

**THRU THE GREEN**

**EDITOR**

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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. Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.



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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

In thinking about what to put in my first "President's Message," I came up with the idea of helping myself out a little. Lately I've been having a problem with my greens after applying sand. Whether applying the sand after aerifying, or doing light topdressings, the greens seem to go downhill for a while afterward.

My question is, "is anybody else out there in Superintendent Land having similar problems?:" If so please give me a call at (408) 274-0433.

You may be asking yourself right now if this is an appropriate topic for the President's Message. And my answer is that it is exactly these types of questions that our Association and specifically this newsletter is all about.

Seminars and Institutes aside, it is my opinion that your fellow superintendents are your best source of information to help you deal with problems that you and they may be having. It is this newsletter's job to facilitate the communication between it's members.

Brian

**HELP WANTED**

**WANTED:** Greenskeeper who will specialize in pesticide applications. Qualified Applicators Certificate not required although getting one within a year of starting is expected. Apply at The Villages G & CC. Phone (408) 274-0433.

**PESTICIDE CLASSES**

The following classes are available at Napa Valley College or Ohlone College, Newark Campus. Pre-registration is always advisable. If you have further questions please contact Joe Davis, (707) 255-5207 or fax (707) 255-0733.

Urban Pest Management- June 18 & 19  
Pest Control in Landscape Maintenance- June 21  
Pesticide Application and Safety-June 22



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# PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The Department of Pesticide Regulation has scheduled a series of workshops to discuss implementation of new Federal Worker Protection Standards that have been finalized by the U.S. Environmental Agency. The purpose of the workshops is to inform the regulated community of the requirements and provide the public an opportunity to comment on how to integrate the new provisions into California's existing pesticide worker safety program.

The Department is inviting pesticide user groups, farmworker advocacy groups, and other interested persons who may be affected by the changes to attend one of these workshops and participate in the discussion.

The following workshops have been scheduled:

June 8, 1993, 10:00 am-noon  
Veterans Memorial Building Studio Room  
313 W. Tunnel Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

June 24, 1993, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm  
Salinas community Center (Santa Lucia Room)  
940 N. Main Street  
Salinas, CA 93901

Persons interested in reviewing the entire Federal Worker Protection Standard should contact their local library for a copy of the Federal Register, Volume 57, Number 163, August 21, 1992. A summary of the federal regulations is also available from the Department.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION APPLAUDS GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

The Audubon Society of New York State recognizes, supports and applauds golf course superintendents for their efforts to enhance wildlife habitat through their membership in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. As land managers of hundreds of thousands acres of land across the United States, superintendents not only have the potential to be leaders in the environmental movement but major forces in enhancing the distinct beauty of each golf course. Many superintendents are in a unique position to combine the joy and challenge of the game of golf with the satisfaction of providing and managing habitat for wildlife. It is true that sometimes superintendents get caught in the conflict between the visual preferences of club members for weed-free, heavily manicured grounds and the more natural appearance of native habitat. It is also true that some superintendents do not have abundant financial resources, manpower, information, or support to do the kind of job they'd like to do. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf courses offers education, guidance, support, and public recognition for those courses and individuals who are committed to working toward wildlife habitat enhancement and other conservation activities.

For further information please contact Mary Jack (518) 767-9051.

# A LOOK AHEAD

- June 13,14 CGCSA Meeting
- July 12 Supt./Pro Brookside CC
- July 15 Field Day UC Coop Ext.
- August 18 Oakland A's
- August 26 Bentgrass Trials Field Day Sunnyvale Golf Course
- September Windsor Golf Club
- October 4 Joint meeting with Sierra-Nevada Canyon Lakes CC
- November 3-5 Institute
- December Christmas Party


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## 1992 EXCELLENCE IN GOLF TURF MANAGEMENT AWARD



Selecting a single winner for this merit award is extremely difficult, as we are blessed with so many fine golf courses being managed to their highest level of maintenance. Throw into the mix the differences of: budgets, terrain, climate, water availability, manpower, etc. this choice is a hard one. Never the less the award's committee was able to come up with the 1992 winner on a very close ballot.

The introduction of this year's award winner is Bob Klinestecker of San Francisco Golf Club. Bob grew up in Michigan, he began working on golf courses in 1970, as a crewman while still in high school. Bob attended Michigan State University and graduated in 1978 with a BS in Turf Management. He got his first superintendents job in 1979 at Silverlake CC in Rockford, MI. A short time later (1982) Bob and his wife came out west. At this time he took the Assistants job at San Francisco Golf Club under the supervision of then superintendent Paul Paulsen. In 1983 Bob then took over as Superintendent of San Francisco Golf Club.

Bob has received a commitment from his board of directors to offer to him the resources to take his golf course to an even higher level of professional golf course maintenance.

Award presented by Randy Gai.

## AFFILIATE MERIT AWARD

The 1992 Affiliate Merit Award is presented to Chuck DalPozzo of the Scott's Fertilizer Company. Chuck was the overwhelming winner for his efforts in promoting our Association. Chuck has diligently been a member of our Board of Directors and has spearheaded the development of our first annual scholarship/research tournament.

Award presented by last year's recipient Tom Jackson.



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# GEORGE SANTANA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Beginning this year in honor of George Santana, the Distinguished Service Award has been renamed the George Santana Distinguished Service Award.

As it turns out, this year's recipient, Leonard Walsh, got his first golf course job through George Santana. Back in 1957, Leonard went to Almaden CC where George was the superintendent looking for a job. George told him he had no openings but told him to try Riverside GC where he got a job.

After working at Riverside for a couple of years, he worked briefly at El Campo before going to Bay Meadows for 3 years.

In 1963 Jack Flemming was finishing up construction of the front 9 at Boulder Creek Golf and Country Club. He called Leonard and invited him to just come up for a couple of years and build the back 9. Thirty years later Leonard is retiring.

Leonard joined GCSANC in 1960. He was on the board in 1968, 1977-1980 and has been an active member the entire 33 years.

Just as George Santana's life touched Leonard's so has Leonard touched many of our lives. Leonard shows us what it is to be a professional. His commitment to his profession and dedication to this association.

Many years ago when Boulder Creek G & CC was young Leonard used to have to use the change from the soft drink machine to buy fertilizer. On another occasion he had to go without a paycheck for a month when the club had some tough times.

There are some people who retire or move away and nobody knows their gone. Other people like George Santana and Leonard touch people's lives, make a positive contribution to their problem, their association and their peers.

Award presented by Brian Bagley.



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## BASIC ELECTRICAL TROUBLESHOOTING OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Electrical problems with irrigation systems can usually be lumped into two categories: controller malfunction and zone wiring- with today's reliable solid state controllers most malfunctions in the controller will usually occur within the first week of operation.

Some solid state controllers can be very helpful in troubleshooting an irrigation system. These controllers actually have overload sensing protection that retires then skips stations rather than blowing fuses, they will also report failures when the program is complete. Also several new controllers have incorporated provisions for maintenance radios that can aid in isolating field wiring problems.

To troubleshoot the system a few tools will be needed: A screwdriver and a volt-ohm meter that can read 0-120 VAC and 0-1 mega ohms resistance.

As with any electrical problem, it is usually best to start at the controller. Lets assume that there is a total system failure.

\*Check the owners manual of the controller before making any tests. Some controllers are powered by an external 24v power supply but most have an internal 120v x 24v transformer. With a voltmeter, test the incoming voltage to see if it meets the manufacturers recommendations. If there is no power, check the fuses an/or breaker at the power source and replace as necessary and test again.

Once the incoming power has been determined to be correct proceed through the next steps.

\*Check the controller by inspecting for any obvious problems (disconnected wires,

blackened areas on the circuit board, etc.). A controller will usually be protected on its power supply side. Check its fuse or circuit breaker - replace or reset same if needed (be sure when replacing a fuse that a correct fuse is reinstalled, the use of a larger fuse could damage the controller permanently. Test controller once again. If the controller still malfunctions, return controller to an authorized service center for repair - replace clock.

\*Once the controller appears to be operational, test each station at the controller's terminal strip for 24 volt output to the field. To do this, test for voltage between station 1 on the terminal strip and the valve common wire with the volt-ohm meter in the appropriate range. Do the same for the remaining stations. If there is no power at some or all stations the controller is in need of repair. Replace or repair controller. If 24 volts are present, the problems are in the control wires or the electric valves.

At this point the determination must be made whether or not the problem lies in the field wiring or the electric valves. Generally, a whole series of valves would not fail at the same time unless all the wires were cut or else the common wire is cut before the first valve.

The zone wiring should now be tested.

### TESTING ZONE WIRING

Many tests can be made to troubleshoot simple field wiring problems. Problems are grouped into two categories:


**Grounded and Shorted Wires:** Typical to older irrigation systems when splicing techniques were not as advanced, grounded wires are associated with voltage coming in contact with the ground wire or earth which usually results in a blown fuse or tripped breaker. A shorted wire acts in a similar manner. Symptoms are, two or more valves running at once while only 1 station is activated or if the voltage reaches the ground wire, blowing a fuse or tripping a breaker.

**Broken wires:** Broken wires are a complete break in a wire that renders a station inoperable. They also can trip a breaker or blow a fuse if they are grounded or shorted at the break.

Take the following steps to test the zone wiring:

\*At the controller use a volt-ohm meter to test for shorts by putting the meter in the R X 1 position and record the readings for each inoperative valve by testing across the power wire and the common on the terminal strip. A low resistance reading of 0-5 ohms will be observed if there is a short. This indicates a short in the zone wiring or the solenoid. On tones indication a short, connect the volt-ohm meter to the solenoid leads. With the meter in the R X 1 range, a shorted solenoid will read 0-5 ohms, an open solenoid will read "infinity" and a good solenoid will read 1 3-20 ohms (24 VAC solenoids only). If the solenoid is faulty, replace it. If the solenoid test proves to be ok, the problem has been narrowed down to a wire problem.

\*To check for grounded wires, check an



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# SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR



The 1992 Superintendent of the Year Award goes to Bob Costa. Bob is employed by the Lombardo group of Monterey, CA. Bob is very active in promoting the profession of the golf course superintendent as he teaches a turfgrass management class for the Horticulture Department at Monterey Community College. He also was instrumental in putting on the 1992 Superintendent Institute at Asilomar last fall.


Bob graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. In 1984 he went to work for the Lombardo Group and through a series of promotions he has proceeded to become the Vice President of Golf Course Management, currently overseeing the following golf courses: Laguna Seca, Parajo Valley and both courses at Rancho Canada.

Award presented by Randy Gai.

...vated zone in the field for power. At the valve, disconnect both the common and power wire from the solenoid. With the volt-ohm meter in the A.C. volt position test from the power wire to an earth ground. If the test reads positive (21027 volts), the problem is in the common wire. If the test 1 reads negative, the problem may be in either the power wire or both wires.

There are many easy to use tracking and fault find devices available designed to locate wire faults. Many irrigation distributors sell these units or rent them for location of these problems. The preceding simple tests can be followed first and may solve the problem without the use of these special devices.

Article by Paul J. Roche, S.V. Moffett co., Inc. New York.




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