

THRU THE GREEN

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**Thru the Green**

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Association of  
Northern California.

## Beverage Cart Raises Scholarship Funds

Thanks to O.M. Scott for sponsoring the beverage cart at the October 4th meeting. Unfortunately, it was a blustery, chilly day, so not many drinks were sold, but we raised \$54 for the Scholarship and Research fund. Sponsoring a beverage cart at the monthly meeting is a great way for suppliers to advertise...and to support the Scholarship and Research Fund. One or two suppliers can co-sponsor the beverage

cart. Alcoholic beverages do not have to be served. To reserve a month to be a beverage cart sponsor, please call Affiliate Rep, Chuck Dal Pozzo at 510/791-8985.



*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

A study at Ohio State University in Newark disclosed that:

☺ **Smart people** can do at least one dumb thing without others being likely to consider them stupid.

☹ **But moral people** can't do even one dishonest thing without others being likely to label them "immoral."

Dr. John Skowronski, who conducted the study, said it showed, "We assume that even smart people can do stupid things sometimes. But...we expect that an honest person will always be honest."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Environmental President  
Part I

What is an environmentalist? A simple definition comes from Webster's Dictionary which states that an environmentalist is a person working to solve environmental problems, as air and water.

As a working professional in the field of managing a specific environment, that of a highly manicured golf course, I'm discovering that being an environmentalist is not that simple.

After graduating from college and embarking upon a golf profession, I had a difficult time rationalizing how a concerned earth dweller, like myself, could work in a field that was notorious for using "lots of chemicals." I was determined that when I became a golf course superintendent I could be more conscientious and apply fewer chemicals; I would try to use

"the least amount of chemicals necessary." To a recent college graduate this is a nice simple philosophy. I soon learned that it was impossible to define "least amount necessary."

A case in point is in dealing with anthracnose. Is the solution to anthracnose to simply and routinely spray a pesticide? Or do you try to get to the "root" of the problem -- have your soils tested, improve drainage, overseed with bentgrass, reduce other stresses. And what do you do when you've done everything *but* apply chemicals and you continue to have disease problems? What is a tolerable level of anthracnose to a membership? You just may find out after it's too late.

Every summer I have what I call my bentgrass renovation program. Of

course, this is another term for allowing the poa to die from anthracnose or summer patch while promoting the bentgrass to fill in, either from existing bent in the greens or from overseeding. As the USGA suggests: switch your (large) chemical budget with your (small) seed budget. At the same time, consider switching your *reliance* on chemicals to an *alliance* with our environment by applying alternative methods of control.

I'll have more on this topic next month.

*"There's many a life of sweet content  
whose virtue is environment."*

Walter Learned  
(1847-1915)

Respectfully submitted  
Brian Bagley  
President

by Carey Kreff  
NSTC/Farmtec

There is a lot of concern brewing today over the wastewater created when we wash our golf course equipment or golf carts. The concern is a valid one. In today's "environmentally correct" atmosphere, we all need to keep one eye on the ball, and the other eye on our potential environmental liabilities.

The subject of proper handling of our waste products, whether they be used oil, tires, batteries or filters, spent solvents, or wastewater, can be a convoluted issue. Sometimes there is no simple solution.

In this article, I will address the wastewater issue, and hope to impart to you a basic understanding of what's happening in the regulatory arena, and some possible solutions. I hope you will be able to use this information so that you can prepare and comply now, and not wait for the non-compliance axe to fall.

The Federal EPA has a set of laws called the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA). These acts are the framework for a

standards and permitting program designed to prevent pollution of our precious ground and surface water resources. The standards and permitting program goes by the name National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES. In California, the NPDES is referenced by the California Water Code, Title 23. The NPDES

monitoring

- ◆ Prohibition of non-point source discharge to storm-water
- ◆ Underground Storage Tank (UST) monitoring and clean up
- ◆ Higher sewer use taxes to pay for stricter discharge limits achievements that apply to the sanitary sewer districts.

And the list goes on. The various aspects of these programs are administered by a variety of municipal, special district, and county agencies, however, they all eventually answer to the state of California through RWQBC. Therefore, if you need to find out which agency you should be talking to about a specific issue, one call to the RWQBC in Oakland at 510/286-1255 should steer you in the right direction.

## Environmental Compliance

Now, on to the equipment washing issue.

**Q** How is equipment or golf cart washing a pollution producing issue?

**A** In most golf course applications, the wastewater created by equipment or golf cart washing will create a wastewater that has relatively little "pollution" in it. One might find these pollutants in trace amounts: hydraulic oil, motor oil, grease, fuel residues, organic matter (grass clippings), fertilizer and pesticide residues, trace metals of concern (Pb, Cr, Cd, Cu, Zn) and chlorinated or hydrocarbon

*Continued on page 4*

and the State Water Code are monitored and enforced through a collection of regional boards called the Regional Water Quality Control Board, or RWQBC. The NPDES program is very far reaching and it is responsible for a multitude of water resources protection and remediation projects, like:

- ◆ Stormwater regulation and

- ◆ Prohibition of discharge directly into the ground
- ◆ Industrial discharger requirements for pre-treatment systems that clean their wastewater before it leaves the facility
- ◆ Prohibition against any water discharge that would have a detrimental effect on any "beneficial use water"



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**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

*Continued from page 3*

solvents. What is in the water is interesting, but what you do with this water is the larger issue. There are basically four likely paths that this water may take when you wash your equipment. They are:

**1. Allow the wastewater to discharge into an injection well.**

This approach is no longer acceptable. The problem is that any pollutants contained in this wastewater will eventually reach the ground water supply. The State of California, Title 23, Water Code prohibits anyone from impacting beneficial use waters with pollution.

**2. Let the wastewater discharge into the storm drain or a creek or river, etc.**

This approach is no longer acceptable. The problem is that the pollutants will again "impact beneficial use water" and as such is prohibited under Title 23, Water Code.

**3. Let the wastewater discharge into the sanitary sewer which goes to the sewage treatment plant.**

This approach may make a lot of sense. There are allowable pollution discharge numbers that will apply. Typically, the discharge to sanitary sewer allowable limits range from 0.3ppm on Cd to 100ppm on petroleum oils. This is based on the Contra Costa Sanitary Dist-

ric's allowable industrial discharge limits. These discharge limits will vary only slightly from district to district or region to region. These limits are rarely, if ever, exceeded by the typical golf course operation. However, there are exceptions: If the batteries of a golf cart are washed directly, the allowable discharge number for lead (Pb) of 0.5ppm would most likely be exceeded. There are other practices that may cause pollution "spikes"; each operation is different.

If you intend to go the route of sanitary discharge, it would be wise to discuss your intent with your local Sanitary District before you hook up. There are a variety of permit fees and mechanical requirements that will apply; some district policies are costly; some, are not. And if I only had a crystal ball, maybe I could tell you if the allowable pollution discharge numbers for sewage authorities will come down in the near future or not. Probably will...

**4. Employ some type of wastewater treatment/recirculation system.**

*Continued on page 7*

**WELCOME TO THE GREEN**

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:

**Bob Boldt**

Boundary Oaks GC  
Associate

**Michael Camello**

RMC Lonestar  
Affiliate

**Nicholas Checklenis**

Silver Creek Valley CC  
Class B

**Ronald Fukuyama**

Aetna Springs GC  
Class B

**Lisa Maule**

Terra Verde  
Affiliate

**Douglas Nickels**

Nickels Golf Group, Ltd.  
Affiliate

**Jeff Roberts**

Blackhawk CC  
Associate

**Dana Waldor**

Hidden Valley Lake G&CC  
Class A

**Gary Skolnik**

Incline Village Golf Resort  
Class A

*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.*



*"These'll give you more distance even when you throw 'em."*

**NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS**

**Chris Gose** has elevated to the position of Senior Groundskeeper for the City of Sunnyvale. Chris is in charge of the maintenance operations at the city's two golf courses: **Sunnyvale Muni** (18-hole) and **Sunken Gardens** (9-hole), which are approximately five miles apart. Chris was working for the City of Sunnyvale at the Muni prior to his promotion... With **John Lloyd's** recent retirement from **Marina Golf Complex** in San Leandro, his

assistant **Ken Schwark** has assumed the position of Superintendent... **Mike Phillips**, Superintendent at **Almaden Country Club**, is in the middle of rebuilding greens and putting in new cart paths... **Brian Bagley**, Superintendent at **The Villages G & CC** in San Jose, has recently completed rebuilding and lining all nine lakes on the golf course. **Cook and Solis** of Escondido was the contractor.

## FYI

## It's Official

**A**s of November 1, the GCSANC office location is in Diamond Springs, California. If you're on your way to Tahoe, stop by and say "hello"!

New Mailing Address:  
Golf Course Superintendents  
Association of Northern  
California  
550 Main Street, Ste G  
PO Box 3360  
Diamond Springs, CA 95619  
Phone: 916/626-0931  
Fax: 916/626-5132

### Monthly Meeting Reservations and Cancellations

I would like to start by thanking the 95% of you guys who make meeting reservations and cancellations in a timely manner. This procedure was developed to accomplish a more orderly registration process and remove the necessity of handling money at the monthly meeting. It reduces the time I spend at the monthly meetings and, thereby, reduces administrative costs for the association. Again, thanks for your cooperation.

But...there's always some grumbling in the ranks.

"Why do we need to make reservations for meetings? We didn't used to have to do this."

"Why do I need to cancel my reservation 48 hours in advance? I didn't know until the last minute that I couldn't make it."

"Why do the meetings cost

so much?"

Although we understand that there are sometimes circumstances beyond your control, we have to respect the needs of the host golf courses. Think how *your* food manager and golf pro would react to a surprise "tournament" for 80 to 100 people! Do you think you could convince them to "just wing it"? Does your food manager keep enough food items on hand for lunch for 100 additional people? My guess is you probably answered "no."

The clubs at which we hold our monthly meetings require that we give the food manager the number of people expected to attend, in advance. The number we supply is a **commitment** number. We pay whether you show up or not. If you telephone your cancellation in advance, we can adjust our numbers for the event with the host.

The golf shop needs to know how many carts they will need for our group. If you make a reservation and do not call in your cancellation, those carts cannot be used by the golf shop to accommodate other players outside our group.

Regarding receipts, most of you want a receipt for each meeting. My fingers just don't write fast enough to provide a receipt for each one of you at the door, not to mention the hold up in the registration line if I had to perform that function at the meeting. Therefore, I prepare your receipt based on your reservation. And if you bring a guest, treat them like one. Pay for them with your reservation.

## Tips from the USGA New Product Evaluation

by Pat Gross,  
USGA Agronomist

I am sure you read with great interest the last article by my colleague, Paul Vermeulen, regarding the magical powers of Yuban coffee on turfgrass. Although this was a "tongue-in-cheek" effort to raise awareness of questionable products in the marketplace, it does bring up the question "How can I successfully evaluate new products?"

Why not conduct some limited field research on your own golf course to objectively evaluate the merit of new products? Here are some suggested guidelines:

- ▲ **Obtain small quantities** of material and establish test plots in remote areas of the golf course or on your putting green nursery.
- ▲ **Compare** similar products.
- ▲ **Replicate** the plots, if possible.
- ▲ **Include check plots** within the test area where no product is applied. Without check plots, it is impossible to draw accurate conclusions.
- ▲ **Keep accurate records** and make regular observations of the plots.
- ▲ **Seek guidance** and input from county extension agents, university researchers, and experienced turfgrass professionals in your area.
- ▲ **Try to obtain** additional information about the product. The best unbiased source would be peer reviewed scientific research studies. As a reference source for this material, you may wish to contact the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University: (800) 446-8443.

Golf course superintendents are the greatest experimenters and improvisors in the world. Limited field testing can help determine the benefits of a product before incurring a large expense or possibly causing damage to turf. On a positive note, you may find products that benefit your management programs or provide a cost savings. Doing your homework and establishing test plots will give you objective information on which to base future decisions.

The Association arranges monthly meetings through the voluntary cooperation of the host superintendent and his club. The host club and superintendent set the charges for food and carts. Greens

fees are waived in consideration of the superintendent's association. GCSANC does NOT make money on these events, but we do want to try to cover basic costs.

*Continued on page 7*

## The Pesticide Disposal Dilemma

by Leon Snethen

"What do I do with unwanted, out-dated pesticides?" A common question in our industry.

I was advised to spray them in a "non-target" area. Wrong! Could I do this without a recommendation? No!! Should I do it and just not report it? Absolutely not!!!

The solution came in March of this year with a joint program between the Farm Bureau and the Santa Clara County Dept. of Agriculture. They set up a disposal program for farms and golf courses to turn in unwanted pesticides. There were some items the department would not take, but they supplied a

list ahead of time. There wound up being a cost of \$4.25 per pound. This may sound high, but if you look at the options in hazardous waste disposal, it was a bargain.

The problem came when they had items they could not dispose of. This problem prompted them to discontinue

the service.

I would recommend to all superintendents that they contact their local agencies and encourage them to continue the program or to start a program in your county. It is the only effective way to aid all of us in legally disposing of the chemicals we don't want or need.

## NATIONAL NOTES

### GCSAA Tournament - '95 Correction

Last month we reported that Laguna Seca had been confirmed as one of the sites for the 1995 GCSAA International Tournament. That information is not correct as, in fact, no sites have been confirmed. At this time, we have not yet heard from national regarding the site selection. Our apologies to Bob Costa and his staff for the mis-information and any inconvenience it may have caused.

### Do You Have A Story?

GCSAA continues striving to improve and expand the coverage and content of its flagship publication, Golf Course Management magazine. There are countless superintendents out there with stories to tell that would be of great interest to their colleagues -- profiles and personal features both on and off the golf course, innovative ideas, professional successes and/or struggles against unique or unusual circumstances, etc. Are you one of them?


There are two ways these stories can be developed. Either with superintendent written articles or those developed and written by the GCM staff. If you have a story that you think would be of interest, contact the local chapter office or Terry Ostmeier at Golf Course Management.

### We Want to Answer Your Questions


GCSAA is soliciting member superintendent questions to be addressed in a special column in *Newsline* called Members Mailbag. Our members have important questions, concerns and opinions on their mind, especially during these times of serious decision-making about the future we envision for our association, our profession, and our industry. If you would like to have an issue addressed on a nationwide -- indeed, international -- forum, please write to your local chapter office or direct them to Members Mailbag, *Newsline*, GCSAA, 1421 Research Park Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049.

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**FYI***Continued from page 5*

In addition to food and beverage, meeting rooms, golf and education, there are other costs that must be covered on a monthly basis. For these additional fees are assessed as follows:

- \$2.00 fee to cover administrative costs, ie: printing, envelopes, postage and me.
- \$3.00 for tournament prizes. This pays for the gift certificates for the tournament winners and can be redeemed at the pro shop of any course. Therefore, the money goes back to support the industry which employs you.
- \$2.00 goes directly back to the Scholarship and Research Fund maintained by the Association.

The monthly meeting locations and costs are dictated by the superintendents willing to allow the Association to use their facilities for our meetings. If you can offer your club at a lower cost, by all means, contact the Program Chairman Randy Gai, CGCS, or the Assistant Program Chairman, Bill Kissick, CGCS, and let them know you would like to contribute

to the Association by holding a monthly meeting.

**Environmental Compliance***Continued from page 4*

There are very few laws that affect you in this approach. The most significant ones would be the hazardous materials laws. Any treatment unit will produce some waste by-product -- dirty filters, waste oil, waste sludge or sediment. If the pollutant concentrations of this waste by-product are of a certain level or quantity, and if this waste by-product can be classed as hazardous, then the State Department of Toxic Substance Control will regulate you.

**BUYER BEWARE!**

Wastewater treatment is an applied science that has been around since the early 1940s. Most of the technology in use today has been focused at industry or government, not small scale. There have been many technological improvements in recent years that simplify the scaling down of these tried and true methods.

**FOR SALE**

**The Island Club Golf Course**  
**Superintendent Jim Adams** at 510/684-9580

1. 1990 John Deere 855 86" tractor mower; good condition; \$10,500 or BO
2. John Deere 280S 88" Fairway Aerifier/Slicer; little used; \$2600 or BO
3. Jacobson H-F 15-gang mower; many new parts, needs some work, \$2,300 or BO

**Employment Opportunity**

The Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club is seeking a qualified Assistant Superintendent. Requirements include a degree in Turfgrass Management, 3-5 years experience, and a Q.A.C. license. Compensation will be based on experience. Send resumes to:

Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club  
 2900 Sand Hill Road  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 Attn: Ross Brownlie

In the golf course small-scale application there are a lot of choices, hardly a one of them alike. Some work better than others. One would have to take a college course in basic wastewater treatment technology to understand and appreciate the technological differences between the choices in

treatment equipment and the methodology.

In the next article I will explain in some depth the different techniques and technologies that are currently offered on the market for wastewater treatment and recycling.

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