

THRU THE GREEN

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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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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As I write this, I am preparing to head for Las Vegas and the 62nd International Golf Course Conference and Show. If you have never attended a conference, you should really make the effort to attend one. Just the trade show itself is worth the trip. The educational opportunities are unsurpassed and the camaraderie you share with your peers from around the world is a great experience.

In regards to the National Association we still have many members of our local chapter who are not members. Membership in the Golf course Superintendents Association of America is a definite plus and has much to offer the Superintendent. One of its main objectives is to inform and educate its membership and strive for betterment of the Golf Course Superintendents future. Among the pluses are educational seminars, a reference library, Golf Course Management magazine and other timely publications. There are also other special services such as a merchandise program, insurance, travel services, employment referral and admittance to all major golf tournaments. Another important facet of membership is the Certification Program, where you can earn the title of

Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS). This is only after you have completed a rigorous program of study and testing in all phases related to golf course maintenance. The CGCS accreditation means you have achieved a high standard of professional excellence in your chosen field. On the local level your Board of Directors is going to set up study session for those National members who are considering certification.

In the past year our chapter has achieved a measure of stability and credibility. One of the reasons for this is the filling of the Executive Secretary position. Michael Garvale, CGCS, and his committee worked very hard and after sifting through resumes and finally interviews, recommended Barbara Mikel for the position. It is an excellent choice and we will retain the same address and phone number .

A reminder for the upcoming meeting on March 28. This is a joint meeting with the NCGA and USGA and should be very informative.

See you there.

Joseph A. Rodriguez, CGCS

HELP WANTED

Looking for an aspiring Lead Person with a desire to accelerate into upper level management positions. Experience and education is important, though, a 100 % commitment to the Golf Course Maintenance Industry is mandatory. Excellent wages and benefits are possible. Resumes will be accepted until the end of March.

Send Resume to:

Los Altos Golf and Country Club
1560 Country Club Dr.
Los Altos, CA 94022

Attention: Michael Simpson

Course Documentation and Diagramming

As much fun as installing a new irrigation system can be, the real fun comes when you start operating it. In order to operate the system properly, you can take advantage of many sources of information. Performance specification sheets are available for all products and should be kept even after the system has been operational so that you can compare the actual performance of your system with its published performance. Owner's manuals are used not only for training but as ongoing references. As you become more familiar with your system, your ability to create better ways of watering your golf course should increase. A maintenance and repair manual will allow you to operate your system at peak performance with less down time. Typically, a new irrigation system is about a \$500,000 investment for the golf course. A good maintenance program can help the superintendent spend less money on irrigation repair as well as leave him more time to spend elsewhere on the course. When repairs are needed for the system, the repair manual should have a section where you can record what the problem was and who fixed it. Unfortunately, the best way to learn is to have to troubleshoot or repair your system. Should your system be relatively new, you can save your course money by having the warranty information on all the components in your system.

In some respects, the most important part of course documentation is the "as-built". All course have the plans as they were drawn up - an "as-built" should show you how the system was actually put in. During construction, many changes may occur as to location (sprinklers or valves) and routing (both pipe and wire). These changes may occur due to a change in the green size, cart path location, additional trees, or any one of a hundred other factors. Regardless of the reason, any changes should be marked on the plan so that should any maintenance ever be required, the superintendent can know exactly what he is working with. Aside from changes the as-built will identify all sprinkler, valve, specialty valve, and controller locations. In general, anything to do with the irrigation system should be marked clearly and to scale on the as-built. Many times, potential maintenance problems or future course expansion problems can be anticipated and dealt with more effectively with the aid of a properly documented as-built. In addition to an as-built plan, an aerial photograph can also be a useful tool in identifying potential problems or planning maintenance or expansion plans. In the same way that you should log repair work in your maintenance manuals, all changes to your irrigation system should be marked on at least one set of your as-builts. By spending 30 minutes at the end of a small project or repair, you may save yourself hours in five or six years when you are working in the same location.

S U M M E R INTERNSHIPS / JOBS

PURPOSE: To provide work experience opportunities in turfgrass management; golf course development and maintenance to U.C. Davis students. College students with academic and/ or career interests in golf course management will be seeking work experience opportunities for this summer-1991.

PROCEDURE: If you are interested in providing a summer position, please submit position description (indicate pay rate) by April 12, 1991 to:
Cliff Rourke
Riverside Golf Course
P.O.Box 13128
Coyote, CA 95013
(408) 463-0558

COMPENSATION: Students will be placed on your regular payroll.

ACADEMIC CREDIT: Students may, depending on the educational opportunities of the work experience provided, pursue academic credit for their experience.

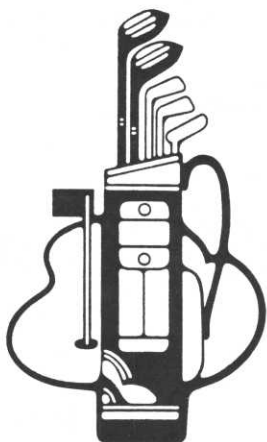
ADDITIONAL INFO: Students will be available from late June to late September. Last years compensation rates ranged from \$5.75 to \$7.00 per hour. This is the fifth year the Northern California Superintendents Association has offered summer employment/ internships to students at U. C. Davis with each year increasing in popularity by the college. so if you can, show your support in return.

VOTE APRIL 8

Our Host and His Course for February

Mike McCraw began his career in golf course management as assistant superintendent to **Al Glaze** at San Luis Obispo CC in 1975. In 1978 Mike accepted the superintendent job at Santa maria CC and received his Ornamental Horticulture degree from Allan Hancock College in 1980. In 1986 Mike joined American Golf Corporation and relocated to Aptos Seascape in Santa Cruz. Since moving to Santa Cruz his new hobbies include mountain bike riding, people watching, wood chopping and surfing.

Aptos Seascape (formerly Rio del Mar CC) was opened for play about 1930. Located approximately 1/2 mile from the beach, the club owned clubhouses on the sand and above the surf on the cliffs overlooking the ocean. Riding stables, swimming pools, and hunting made this a getaway place for people from the city. Although now surrounded by residential development, the course maintains an "open" feel. Huge trees line the 6100 yards of fairways keeping the golf challenging and scenic.



BROCHURE DISCUSSES ORIGIN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF GREENS

The most delicate playing surface in sports today — the golf course putting green — is the topic of a 24-page brochure now available from the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

The Evolution of the Modern Green is a reprint of the fascinating four-part series, written by Michael J. Hurdzan, past president of the ASGCA. Dr. Hurdzan discusses all aspects of engineering, design, construction, and maintenance in the full-color brochure that covers the following topics:

Section One: the historical development of golf greens in the U.S. and how turf managers keep them in top playing shape.

Section Two: the research and development of various methods of green construction.

Section Three: how and when to rebuild greens and how to avoid the most common construction errors.

Section Four: the turfgrass art and science of establishing and maintaining a delicate living playing surface.

The **Evolution of the Modern Green** is available for \$5.00 by sending a check or money order to:

The American Society of Golf Course Architects
221 N. LaSalle St.,
Chicago, IL 60601

A LOOK AHEAD

February 27
Seascape GC, Aptos

March 28
Joint Meeting with USGA, NCGA

April 8
GCSANC Annual Meeting, Rossmoor

May 2
Oakhurst CC, Clayton

June 13
Open

July 15
Supt./Pro Tournament, San Francisco Golf Club

August 14
Oakland A's Baseball Game, Oakland Coliseum

September 19
Richmond CC

October 10
Bodega Harbour GC



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ARE UNSUNG HEROES

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America knows that it has an image problem with public golfers. Most public golfers don't know what a golf course superintendent is.

Country Club members are a bit more knowledgeable. Surveys show that they not only know who their particular golf course superintendent is, but what his duties are, as well. Generally, country club members appreciate the difficulty of the job and the efforts of their superintendent.

And that's the rub. Not many public golfers appreciate the condition of the course they are playing. Ergo, golf course superintendents tend to keep a low profile.

"That's not a fair situation," insists Bob Still, manager of media relations for the GCSAA. "The public course superintendent usually faces a much bigger challenge (than the private course superintendent) because public courses get a lot of play. And generally, they don't have as much budget to work with."

The extremely exclusive Cypress Point Golf Course in Monterey was named the second best course in Golf Digest's biennial "100 greatest golf courses in America" article a year ago.

Cypress, which is not only an outstanding golf course but is always in excellent condition, runs about 13,000 rounds of golf a year. Las Positas generally does that in five weeks.

Another popular misconception, according to Still, is a superintendent's attitude toward the golf course. "Public golfers tend to think that the superintendent is just collecting a paycheck and that he doesn't know the first thing about golf," he said. "But the number one interest in the heart and mind of these (superintendents) is the golfer. Superintendents love the game of golf. They have to (because) the work is hard and the hours are crazy."

Actually, golf course superintendents have to know the rules of golf because they are tested on them as part of the certification

process.

The GCSAA spent years trying to organize a certification system for its members. "It wasn't easy," said Still, referring to the process finally completed two years ago.

"One of the things we needed as a requirement (for certification) was a four-year (college) degree and a lot of the older superintendents just don't have a degree. In many cases, the job was handed down father to son."

The GCSAA finally implemented a certification system based upon two full days of tests. The people taking the test have to exhibit sufficient knowledge of parasites and the chemicals to kill them; turf management; drainage; and all of the complex things that go into maintaining a golf course.

And, as mentioned, the test includes a section on the rules of golf. "These guys have to know the game," said Still. "The rules of golf are basic and important to superintendents."

A person has to be a member of the GCSAA and an active golf course superintendent (also known as a greens keeper) for five years before taking the certification test. Younger applicants are required to have a four-year degree, usually in agronomy.

The GCSAA will certify superintendents who don't have college degrees if they have been on the job for awhile. Non-degree applicants, however, have to take a series of seminars geared at bringing them up to date with current scientific techniques.

"We have a fulltime staff of six people who travel around the country giving seminars," said Still. "Our aim is to make it mean something to be certified. We feel that a certified superintendent will have a high level of knowledge and ability, and as such will be in high demand."

As the GCSAA's program further matures and more people complete the certification process, the everyday golfer will benefit because the overall condition of golf courses will improve.

New (and often less expensive) techniques make it easier to troubleshoot problems and remedies are more exact than in the past. For example, soil testing is now done on greens to determine if aeration is necessary. Only the greens that need help are aerated, where before, every green on the golf course was aerated the same, usually twice a year.

Environmentalists have lobbied to get certain chemicals banned or restricted, a process that Still says his organization generally supports. Proper knowledge of chemicals by the superintendents means more careful use and less adverse environmental impact.

By pooling its knowledge and requiring qualified personnel, the GCSAA is working toward mitigating the impact of limited budgets. That will, in turn, keep public green fees down and affordable for the average golfer.

(The preceding article is a reprint from the April 23, 1990 issue of The Valley Herald from Livermore, CA.)

Christmas Party Sponsors

Additional supporters for GCSANC annual Christmas party are:

Target Chemical Company

P.O. Box 1117
Corritos, CA 90701

Naiad Company

Jim Karrick
5627 Stoneridge Drive #316
Pleasanton, CA 94556

Scotts Pro-Turf

Chuck Dal Pozzo
415- 791-8985

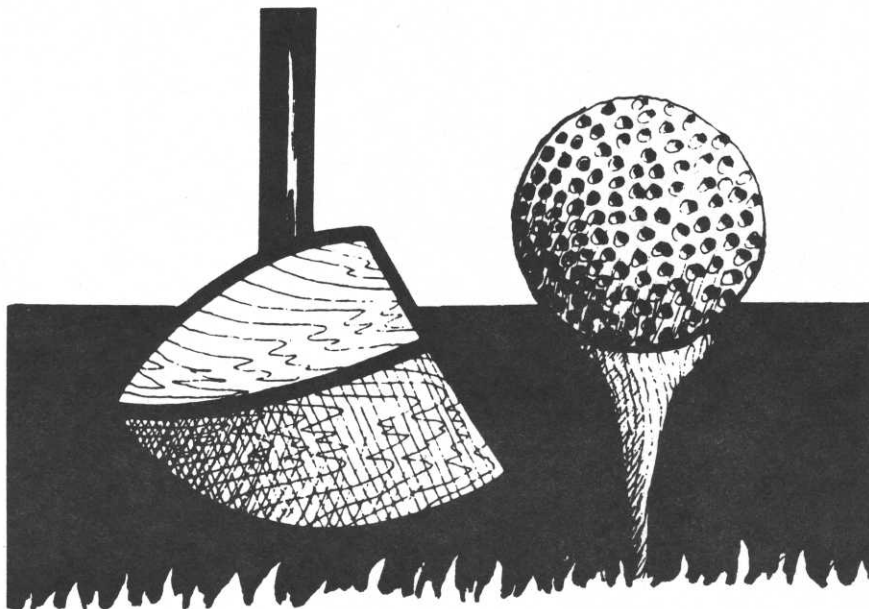
BROWN SAND

BROWN SAND will be hosting their second annual Golf Course Seminar on March 19, 1990. This year's theme concentrates on reconstruction of greens, tees, and fairways, along with the importance of a well-balanced foundation with top quality products. Brown Sand's blending of their Putt 'n Tee will be demonstrated in the blending plant. Scheduled to speak are the following:

Charles Dixon, International Sports Turf Research Center, Inc.
Jerry Schmitz, Pioneer Dakota Peat
Judd Sundine, Isolite Porous Ceramics
Gary Stickel, Stockhausen, Inc.

Reservations will be accepted for the first 80 RSVP's only.
For more information please contact Kathy Harris at 209-239-4929.

*The above announcement is the half page space each supporter of "Thru The Green" can utilize during the year. For more information, please contact the editor.



PART TWO

SPECIAL EDITION: SUMMER PATCH DISEASE IN CALIFORNIA

This is a follow-up **Special Release** regarding **The very Destructive Disease** infecting the vascular crown and root of *Poa annua* in golf course greens as evidenced by the numerous samples of grass plants submitted to Dr. Robert Endo, UC Riverside. The diligent research efforts of the University pathologists sparked by your many samples culminated to date in the findings reported in their release that follows:

Control of summer patch after infection has occurred and after the disease has developed above-ground symptoms is probably not attainable because systemic fungicides appear to be incapable of *curing* infecting plants of fungal diseases. Therefore, application of the above systemic chemicals to turfgrass plants already affected with summer patch is unlikely to do more than reduce spread to adjacent healthy plants. Since some adjacent plants may already be affected with root rot, but have not yet developed above-ground symptoms, even this limited objective may be difficult to attain.

Therefore, the only control measures that are available for *infected* plants are those that may help to render the *effects* of summer patch somewhat less severe, and thereby prolong the life of the infected plants. There are many such palliative measures available, because symptoms of the disease develop above-ground *only* when root damage below ground becomes severe enough to interfere with the normal growth of the foliage and stems. Examples of such mitigating factors are: 1) weekly fertilization with a very dilute solution of fertilizers to maintain "normal" foliage and root growth of the diseased plants for as long as possible. Since vascular tissues are frequently infected, nutrient uptake is usually reduced. Phosphorus is probably most important because it is necessary for the formation and growth of new roots, too much nitrogen must be avoided because it favors foliage growth at the expense of root growth; and 2) the avoidance and/or control of any factor that further stresses or weakens the diseased plants or interferes with their normal functioning such as compacted anaerobic soils,

salinity, insufficient water, reduced heights of cut, high temperatures, heavy traffic, aerification, renovation, severely drying winds, and fungal diseases of the foliage that develop on weakened stressed plants (e.g. anthracnose and dollar spot).

An indirect method of controlling summer patch of *P. annua* may be to either sow bentgrass seeds or replace with bentgrass sod, areas of *P. annua* greens that have been killed by *M. poae*. This *may* be effective because we have not yet seen bentgrass plants severely affected or killed by this fungus.

Ectotrophic fungal root pathogens are an entirely new ball game with regard to management and control because the diseases they cause occur below ground, out of sight and out of mind. What is particularly bad is that some of these fungi (e.g. *L. korrae*, *M. poae*, and *G. graminis* var. *avenae*) cause diseases that also affect the vital nutrient- and water conducting tissues of the root (xylem); therefore such diseases are very damaging and extremely difficult to control.

Remember the only method of controlling these diseases is *preventative*, i.e. to apply preventative applications of certain systemic fungicides to the soil in the spring *before* appreciable root infections occur. Therefore, if your *Poa annua* plants in your greens were affected with summer patch in 1988, you should seriously consider applying systemic fungicides as a "drench" to your greens in early spring of 1990.

In conclusion, the authors wish to point out that the results of fungicides control experiments carried out in the spring against summer patch in the eastern U.S. may differ greatly from those carried out in California because of the differences in winter soil temperatures between the two areas. In the very cold eastern U.S., infected plants that survived the summer and fall may possibly recover completely from infections in the winter and early spring. In California, in

contrast, infected plants may manifest complete recovery from above-ground symptoms during cooler weather, but continue to manifest moderate to mild root infections below ground. In the latter situation, fungicides applied in the spring in California would have been ineffective.

This winter we have already witnessed several greens in California that continued to manifest root rot although above-ground symptoms were lacking.

MEMBERSHIP FOR JANUARY

CLASS B pending verification
Gary Skolnik, Bishop CC

ASSOCIATE
Dan Sakai, Napa Valley CC

AFFILIATE
Patrick Wait, Club Car, Inc., Benicia
Michael Gudjones, Par Elegance, Novato

CHANGE OF CLASSIFICATION
Michael Mendoza, M&M Enterprises, Pinole
Gale Love, Grass Valley, Class A Life

Pending Upgrade by Meeting Attendance # = Month began

- 02 Chester Manni
- 03 Phil Brown
James Smith
Tim Greenwald
- 04 Chuck Weatherston, Jr.
Andrew Moyers