to the sprinklers in an irrigation system at the proper "dynamic pressure" if they are to work properly. "Dynamic pressure", you will remember, is the pressure of water in motion at any given point within the system after accounting for gains or losses to the static pressure (or potential energy) that is available at the water source.

Since most golf courses draw water for their irrigation systems from storage lakes or subterranean wells, and have a tremendous amount of surface area and topography to cover, the static pressure available at the water source is often far from adequate. Even courses that utilize a domestic water source rarely have enough static pressure at the source to provide water to that elevated green at the far corner of the course that the membership considers to be the signature spot on the layout.

For this reason, golf course irrigation systems often need to utilize one or more pumping stations to boost the water pressure to the proper level required to effectively operate the sprinklers.

The most common type of pump used

"The pump don't work 'cause the vandals took the handle..."

— Bob Dylan

in our industry is called a centrifugal pump because it adds energy to the water by using the principle of centrifugal force. The pump is driven by a motor that provides rotation to a contained, fan-like device called an impeller. Water is drawn from the water source, into the center of the rotating impeller area, and is thrown outward at an accelerated speed. This action adds energy to the water in the form of velocity, which must then be converted into pressure. The conversion is accomplished by slowing the water down again and storing the energy in a contained environment. Two methods are generally used for converting this energy:

1) The water is slowed down and pressurized in a spiral shaped con-

tainer surrounding the impeller called a "volute"; or

2) The high velocity water is converted to pressure when it is forced through passages known as "diffusion vanes" which gradually increase in size and reduce the velocity accordingly.

"Volute" type pumps are usually designed to be mounted in a horizontal position and almost always require the incoming water to be provided in a continuous flow a positive pressure (or the pump may lose its prime and start "drawing air"). Because of this, these types of pumps are most useful on golf courses as "in-line booster pumps" on your mainline system.

"Diffuser" type pumps (commonly known as "turbine" type pumps) are usually designed to be mounted vertically with a column or shaft extending into a deep well which draws water from the source. The pump motor is mounted above ground and the impellers (or bowls) are mounted near the bottom of the well where the water source will always provide enough water to keep the pump from running dry. This type of pump is usually used when pumping water out of storage lakes or subterranean wells.

Pump systems are a common method used to overcome inadequate pressures in a golf course irrigation system - but they may not be the only answer to the problem. If you feel you don't have adequate pressure for your course you should take some time to evaluate your irrigation system as a whole before making the decision to install a pump.

Next month: Evaluating Your System's Pressure Requirements.

OUR HOST FOR MAY AND THE COURSE

Blake Swint began working at Skywest Golf Course in Hayward at age 14 as summer help, and through high school was night Waterman. After graduating from high school in 1972 he joined the maintenance crew full time while attending Chabot College at night studying Horticulture. In 1979 Blake went to work at Orinda CC as an Assistant for one year. He left the golf management skills. He returned to golf course business in 1984 as the Assistant Superintendent at Sequoyah CC and became the Superintendent in December 1984.

Sequoyah CC has been in existence since 1913. A classic old course located in the Oakland Hills, that hosted the Oakland Open with the likes of Ben Hogan and Sam Snead.

Because of its relatively short length, some players feel the course will not offer much of a challenge. The equalizer is fast, true greens that the membership at Sequoyah prides itself in.

Sequoyah CC is a Par 70 with a course rating and yardage: Champ 6938, 6061; Reg 69.1, 5838.

THANKS PETE

Many thanks to **Pete Bibber** and the staff at Del Monte GC for the great BBQ Chicken dinner at the Annual Meeting held at Del Monte GC in April.

BRINGING OUR ROOTS BACK TO THE FUTURE

Do you remember watching the British Open on television this year? Can you remember how brown the golf course appeared?

I remembered asking my green committee chairman the next day what he thought about the conditions and he quickly responded, "Deplorable!"

That adjective sounds a little harsh, but let's face it: courses in America are commonly wall-to-wall green and kept in impeccable condition.

Perhaps a little too impeccable.

Maybe our Scottish forefathers are ahead of the game, while we are out there digging our own graves. Just how long can we continue to overproduce?

Let's be honest. American golf courses are maintained too well and

everyone's at fault. We as superintendents strive to make our golf course better every year. When will we reach our limit? What about American golfers? Are they getting spoiled? We hear them complain about those things we

Perhaps it's time to look back across the Pond, where superintendents have been nurturing the game of golf for centuries. Maybe they have been ahead of the game all along while we have been digging our graves.

do for our own good like aerifying, top dressing, verticutting and so on.

Those Scotsmen do far less and are far better off. And I mean no disrespect: they've got this business figured out far better than we do.

Many American golfers travel from place to place, playing each golf course

at its peak level of maintenance. Our members travel from north to south, expecting perfection at each stop along the way. Member-guest tournaments compound the problem. If the course down the road has something special, you can sure bet that your members will have you doing the same thing in the very near future.

And what about touring pros?

Is there such a thing as a silver spoon? Is the American touring pro spoiled? We hear of foreign pros playing more competitively because

they are more familiar with normal world conditions. Again, are we spoiling our pros with fast greens, tight fairways and so on?

It's got so bad that now we hear TV commentators discussing "roll of the fairways!"

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EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

SALARY: \$2,329 - 2,830 /
month (plus PERS)

FINAL FILING DATE:
May 11, 1990

THE POSITION: Under direction, performs a variety of skilled and semi-skilled golf course maintenance and construction activities; operates equipment pertaining to tasks; performs the more difficult aspects of golf course maintenance and repair.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of: Plant identification and propagation; tools and materials used in golf course maintenance, construction and repair; operation of equipment.

Skill to: Read and write legibly; understand and follow oral and written directions; safely operate hand and power tools, and equipment needed to perform assigned tasks.

Experience: Two years of full-time, paid experience in golf course maintenance.

License: Possession of appropriate, valid California driver's license at the time of appointment, and an acceptable driving record as determined by the City of Livermore.

Certification: Must be able to obtain a valid State of California, Department of Food and Agriculture, Qualified Applicator Certificate by the end of the first year of employment.

1990 SUPERINTENDENT/PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENT

PLACE: PALO ALTO HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

DATE: JULY 16, 1990

HOST: MIKE GARVALE, CGCS

SCHEDULE: 12:00 noon.....Registration (No-Host Lunch Available)
12:30 pm.....Shotgun Start
5:30 pm.....No-Host Cocktails
7:00 pm.....Awards and Dinner

TYPES OF PLAY

- * Superintendent/Professional: 2 Person Team 1 Best Ball with Handicap
- * Superintendent: Individual Low Net
- * Superintendent: Individual Low Gross
- * Professional: Low Gross - Purse based on entries
- * Affiliates/Guests: Low Net
- * Four Person Team: 3 Best Ball with Handicaps

REGISTRATION AND ENTRY INFORMATION

- Priority registration will be given to Superintendent/Pro Teams for entries received by JULY 2, 1990.
- Registration will not be accepted as complete until COPIES OF CURRENT NCGA INDEX CARDS are received for EACH TEAM MEMBER.
- Entry verification will be mailed upon receipt of complete application.
- Cost: Superintendent, Affiliates, and Guests.....\$80.00
Professionals.....\$90.00

HANDICAPS

- * A COPY OF CURRENT NCGA HANDICAP CARD FOR EACH TEAM MEMBER MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION
- * NCGA Index must be up-to-date and AVAILABLE at Tournament
- * Maximum allowable handicap is 20
- * A GCSANC Member must be on each four man team

TO APPLY

Mail application, copy of current index cards for all team members and check to:
GCSANC, 1745 Saratoga Avenue, Suite A, San Jose, CA, 95129

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact: Mike Garvale, CGCS, Superintendent Palo Alto Hills Country Club,
Supt/Pro Tournament Chairperson at (415) 948-0922 (best time 6 am or 9-9:30 am)

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SUPERINTENDENT_____CURRENT INDEX_____

CLUB/BUSINESS_____

ADDRESS_____

TELEPHONE NUMBER_____

PROFESSIONAL_____CURRENT INDEX_____

GUEST/AFFILIATE_____CURRENT INDEX_____

GUEST/AFFILIATE_____CURRENT INDEX_____

PAYMENT IN FULL AND CURRENT NCGA INDEX CARD COPIES FOR EACH TEAM MEMBER ACCOMPANY APPLICATION IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR TOURNAMENT

SUPERS URGED TO BACK THEIR MECHANICS

Superintendents should support their mechanics as they attempt to form professional associations around the country, according to a speaker at the GCSAA convention in Orlando, Fla. in February 1990.

There are a handful of regional mechanics associations, mostly in the Southeast. Organizers of the mechanics session hope their efforts will encourage mechanics in other regions to form their own associations, which could one day lead to a national organization, like the GCSAA.

"An association is formed by individuals with a common interest. Golf course mechanics need a forum to express themselves and exchange ideas on equipment maintenance and repair. The entire industry and superintendents at the individual courses will

benefit from mechanics joining and participating in an association," said Bruce Williams, superintendent of Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, Ill.

From a superintendents' viewpoint there are many advantages to having a mechanics' association.

"The role of the mechanic has changed with the growing complexity of equipment. We need educated, trained technicians to run them. Better-trained mechanics means less down time for equipment. Well-running equipment makes for a happy superintendent and a happy superintendent makes for a good working environment."

But having a mechanic who is active in an association comes at a cost to the superintendent—a direct cost in dues

and educational expenses and a time cost when the mechanic is away at meetings and seminars. Since that time and money aren't available without the superintendent's blessing, there are things the mechanic can do to gain his boss' support:

- Give the superintendent plenty of notice for an upcoming meeting, explain what you expect to learn and report back on what you learned after the meeting.
- Hold meetings at appropriate times
- Discuss appropriate topics at appropriate places.
- Don't use meetings simply as a gripe session

Article seen in Golf Course News, April 1990

BACK TO THE FUTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Where is it going to end? Even the commentators are spoiled. Sure, they give us a lot of respect and credit when they compliment the golf course, but the point is, they are calling attention to the very best-conditioned courses in the world.

Is this whole golf business heading in the right direction? Have you ever really thought about what golf will be like in the year 2010? I'm not talking about laser golf with high-tech clubs; I'm talking about the green stuff we play on. We dream of drought-tolerant, heat-resistant, special grasses that we haven't even seen yet. In reality, things might be completely different from what we now envision.

First, let's assume money always will be available to support the top-level clubs. Twenty years from now, money might not even be an issue anywhere.

Instead, the issues might be water

availability and banned chemicals. Golfers may have to adapt to brown, dry turf, weeds, and insect damage.

In 20 years, we might be irrigating greens and tees just three times a week and fairways only once a week. Perhaps by then man will have consumed or polluted so much of his fresh water sources that the precious remainder will not be available for golf course at any price.

Lush, wall-to-wall green may be a distant memory.

You've heard of organic gardening. What would it be like to manage a golf course the organic way? That's right; no pesticides of any sort! Environmentalists and government regulations will have virtually eliminated all the current pesticides except those which are so safe as to be ineffective.

If for no reason other than political reality, the current restricted pesticides that combat nematodes and mole crickets will be long gone and these insect pests will abound in numbers

we have not yet seen. (The Rules of Golf may even permit a golfer to knock down mole cricket mounds in his line.)

And as for weeds, they will be prevalent everywhere. The current herbicides on the market will be long gone. We could contemplate pulling weeds by hand, but labor cost make clean golf course prohibitively expensive. It will be easier just to let the weeds grow because, after all, everybody will have them.

As a matter of fact, we might even play winter rules and roll the ball onto a clump of weeds because at least they offer a better lie than sand.

What about these new so-called low-maintenance golf course that architects currently are creating with abrupt mounds, huge bunkers, and excessive fields of love grass? Somebody out there is going to get rich modifying all these modern monuments to the way they should have been constructed in the first place.

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HOW THE EPCRA WORKS IN CALIFORNIA

As a response to growing concerns about the effects of chemical releases on communities, the U.S. Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) in 1986. The act supports state and local emergency planning efforts and provides citizens and local governments with information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their communities by requiring reports from businesses — including golf courses — that deal with hazardous chemicals.

California's Hazardous Material Release Response Plans and Inventory law requires businesses with specified quantities of hazardous materials to develop emergency contingency plans. The law was amended in 1988 to mesh state business plan requirements with federal EPCRA requirements.

The California Office of Emergency Services administers the law. Each county must implement the law except where a city has assumed responsibility

and has exclusive jurisdiction. The city ordinance must contain business reporting requirements similar to or more restrictive than the state law, and the city must notify the county of its ordinance and coordinate efforts to avoid duplication.

The law covers all employers that store or use hazardous substances. Golf Course operations that use or store a hazardous substance or a mixture containing a hazardous substance equal to or exceeding 500 pounds, 55 gallons or 200 cubic feet of compressed gas must develop a business plan. Additionally, any facility with an extremely hazardous substance that exceeds the chemical's threshold planning quantity must develop a business plan.

Business plans must include:

- chemical inventory list
- emergency response plans
- evacuation plans
- procedures for the mitigation of a release
- employee training programs

Business plans are subject to biennial review. Individuals reviewing the business plans are granted immunity from liability for damages or injuries resulting from an inadequate or negligent review of the plan. Any business plan revisions must be reported to the administering agency.

Releases or threatened releases of a hazardous substance must be reported immediately to the administering agency. Any business required under EPCRA to submit follow-up notification of a release must do so on forms approved by the California Office of Emergency Services.

Any employer who fails to file a business plan may be assessed a civil

penalty not to exceed \$2,000 per day. Any employer who fails to report a release or threatened release may be fined \$25,000 per day of violation, and for subsequent convictions for release non-reporting, the employer may be fined up to \$50,000 per day.

If a violation contributes to an emergency response activity, including a fire, the business is also responsible for the full cost of the county or city emergency response and the costs of cleaning up and disposing of the hazardous materials.

A reward of up to \$5,000 is available for any person who provides information contributing to the assessment of civil penalties for noncompliance.

RELATED LAWS

Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, prohibits the discharge of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. Proposition 65 also requires employers, including golf courses, to provide the public with a clear and reasonable warning of chemicals in products that may cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

Further regulations have been proposed to expand the list of chemicals covered under Proposition 65 and to clarify the warning requirement.

An air toxins law, known as the Hot Spots Law, requires facilities to submit biennially a proposed emission inventory plan for on-site hazardous substances reportable under a state-developed list.

COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW CONTACTS

For emergency release notification, call 800/852-7550.

For general information, call the Office of Emergency Services at 916/
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BACK TO THE FUTURE

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On the other hand, maybe we can prepare to the future now, since the change is inevitable and superintendents will be virtually powerless in its wake. Pesticides will be banned no matter how many lobbyists we employ. Golfers are going to have to accept that fact.

Those Scottish chaps have not nurtured the game of golf for centuries by accident. They have something to teach us. Perhaps the way back to the future lies on the other side of the Big Pond.

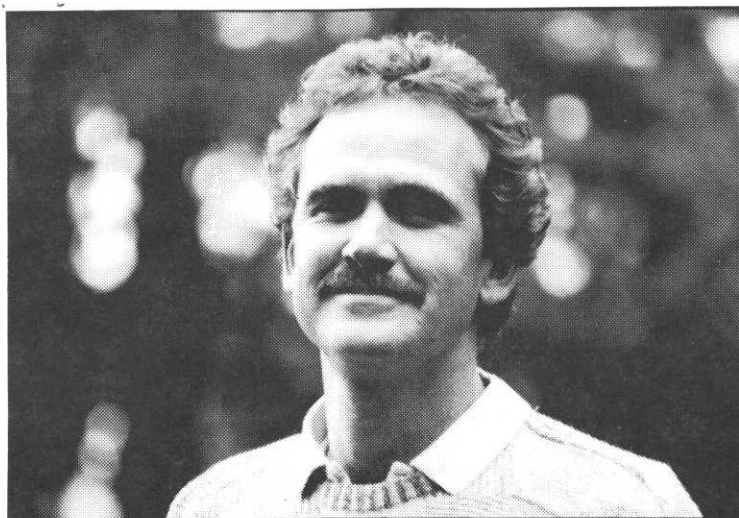
Article by Mike Bailey, Superintendent at The Falls CC, Lake Worth, Florida. As seen in *The Florida Green*, Winter 1990.

EXCELLENCE IN TURF MANAGEMENT AWARD WINNER

Dean Gump, superintendent at Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz, was recently awarded the Excellence In Golf Turf Management award for Northern California.

"I was very flattered and honored to have received the excellence in Golf Turf Management Award from my peers," Dean stated in a recent letter to the editor. "Thank you again and I will definitely work harder this year to support our association!"

Congratulations Dean!



Dean Gump, Pasatiempo G.C. Superintendent Excellence In Turf Management Award winner

NEW MEMBERSHIP IN THE GCSANC FOR MAY

Please join us in welcoming to our Association the following new members.

Class D

Thomas Bender, Silverado CC
Virginia Lozier, Palo Alto GC

Class F

Frank Martin, Martin Irrigation Supply, Seaside

Pending Exams

Carol Lozito, Snowcreek GC Class A
Darshan Dass, Canyon Lakes CC Class B

Ed Thiele, CGCS, superintendent

of Napa Valley CC has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Thiele has been Superintendent of Napa Valley CC since 1984. Congratulations Ed!

DEL MONTE GOLF RESULTS

LOW GROSS

Armando Claudio 74
Alasdair Brownlie 74
Steve Good 77
Ross Brownlie 78

LOW NET

Clayton Hughes 67
Terry Stratton 68
Fred Hanker 69
Gale Wilson 70
Sohan Singh 71
Barry Sheppard 72

HOW THE EPCRA WORKS ...

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427-4287. For emergency planning notification and document submissions, call Chemical Emergency Planning and Response Commission (CEPRC) at 916/427-4287.

Submit follow-up release notification, material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and chemical inventories to CEPRC, 2800 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832.

Submit annual toxic chemical release forms to Office of Environmental Affairs, P.O. Box 2815, Attn: Section 313 Submittals, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Information provided in this article was supplied by GCSAA

A LOOK AHEAD

May 7	Sequoyah CC	Sept. 7	Mira Vista CC
May 20-21	CGCSA State Meeting The Inn and Links at Spanish Bay	Sept. 20, 21	GCSAA Sierra Nevada Seminar
June 8	De Laveaga GC	October 9, 10, 11	Supt. Institute at Mt. Springs, Sonora
July 16	Supt/Pro Tourney Palo Alto Hills CC	November 9	Claremont CC
August 16	Northgate CC-Reno Joint Meeting with Sierra Nevada	December 7	Larry Lloyd Memorial Tournament at Rancho Canada