

THRU THE GREEN

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Thru the Green
Published monthly by the
Golf Course Superintendent's
Association of Northern California.

FYI

We're Moving

Barbara Mikel, Executive Secretary, has just completed construction of a new residence in the Sierra's and is relocating her business. This means the GCSANC office will be relocated, as well, to Diamond Springs, California, effective November 1993. The office in San Jose will remain open through October. All correspondence should be mailed to the San Jose ad-

dress until November 1, 1993, or until you are notified otherwise. New phone number will be mailed to you along with a "new address sticker" for your directory.

The phones will continue to function at the San Jose office until November 7, 1993, and thereafter will have a referral to the new number.

As of this date, the new phone number has yet to be established. The telephone company will assign a number, but "cannot guarantee it will be correct" until it is installed. So watch your mail for more info.

New address
(effective November 1)

GCSANC
550 Main St., Suite G
Diamond Springs, CA 95619



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October is here and rain is, hopefully, right around the corner. Have you done your Christmas shopping yet? OK, maybe I'm getting a little ahead of myself, but as a superintendent with high salt levels in his greens, I'm already looking forward to the first storm of the season.

This being the halfway point of my term as president, I'd like to jump the gun again and thank the Board and Barbara for all the hard work they've already done. If writing the President's Message wasn't so difficult for me, I think I'd feel guilty.

One last reminder about next month's **Institute** at the Doubletree in Santa Rosa: Everyone should have received their registration brochure already. Ali Harivandi, Randy Gai, and the rest of the Education Committee have put together a great

program dealing with golf course construction.

The Institute, to me, is the epitome of how we can help each other. When else do we have the opportunity to get together with our colleagues for a few days to talk about problems, solutions, or just talk shop?

Speaking of registrations, you should also have received your registration for the International Conference in Dallas by now. If anyone can tell me anything for the family to do in Dallas besides going on a tour of the mall, please let me know. We'll publish your ideas in the newsletter.

Response has been terrific to our recent survey. Anyone who hasn't mailed theirs back already better hurry. You may not get another chance.

I want to thank Jerry Brown and Carey Krefft for a very informative, if not

frightening, educational program at the September meeting. Those who attended will be glad to hear that I have already asked Carey Krefft to write a monthly article for *Thru the Green* on environmental laws and issues that affect golf courses. Carey has graciously accepted and his first article should appear in next month's issue. For those of you who weren't able to attend, see page 1 for Randy Gai's synopsis of the program. It was a winner.

In closing, I ask you to remember Brook Shields' words of wisdom:

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

Amen, Brook.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bagley
President

OWN THE DRAIN

Continued from page 1

not intervene to stop the pollution. The liability does not stop at the superintendent, but carries on to the club managers, directors, owners, and course operators if they knowingly allow this pollution to continue.

The solution is to determine what types of compounds are being washed off, then implement the proper removal technique, and, finally, divert the water to a sanitary sewer line. Constructing a wash pad (wash rack) is a viable solution as long as it is engineered properly. The only negative drawback will be the ongoing need to retrofit as environmental laws change in the future and become more demanding.

The bottom line is, we must get our "heads out of the sand NOW," and spend the dollars on remediation

before we are caught, fined, and forced to do the construction anyway -- or worse.

Institute Update

The brochure and registration form for the 4th Annual Golf Course Superintendent's Institute have been mailed.

If you have not received your application, please call Barbara at the office. Reservations must be made by October 29th.

The Pesticide Laws and Regulations seminar on November 3, will run from 1:00-5:00pm and will be followed by the tradeshow. Thursday offers a full day, with registration and trade show beginning at 6:30am, seminar series from 8:00am to 5:00pm, and dinner at 6:30pm.

Bubble Gum Sends Geese Packing

There's no accounting for taste: You may love the flavor of grape bubble gum or soda; some birds can't stand it. This fact may come to the rescue of landscapers, golf course managers, and anyone in charge of grassy expanses overrun by an exploding population of Canada geese. Graceful in flight, the goose is a loud, aggressive, voracious eater that can leave about a quarter of a pound of droppings a day.

The bubble gum flavor comes from methyl anthranilate (MA), a chemical that occurs naturally in Concord grapes and citrus blossoms. In synthesized form MA serves as a tasty food additive. Now it's proving to be a goose repellent.

Given a choice between untreated corn and kernels with MA, caged geese in experiments overwhelmingly rejected MA-laced kernels, says John Cummings, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Denver Wildlife Research Center.

Cummings is helping to develop an MA-flavored microcapsule that can be sprayed on grass and remain viable for 40 days, compared with today's limit of 15. Long-lasting MA is needed to ward off both resident birds and migratory geese that join them spring and fall.

Tips from the USGA Magic Beans

*by Paul Vermeulen,
USGA Agronomist*

Stranger things have happened than the story I am about to tell. Two months ago I was in Phoenix visiting with a friend when I took a my first sip of 100% Colombian coffee, Yuban to be exact. If you drink as much coffee as I do to get through the first few hours of each day then you probably, like myself, are a connoisseur of fine coffee beans from around the world. If that is the case, the flavor of Yuban is just simply hard to beat.

Now having adopted Yuban as my coffee of choice, I noticed a small patch of hybrid bermudagrass just off the edge of my patio. Not that hybrid bermudagrass isn't wonderful to begin with, but this patch was especially dark green. (No, I do not own a female dog!) After some serious investigation I discovered, much to my surprise, that the dark green patch just so happened to be the direct result of a coffee spill. And not just any coffee spill mind you, but Yuban, 100% Colombian coffee percolated with Costa Mesa municipal water.

As it turns out, it seems that coffee beans grown in certain regions of Colombia contain a unique enzyme that breaks down the organic molecules of

ordinary thatch and, as a consequence, nitrogen is released into the soil. Many of you readers are probably already aware that the breakdown of certain humic acids is currently of intense interest to the scientific community, as it may be the key to lessening our dependence on fungicide applications.

Do you feel something starting to pull on your leg? You should, but if not, pick up the phone and call: 1-MAG-ICB-EANS. My partner is standing by for your order of PAUL'S MAGIC COLOMBIAN BEANS for just \$19.95. And remember our slogan: "If you can't sleep because you're losing your greens, then just be happy and spray, spray, spray with Paul's Magic Colombian Beans."

What's the point? The point is that it has been a long summer and I have watched several people take a "leap of faith." Like spraying magic potions that are supposed to cure greens of whatever ails them, as opposed to employing sound agronomic practices. Unfortunately, even though spraying magic potions may not cause any direct harm to the turf, such acts can erode our (mine included!) collective professionalism! As an example, can you even begin to imagine what

Continued on page 7

OCTOBER MEETING

Continued from page 1
projects.

Although the course is six years old, last winter was it's first under "normal winter conditions." It stood the test quite well, thanks in part to excellent drainage installed during construction. No days were lost for play.

Canyon Lakes was designed with a Muirfield concept. Each nine consists of a loop whereby the first nine goes out in a clockwise circle and the incoming nine is in a counter-clockwise configuration. This allows the competition to encounter the wind from all four directions as they make their journey around. There are some great vistas to experience as well as several challenging tests of the golfer's skills.

Canyon Lakes has no men's, ladies', or seniors' groups that use the facility as a home base. Green fees are structured at \$50 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and \$60 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Long-time professional, Russ Dicks, is the General Manager.

The program for the October 4th meeting is being presented by Northern California Golf Association. We have two speakers scheduled for the meeting. Hunter Gridley, Project Manager, will discuss the NCGA Poppyridge Project in Livermore, and John Sirman, Director and NCGA Chairman, will tell us about their internship program.



Handling Controversy

When controversies arise:

- **Meet with** the people involved to gather facts and hear how they feel. Ask open-ended questions.
- **Focus on** the facts you've uncovered, not on personalities. Avoid taking sides or giving the impression of taking sides.
- **Devise a number of possible solutions.** Why: Proposing new solutions helps those involved to avoid adopting a win/lose mentality.
- **Clarify and summarize** all the conflicting positions before ending a meeting. When emotions are high, people don't always hear everything that's been said.

WELCOME TO THE GREEN

Current Membership: 517

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:

Joel Ahern

San Jose Country Club
Associate

Tim Ahrens

Prescription
Turf & Ornamental
Affiliate

Wally Mara

Christy Concrete Products
Affiliate

Mark Spire

The Country Club of Paducah
Class B

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.

Classification upgrades:

Keith Justesen

Brighton Crest Country Club
Associate to Class B

Gary Skolnik

Incline Village Golf Resort
Class B to Class A



NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Leonard Walsh has retired as head superintendent at **Boulder Creek G & CC**. Leonard has been the superintendent there since its inception. Replacing him is **Bob Lopic**, the assistant superintendent. Bob had been working in that position for the last five years...Joining Leonard on the Social Security payroll is **John Lloyd**, superintendent at **Marina Golf Course** in San Leandro. John was the superintendent there for the last 12 years. Assistant **Ken Schwark** will be the acting superintendent until a decision on John's replacement is made...**Ross Miller** has assumed the superintendent position at **Valley Gardens Golf Course** in Scotts Valley. Ross has been in the horticultural industry for over 20 years and had most recently been working with **Brian Bagley** at **The Villages CC**...**Wayne Lindelof** has recently completed the installation of a new irrigation system (Rainbird; Foremost Irrigation was the contractor), rebuilt new greens, tees and driving range. During the whole oper-

ation, **Lone Tree Golf Course** in Antioch remained open...**Gary Skolnik** has recently been promoted to the position of Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations at **Incline Village Golf Courses**. Gary now has two superintendents under him, **Mike McLaren** at the Championship Course and **Shaun Riley** at the Executive Course...**Ty Abraham** has recently been named superintendent at **Mountain Springs Golf Course** in Sonora. Ty was the assistant at La Contenta Golf Course prior to his move. Northern California is the home of four tour events in the next month. **Windsor Golf Course (Supt: Rich Hansen)** will host the Nike Sonoma Open (formerly Hogan Tour event); **Silverado CC (Supt: Brian Morris)** will host the Transamerica Open (Senior Tour); **Rancho Murieta CC (Supt: Rich Scholes)** will host the Senior gold Rush; and **The Olympic Club (Supt: John Fleming)** will host the Tour Championship.



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SEE OTHER SIDE FOR DIRECTIONS

TURF2

DIRECTIONS:

Consult your soil analysis or apply 25-50 pounds per 1000 square feet. Use a drop spreader during a windless time of the day. Can be applied after aerating, but is not necessary. Water in using normal irrigation practices. Can be mixed with other topdressing material or sand, and applied.

For spreading large areas, a TORO-2300 top dresser works well. Other similar types are the METERMATIC-2 and the OLATHE-23. A GANDY has also been used.

For greens, any push type drop spreader works well.

No Putting on The Greens

That's because these are bowling greens.

The top men and women lawn bowlers in the country will converge on Rossmoor September 18th through the 24th for the United States Singles and Pairs Championship Tournament.

For the past year, Rossmoor, a retirement community in Walnut Creek, has been gearing up for the American Lawn Bowling Association Championships. Rossmoor has three bowling greens and a 27-hole golf course which are under the direction of Joseph A. Rodriguez, CGCS. Two of the bowling greens are hybrid Bermuda (Tifgreen) and the

other is Pencross Bent.

Bowling greens and golf course greens require different methods of maintenance. For one, you don't have to worry about a bowling green holding your shot. Bowling greens are each 14,400 square feet and, from one end to the other, level - not more than 1/4 inch off.

Bowling greens require extensive maintenance in order to maintain the level and firmness for play. One man is assigned full time to the three Rossmoor bowling greens. The greens are normally mowed between 1/8 of an inch to 5/32" with a Scott Bonnar mower, which is built in Aus-

tralia. This mower differs from the golf green mower because it has a 30 inch wide cut and an oversize roller to the rear. Other specialized equipment needed for bowling green maintenance is a planer which is used weekly to eliminate any high spots. A Smithco Tournament roller is another tool we use in our quest for the perfect green.

In the past year, the golf course crew and the bowling greens keeper have become more involved in the bowling greens. Assuring they are in excellent condition for the tournament has become a top priority. This effort has brought the crew together with

a common goal and has been of benefit to the bowling greens and the golf course.

The Rossmoor greens were selected from over 200 clubs that bid for the event; its selection was based on the club's willingness to make the sacrifices to host a tournament of this magnitude, the conditions of the greens, the weather, and the overall facility.

The U.S. Bowling Championships is referred to as the jewel in the crown of the American Lawn Bowling Association and, as such, is the most prestigious event of the year. Only one club has the honor of hosting it.

Moonstruck

Even the moon has pinch-hit temporarily as a golf course, and astronaut Alan Shepard traveled farther than any golfer in history to tee up there. At the end of his walk on the moon during a 1971 lunar mission, Shepard assembled a makeshift golf club he had smuggled aboard the spacecraft and whacked two balls into a crater.

SCORECARD

September 13 Meeting
Windsor Golf Club

Format was Low Net and Low Gross

Low Net Winners

Bill Maeder	69
Rob DiPietro	70
Len Tallo	70
Bill Stevens	71

Low Gross Winners

Dave Bingham	76
LeRoy Bowser	78
George Claus	78
Scott Pajak	80

Ties were decided by matching cards



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Tournament - '95

National has secured Poppy Hills and Laguna Seca for the Championship tournament to be held in conjunction with the Conference and Show at Moscone Center in 1995.

Olympic Club, San Francisco CC, Half Moon Bay and Crystal Springs are also possibilities.

Because of the potential for adverse weather conditions, the tournament committee was considering Palm Springs again, but has been informed

by Hi-Lo chapter that they will have to do it on their own if they come back to the desert. The state board has informed national that we prefer the tournament stay in the San Francisco Bay area.

John White expects to have confirmation of all five cours-

es by the end of the month.

Hospitality Suite at National Under Way

The California Chapter hospitality suite in Dallas is being moved to the Loews Resort, the site of the GCSAA headquarters. *Continued on page 7*

NATIONAL NOTES

Schilling Resigns from GCSAA Exec Office

GCSAA announced that John Schilling has resigned as chief executive officer effective January 1994.

Schilling has been with GCSAA for 15 years and has served as executive director and CEO during the past 10 years.

He is leaving the association to start his own business.

"John's leadership of the staff and his successful implementation of the board of directors' policies and programs have had a very positive impact on our association, our profession and our members," said GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS, in announcing the resignation to association membership. "It is with deep regret that I inform you that John has resigned."

"The current board of directors has fully supported John and is extremely disappointed with his decision to resign," Nichols added. "However, we do respect his desires to begin his own business, where his ability and skills will again be demonstrated."

Diana Green, former GCSAA senior director of operations, and Robert D. Ochs, former GCSAA senior director of communications and association general counsel, will join Schilling in his new endeavor.

Schilling has agreed to stay on with GCSAA through January to assist the association in making a smooth transition in leadership. He also will help manage GCSAA's 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show, scheduled for January 31-February 7, 1994 in Dallas.

GCSAA's board of directors is currently conducting a nationwide search to locate a replacement.

GCSAA Golf Championship Heads to Austin

Four challenging and adventurous golf courses will test a field of approximately 480 during the 44th annual championship, which is scheduled for January 29-February 1, 1994 in Austin, Texas.

The host courses are Austin Country Club, Barton Creek's

Crenshaw/Coore Course, Circle C Golf Course, and The Hills of Lakeway.

A thorough look at the 1994 Championship courses was included in the September 1993 issue of *Golf Course Management* magazine.

The Tournament will precede GCSAA's 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas. Details about entering the tournament were included in the conference Early Bird brochure, which was mailed to GCSAA members on August 1.

Last year's winners in San Diego were:

Individual: Richard Stuntz, CGCS

Chapter Team: California #1

New Members to Receive Complimentary Conference Registration

The board of directors has announced a plan to offer new members of GCSAA complimentary conference registration during their first year of membership.

"This complimentary registration program allows current members and affiliated chapters a very easy way to promote GCSAA membership," said GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS. "What better way to promote membership and association programs than through our conference and show?"

The complimentary registration program is available only to first-time GCSAA members. Prospective members have until December 31, 1993, to sign up for GCSAA membership and receive one complimentary registration. Reinstated members are not eligible for the complimentary offer. The program is good only for GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show.

For further details, contact GCSAA's membership department, 913/832-4480.

MAGIC BEANS*Continued from page 3*

must be on the minds of some Golfers when they listen to a Superintendent trying to explain the miracle of "Wonder-Gro", a natural formula of enriched enzymes and bacteria. I hope it's about the same thing that was on your mind as a **professional** Superintendent when you were reading about magic coffee beans!

If there is an answer to all of this, then what might it be? After all, I do happen to believe in miracles myself, I play Super Lotto every Wednesday and Saturday. I would not, however, shop for a miracle potion if I developed a cure for cancer.

Professionally, I believe the answer is to give our **professional** friends at the University of California the opportunity and the support they need to expose the true merits, if any, of new products before they are applied in an act of desperation. Let me finish by asking, "How else can we, as **professionals**, avoid the jokes about our fellow Superinten-

dents who spray because they are simply afraid of the "Bogeyman"?"

CALIFORNIA CLIPS*Continued from page 6*

We have booked the room for four nights and donations are now being sought to support the event. We have received a verbal commitment from Adams Publishing again this year for \$5-6,000 to be donated to the hospitality suite.

"What other people may find in poetry or art museums, I find in the flight of a good drive -- the white ball sailing up into the blue sky, growing smaller and smaller, then suddenly reaching its apex, curving, falling and finally dropping to the turf to roll some more, just the way I planned it."

Arnold Palmer

The One Constant is Change

Today's business decisions have to be made in a matter of seconds, says management guru Tom Peters.

How can most of us cope with this challenge -- without developing anxiety and burning out?

The suggestions should help:

- ✓ **Accept the fact** that "the one constant is change." If you fight it, you'll take a beating.
- ✓ **Prepare** yourself and your people to deal with change and to be ready for it. Treat it as an exciting challenge and a marvelous opportunity to show how good you are.
- ✓ **Get together** with your people and brainstorm ways you can all use to deal with rapid change.
- ✓ **Avoid** getting into turf wars with others in your organization. These battles will cut your speed drastically and doom you to catastrophic failure in today's world.
- ✓ **Allow** the employees closest to the problems to make key decisions when possible.
- ✓ **Appoint** someone to identify trends and issues that might have an impact on your organization -- especially as they relate to government rules and regulations, new technology, and industry trends.
- ✓ **Develop** campaigns to encourage all employees to suggest new ideas, procedures, techniques. Make it easy for them to present their suggestions -- and respond to all suggestions as soon as possible.
- ✓ **Keep in mind** that all of us must remain students for the rest of our working lives -- and make it clear that most employees will need continual training to keep up-to-date.

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