

THRU THE GREEN

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Thru the Green

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dent's Association of
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FYI

Mission Accomplished

by Barbara Mikel

The new office and house are great! Driving to the office on Friday, October 22nd, my car radio was still tuned to the San Jose radio stations. I was listening to the traffic report for the South Bay. The only congestion I encountered that morning was "lots and lots of trees." When

you are in the area, stop by and say "hello."

Complete Renewal Forms A Necessity

You may have noticed your 1994 dues renewal form has changed. It is very important that we have the form returned to us *complete* when you mail your renewal check. If we get the check without the renewal form, we have to call or send you a notice. You cannot renew without the

form, so save yourself, and me, some hassle and make sure your accounting department understands we need the form returned.

Also, enclosed with your renewal was the promised sticker for your directory. The back of the card is a "peel off" and can be attached to the directory.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Environmental President
Part II

There seem to be two different types of "environmental" golf course superintendents. First, there are those who are concerned about the potential dangers, both immediate and long term, that chemicals pose. The second type are those whose concerns lie primarily with presenting good public relations.

I identify myself with the first type because it is my contention that golf courses get their best PR when superintendents actually care about the possible consequences of applying chemicals and act responsibly. The key is to take a *proactive* approach to environmental concerns and regulations, not a *reactive* or *defensive* approach.

One of my greatest disappointments relative to environmental education was a GCSAA seminar entitled "Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management."

What I thought would be a perfect seminar for an ecologically concerned superintendent turned out to address primarily how to deal with the media and the public. As it turned out, little time was spent teaching how to take the environment into consideration in the management of our golf courses.

Some may ask themselves, "Why shouldn't we just wait for government regulations to stipulate what we can and cannot do?" I ask, "Why wait for the last minute? Why not look for alternatives or integrate pest control now? After all, the regulations are inevitable."

One of my wise old bosses once told me that a professional anticipates and plans ways to handle future problems, he doesn't wait and react to them.

I am certain that there are plenty of superintendents who don't agree with me on this

issue, and that's OK. My goal in this and last month's "President's Message" is to at least get some thought and discussion on the "environmental" approach to golf course management. Whether you call me an environmental nut or call to tell me of some non-chemical way you have found to control pests, I will consider these messages a success!

"Where there is much desire to learn, there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making."

John Milton
Areopagitica, 1644

Respectfully submitted by
Brian Bagley
President

Carey Krefft
NSTC/Farmtec

In last month's issue we explored the FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT and the NPDES. The impact of all of these laws and their counterparts to the golf course industry is upon us. It's already impacting many other industries. Are we next? The state Water Quality Control Board is gearing up the local governments for the storm-water pollution limits deadline.

Let's assume that you operate at least one equipment or vehicle wash pad. Where does the water go? This is important. If you're hooked up to a sanitary sewer, you're probably OK. If your wash wastewater leads to the local storm drain or a creek, you've got a problem.

The Solution: Obtain a permit to hook up to sanitary sewer. No problem, right? If the sanitary sewer is not available, you need a recycling system.

Now then, let's get down to business. In this article, we will attempt to explain all of the basic technologies currently being offered on the small

scale washwater treatment/recycling system for golf course use.

All treatment and recycling systems offered today employ a variety of different technologies in one system. In this conglomeration, each technology has a specific treatment goal. The trick seems to be to pick the system that offers the right com-

long-term cost of this approach is minimal, if anything. This is usually accomplished in the wash pad and wash pad sump design. Make sure your sumps are designed to catch and retain this heavy material. When a sump design is chosen or recommended, be sure it is easy to clean. Some can offer sediment collection as a part of the

3. **Treat for microscopic pollutants**, the ones measured in ppm or mg/l (these are the same for our purposes). These are the ones the regulators are looking for, such as -- Toxic metals: Pb, Cr, Cd, Cu, Ci, Zn, P; Toxic chemicals: Hydrocarbons, chlorinated solvents, etc.; Bacterial support: Organic matter, food, nutrients. This level of treatment has the most potential for being complicated. It is usually tied into chemistry and/or physics. This is also the most complicated, varied, and important phase of treatment as it removes many of the pollutants that the regulators are looking for. This one also determines the safety and clarity of the water being reused by your employees.

This segment of the total treatment process can also be expensive and often where the "hidden" costs will be. Treatment costs of around \$0.005 to \$0.02 per gallon of wastewater treated are routinely achieved.

4. **The final treatment**

Continued on page 4

Environmental Compliance

Washwater Treatment Recycling Systems

bination of treatment methods to meet your goals, whatever those might be.

There is a logical order to follow when treating a wastewater stream.

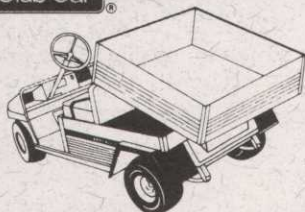
1. **Sediment collection.** Allow quickly settling material (sand, heavy dirt) to do so naturally. The

system.

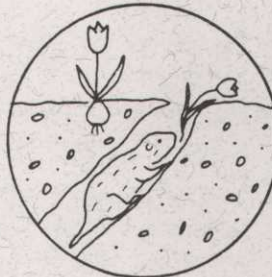
2. **Treat for oils, if present.** This is usually accomplished by a process called mechanical coalescing, or by chemical treatments. This process is usually not too expensive. It is mechanical in nature.

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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phase is known as polishing, conditioning, or disinfecting. This one is goal specific. Namely, what are you going to do with the water? If you send it to the sanitary sewer, your goals are fairly easy to achieve. You may not need further treatment here. If you want to recycle the water and plan to have your employees use the water for pressure washing, which creates a mist, you should design your system to provide clean and disinfected water.

In the next article we will explore the various individual technologies available to you. I am sure you will find some of them as fascinating as I did.



In Memory

Donald H. Scott, 71, died September 6, 1993. Mr. Scott was the founder and president of the Naiad Company, a manufacturer of wetting agents for golf courses and sports fields. He had been an affiliate member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California since 1978; he joined GCSAA in 1982. Mr. Scott was one of the pioneers in the field of wetting agent technology and was widely recognized as an expert in the field. He is survived by his wife, Valeria, and his daughter, Janet Karrick.

WELCOME TO THE GREEN

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:

Dave Bingham
Gen. Sales Manager
R.V. Cloud Irrigation
Affiliate

Eugene Dommer
Superintendent
Colusa Golf and CC
Class B Transfer

Ross Miller
Superintendent
Valley Gardens Golf Course
Associate

John Gingrich
Asst. Manager
Pro-Grass Landscape
Affiliate

Tony Alves
Owner
Tony's Equipment Repair
Affiliate

Applications have been approved for membership for the listed classification pending the 30-day waiting period, verification of status, or passage of any required tests.

Tests Passed
Dana Waldor
Hidden Valley Lake Golf
Course
Passed Class A Exam

Ron Fukuyama
Aetna Springs
Golf Course
Passed Class B Exam

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Bob Walker, former assistant at Deep Cliff GC in Cupertino, is the new "head duck" at Mallard Lake Golf Course in Yuba City...**Bob Whittaker** (with the H.V. Carter Company) also known as Chief Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator Robert A. Whittaker III, United States Naval Reserve, recently retired from the

Naval Reserve after over 26 years of dedicated service. A ceremony was held at Moffett Field in his honor...Cypress Point Golf Club Superintendent **Jeff Markow** is undertaking a sacred project. He is supervising the installation of a Rainbird irrigation system. Hydro Engineering was awarded the contract.

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Voting Delegates Meet in Kansas

by Randy Gai, CGCS

A voting delegates meeting was held on September 25, 1993, at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. It was attended by the current GCSAA Board of Directors, headed by President Randy Nichols, CGCS, and 66 chapter representatives from the 113 chapters recognized by GCSAA. Among those attending included three past presidents and several former directors of GCSAA. California was represented by CGCSA President, Bob Tillema, CGCS, of Central Chapter; Dennis Orsborn from Hi-Lo Desert; Pete Bowman, Sierra-Nevada; Dave Flaxbeard, So Cal; Tim Roth from San Diego; and Randy Gai, Northern California chapter. President Nichols decided to get right into the "meat and potatoes," so to speak, since there was no open discussion from the floor at this time. He touched briefly on the resignations of John Schilling, William Roberts, Dianna Green, and the dismissal of Robert Ochs. Also, the Arthur Anderson company was retained to investigate the operating efficiency of GCSAA. The decision to bring in the Anderson Company needed a tie-breaking vote by President Nichols. The objectives of the study were to review GCSAA's business process objectively, conduct a salary appraisal of the top three GCSAA staff (Schilling, Ochs, and Green), and investigate reasons for staff turnover. Of GCSAA's 72 employees, 25 were inter-

viewed, and those not interviewed filled out questionnaires. This study was as Nichols stated "strictly confidential, with only Anderson knowing the results." Schilling then met with the Board to review the study. Consequently, Schilling offered his letter of resignation. The Anderson Company assessed that the staff was hard working, but a severe communications gap existed between upper management and staff, resulting in low employee morale, no inter-communication between employees in performing tasks and using tools and machines, insufficient job descriptions, and, even though none was found, a potential for expense account abuse. The question arose as to whether the staff was hired to assist the membership or to make money. It was also pointed out that all policies were not fairly and equally enforced throughout the staff. Robert Ochs was relieved of his duties at this time. The study also suggested the need for a Chief Financial Officer, as well as a Personnel Director. It was indirectly suggested by Nichols and assumed that upper management ran GCSAA. Joe Baidy, GCSAA Vice President, then addressed the audience as chairman of the Resource Committee. This committee was charged with reviewing GCSAA bylaws and was asked to recommend any changes they found to be necessary. A number of changes were presented to the delegates and a "straw vote" was conducted to decide if each potential change was

worth pursuing at the conference next year in Dallas. A number were returned to the Resource Committee for

rewrite and a number were automatically eliminated. This

Tips from the USGA New and Improved

by Pat Gross,
USGA Agronomist

From time to time it is only natural to sit back and ponder the state of the turfgrass industry. If you are like me, it can often seem like very little has happened in the past few years, except of course for increased governmental involvement that has removed several products from the marketplace. But what may seem like reality can sometimes be misleading.

Let's take for example the tremendous progress that has been made in the last five years on the improvement of several turfgrass species. Most notable of course has been the release of 609 buffalograss under the direction of Dr. Terry Riordon, University of Nebraska. This native turfgrass with low water and nitrogen requirements was discovered in the central portion of the United States and will soon pass the coveted million dollar sales mark. Not bad for a grass that has only been available for a little over one year.

Another milestone of somewhat lesser note, is the recent release of Crenshaw and Cato creeping bentgrass under the direction of Dr. Milt Engelke, Texas A&M University. To-date these two grasses have gained notoriety under their experimental call numbers Syn 3 and Syn 4, or as Syn 12 which is simply a blend of both that has been planted at Riviera Country Club.

What separates Crenshaw and Cato from other cultivars, such as Penncross, is their dense texture and darker green color. Combined, these inherited genetic traits have generated significantly higher quality ratings at test locations throughout both the southern and western states.

If you are interested in how these, and many other prominent cultivars, are doing in the State of California you can contact our office at 714/457-9464 and we would be happy to send along current data being collected on a monthly schedule at Mesa Verde Country Club in Costa Mesa. Unlike many cultivar evaluation studies that have been either forgotten or neglected, Reed Yenny and his staff take exceptional care of the triplicated plots and even encourage members to practice on the turf to simulate "real world conditions."

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CALIFORNIA CLIPS AND CUTS

The CGCSA third quarter board meeting was held Saturday, November 13, in San Diego. Some of the issues addressed were:

Voting. There is still some question as to how the local chapters are to cast votes on GCSAA issues. Voting is confusing because of the variance between the local membership rosters and GCSAA's voting member list. There are several names on GCSAA's voting roster who no longer live in the state of California,

but who are casting their votes with us. Conversely, some on the list are members of California associations, but are voting with other chapters. Part of the problem seems to be that there is no definition on the GCSAA membership application as to what the distinction is between "individual" voting and "chapter" voting.

After much discussion, the board reached a consensus that the decision made a few years ago to have all the local chapters vote as a block with

the state, depending on the issues would stand. The bottom line, however, is that each local chapter makes the determination of how their block is voted. If a local chapter decides to vote in variance with the state, the votes will be pulled individually and not be signed over at national. If there are any members of national who are confused about their voting status, or would like to change it, please contact Brian Bagley for information on how to proceed.

Tax Exempt Status. Because of some questions posed at this meeting, the state board passed a motion to seek legal counsel concerning our tax-exempt status and how to approach such items as membership lists, advertising sales proceeds, and interest income. It appears that some of the bylaws may need to be rewritten to assure compliance with the laws of non-profit filing.

The California Hospitality Suite at the international

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VOTING DELEGATES

Continued from page 5

was a lengthy process which lasted well into the afternoon.

Late in the afternoon, President Nichols returned to the podium to address the question of how local chapters can become more involved in GCSAA. There is a common link in the profession of the golf course superintendent with GCSAA and yet no ties exist between GCSAA and local chapters. It was also pointed out that because of this professional bonding, many non-members ride GCSAA's coattails as they lobby in Washington on behalf of the golf course superintendent. Nichols asked us to strive for a networking of chapters with direct and regular contact and possibly the formation of a Chapter Relations Service. We were then challenged that evening during an "attitude adjustment" period to find solutions to getting commitments from local chapters to GCSAA.

The meeting was called back to order Sunday morning as we rehashed possible ways of achieving the needed commitment from local chapters. The needed goal was not reached, but many thoughts will be developed.

The focus then shifted to future direction of GCSAA and the development of the "Meeting in General" of the voting delegates. This congregation of delegates was deemed to be revolutionary for GCSAA in both communication and input. It was decided this should be a regular annual fall meeting to include candidates for election. The floor was then opened for discussion. Questions asked of the Board included Roberts' resignation, new GCSAA headquarters wing, the old building, bylaws changes, the Pacific Rim, International agenda, and marketing GCSAA.

It was certainly a worthwhile meeting. All things considered, I would strongly advise GCSANC to be represented each and every time this meeting is held.

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CALIFORNIA

Continued from page 6

conference in Dallas will be held at the Loews Resort, which is the host hotel for the conference.

1994 GCSAA Chapter Team Competition. Several of the board members are going to Austin to play in the tournament. Dave Flaxbeard and Jim Husting will put together the chapter teams. Anyone interested in playing on a chapter team in Austin should contact Jim or Dave.

1995 GCSAA Tournament Report. The headquarters for the 1995 tournament, which will be held in our jurisdiction, is at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey. Brian Bagley was recently in touch with John White at National, who indicated that they will be picking 5 of the 7 following golf courses to host the tournament: Poppy Hills, Old Del Monte, Quail Lodge, both Ft. Ord courses, and both Rancho Canada courses. John White stressed that these clubs are being *considered*; they are not

approved and not confirmed.

The State Scholarship Fund has been eliminated. The \$3,300 that was in the fund was distributed evenly among the six local chapters.

1994 Annual Meeting. The topic for the 1994 Annual Meeting is "Reconstruction." John Beltz, committee chairman, is in the process of contacting Brian Silva, who facilitates a reconstruction seminar for national, to be the featured speaker. John has been in touch with the GCSAA speakers bureau to provide a speaker for the meeting. Steve Halsey of Halsey Daray Golf will speak on design problems upon discovering Indian artifacts at the River Course site. The USGA green specifications changes are also being considered as a topic.

Helen Stone has requested that we make strides in acquiring superintendent written articles for California Fairways. Anyone who has a topic of interest should submit

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Golf Course Equipment Mechanic.
Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club is seeking a qualified equipment mechanic. Applicants must have a thorough understanding of the operation and repair of golf course maintenance equipment, and must be able to perform general overhaul of all types of small engines. Send resume to: Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club, 2900 Sand Hills Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, Attn: Ross Brownlie. Or call 415/854-0467.

it to Helen or contact the California Fairways staff about writing it.

Association Management.
DJ King's initial 3-month temporary contract has been completed and the board approved the continuation into the next three months. After that time, the position will be evaluated and a one year contract negotiated.



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