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**Thru the Green**

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

**Casting Our Vote**

**M**embers of GCSAA have several ways to voice their opinions on what happens within our association on a national level. You can vote individually, by local chapter, by state or regional chapter, by proxy or absentee.

As a group, GCSANC decided some time ago that our chapter would vote locally. It has come to our attention that many of our local members have not yet signed over their GCSAA vote to our

local chapter. Letters will be sent to those members along with a voting affidavit that will facilitate this process. Please return this affidavit to GCSAA as soon as possible.

**Board Establishes Writing Award**

Have you recently completed a unique project on your golf course? Have you seen something interesting at a course that you played? Have you built or modified a piece of equipment that you feel might

benefit others?

Do you have any thoughts or ideas that would be of interest to your fellow superintendents? Are you caught in a bureaucratic catch-22 that you're trying to figure out? If you answered YES to any of these questions, we want to hear from you. YOUR newsletter needs YOUR input to be successful. Write an article, tell a story, report a problem, or just get something off your chest. We want you to write an article

*Continued on next page*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

One of the benefits of being chapter president is meeting with both old timers, like Bob Costa, and new members at the monthly meetings. I've heard that there are a lot of new members who would like to become more involved, but feel they are not well known enough. The best way to introduce yourself to your colleagues is to host a monthly meeting at your course. Another way to become involved is to volunteer to help on a committee.

To get involved on a committee, contact the committee chairman listed to the right.

Finally, you can contribute your knowledge, opinions and interesting ideas to the newsletter. What better vehicle to express your viewpoint than through a publication that your peers will certainly be reading.

We continue to ask for everyone's contributions to our new newsletter. It can only

**Membership**

Bob Cox/Leon Snethen

**Programs/Institute**

Randy Gai/Bill Kissick

**Tournaments**

Mike Basile/Leon Snethen

**Education & Scholarship**

Joe Rodriguez

**Bylaws**

Rod Kilcoyne

**Research**

Rod Kilcoyne

**Publications**

Brian Bagley

**State Liaison**

Brian Bagley/Randy Gai

**GCSAA Liaison**

Rod Kilcoyne

**Commercial Advisor**

Chuck DalPozzo/  
Dave Wilber

become a great publication with increased participation from our members. Obviously, the primary way to contribute is by writing articles, but there are other ways to help. If you have an idea for a good article or a topic you would like to see addressed, just call or send it to anyone on the board or directly to the publisher, DJ King. Let someone on the board know what it is about the newsletter, specifically, that you like or don't like. If you like something, *great!* If you don't like something, give us a suggestion on how we can improve it or change it.

Respectfully submitted by  
Brian Bagley  
President

*"Things are more like they  
now than they have ever been."*

- Former president  
Gerald Ford



**WRITING AWARD**

*Continued from page 2*  
for *Thru The Green*. The Board of Directors decided that you might need some incentive to write this article, so we have established an annual award, along with a substantial cash prize, for the best article written, submitted and published in the newsletter each year.

The deadline for each issue is the 14th of the preceding month. Simply fax or mail your article to our office or the publisher's office prior to that date. The addresses are listed on the inside of the front cover. Then, sit back and wait for your prize to come!

**1995 GCSAA  
Tournament to be  
Held in Bay Area**

Poppy Hills and Laguna Seca have confirmed as two of the golf courses on which the '95 GCSAA tournament will be held. Olympic Club, San Francisco CC, Half Moon Bay and Crystal Springs are also under consideration. CGCSA has informed national that we prefer the tournament stay in the San Francisco Bay area. Confirmation of all five courses is expected by the end of the month.

**Western Farm  
Offers Scholarship  
Money**

Rhone-Poulenc and Western Farm Service are soliciting assistance in gathering information concerning pesticide usage in the state. In exchange for 75% of our

class A and B members filling out a brief survey, Western Farm Service has promised a donation of \$2,000 to the GCSANC Scholarship Fund. Additionally, each member who returns a survey will have the opportunity to have their registration to the Institute paid for them. Once compiled, the information will be made available to GCSANC for publication in the newsletter. The Board of Directors requests that every class A and B member participate in this program.

*Note: GCSANC's participation in this program in no way endorses any particular product or company.*

**Institute Plans  
Complete**

Plans for the 4th Annual Superintendent's Educational Institute have been finalized. This year's Institute will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Santa Rosa. The golf tournament following the Institute is at Fountaingrove Resort and Country Club. Speakers will be **Ali Harivandi, Don Waddington and Fred Bliss. Joe Davis** will lead the first afternoon's seminar and CDEFA hours will be offered. About 100 are expected to attend. Watch your mail for more information.

*You're Kidding, Right?  
A course developer in Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, reports Golf Digest, has plans for a floating green to be built on a steel barge in the middle of a lake. The hole will change depending on where the barge is towed to on a given day. Golfers will be ferried to the green by boat.*

**Tips from the USGA  
Summer Salt Accumulations**

*by Pat Gross,  
USGA Green Section*

It has been a relatively mild summer so far, however, in our travels, we have noticed that many courses are still fighting stress-related problems on greens due to excessive salt accumulation. This is not surprising, since the potable and effluent water in the western US tends to be relatively high in salt. Salts reduce the ability of the plant to use water and can produce drought stress symptoms and necrosis.

Excess salt accumulation also seems to be one of the major contributing factors to the development of such diseases as anthracnose (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) and summer patch (*Magnaporthe poae*). The stress induced by salt accumulation predisposes the plant to infection by these diseases.

Since there is no economical way to remove salts from the water source, the best approach is to implement management strategies to reduce the negative effects of this common constituent of our irrigation water.

**Improve drainage.**

Salt accumulation is more severe on poorly drained greens. Core aeration or solid tine aeration during the summer using 1/4" to 3/8" tines will

provide avenues in the soil for the flushing of salts. This may be necessary as often as once per month during the summer.

**Monitor salt levels regularly.**

You may wish to monitor a few "indicator" greens on your golf course on a weekly basis through the use of a portable electroconductivity meter (E.C. meter). These readings may not correlate directly with semiannual soil test reports, but they can give you an indication of when it is necessary to leach greens. A reading of 1.0 mmhos./cm for bent/poa greens is a good point to begin leaching operations.

**Leaching.**

Leaching is the application of water over and above normal irrigation requirements to move salts out of the root zone. This is best accomplished immediately following aeration by scheduling repeat irrigation cycles for a period of 4 to 6 hours. If your irrigation system does not have this capability, setting a low precipitation rate sprinkler on the green throughout the night can accomplish the same results. Just giving the greens an extra 20 minute cycle is not effective to leach salts out of the root zone.

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## FYI

GCSANC Members  
"Bring Home  
the Gold"

Twenty-four GCSANC members competed in the 1993 Reed Equipment Company John Deere Tournament at Fort Ord Bayonet Course. The three-man scramble teams are composed of a club's superintendent, manager, and president. Because our members walked away with nearly all the prizes, we generated \$1200 for the association scholarship program. Members winning prizes were:

2nd Place  
**Ray Hsu**  
Salinas Fairways Golf Course

3rd Place  
**Tim Greenwald**  
Rancho Canada Golf Club

4th Place  
**Dan Miller**  
Half Moon Bay Golf Links

Closest to the Pin - #17  
**George Cherolis**  
Round Hill Country Club

Long Drive (287 yards)  
**Tim Thilo**  
Peach Tree Golf & CC

## A Sign of the Times

It's official. We now have an official GCSANC beverage cart sign to be used at the monthly tournaments. Look for it this month -- it's a winner!

New approach to  
Safety Competition

Workers should be rewarded for identifying and correcting safety hazards, rather than "accident-free" days. The goal is to concentrate on the causes of accidents -- which employees can control and eliminate -- rather than the number of days worked without a lost time claim.

Speaking at the National Symposium on Worker's Compensation, Albert Mangone and Edward Welch suggested that employers should concentrate on reducing their "hazard rate" rather than claim frequency rates. The hazard rate is calculated by dividing the number of hazards found in a month by some measure of production, such as sales or number of hours worked.

Mangone and Welch feel this approach promotes safety and eliminates the tendency of employees not to report accidents in traditional incentive programs.

## WELCOME TO THE GREEN

Current Membership: 513

## Class Breakdown

A 122  
A Life: 22  
B: 45  
Associates: 120  
Affiliate: 141  
Retired: 18  
Honorary: 3  
Non dues paying: 42

ing the 30-day waiting period and passage of any required tests.

## Classification upgrades:

**Carl King**  
Pittsburgh Delta View Golf  
Class B to Class A

**Bruce Olson**

Emerald Hills Golf Course  
Associate to Class B

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:

**Peter Bissell**  
Blackhawk Country Club  
Associate

**Michael Weber**  
Davey Tree  
Affiliate

Applications have been approved for membership for the listed classification pend-

The membership committee has completed the survey discussed in last month's issue. The survey is intended to give the Board of Directors a better understanding of how the membership feels regarding education, golf, attendance, and what direction you would like to see taken in the future. The board will greatly appreciate membership response to this questionnaire as soon as possible.

## NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

**Tom Unruh** has left **Del Paso Country Club** in Sacramento to become the superintendent at **Lightening "W" Ranch Golf Course** near Carson City, Nevada. This is a brand new project, presently under construction.

**Wadsworth Construction** is the builder...**Dan Dau** has replaced Tom at Del Paso CC. Dan was the superintendent at **Brookside Golf Course** in Pasadena...**Jim Ferrin** has resigned at **Brookside Country Club** to become the superintendent at **Granite Bay Country Club** in Folsom. Granite Bay is a club just now starting construction...Replacing Jim at Brookside is **Pete Frudene**. Pete was the assistant there prior to his promotion...**Sohan Singh** has been busy this summer with a new irriga-

tion system being installed on his golf course (**Diablo CC**). **Hydro Engineering** is installing the Network 8000 system...Over the past several years, **Northridge Country Club** has gone through an extensive renovation. Superintendent **Fritz Howell** has recontoured fairways and roughs, rebuilt all the bunkers, added a new irrigation system, built tees and greens, and constructed a new maintenance facility. The golf course has remained open throughout all these endeavors. The membership now boasts that they own the "gem of the valley."

*Have you changed jobs, completed a major project, done anything newsworthy lately? If so, contact Don Naumann so it gets in the next Thru the Green.*





## In A Class By Itself.

*Medalist Gold is like no other perennial ryegrass in the world.*

Made up of a balanced blend of APM, Dandy and Target ryegrasses, **Medalist Gold** is resistant to drought as well as to disease, making it ideal for winter overseeding.

But that's not all. **Medalist Gold** also shows good resistance to summer diseases including brown patch and pythium. With its high density and fine leaf texture, **Medalist Gold** is a natural for private lawns, sports fields, parks and other high use, high traffic play areas.

**Medalist Gold** will perform well when mixed with a blend of Kentucky bluegrasses and is excellent for winter overseeding of dormant warm season turfgrasses.

Call your Medalist America representative at 800-568-TURF for information about **Medalist Gold**.

**MEDALIST**  
A M E R I C A  
TURFGRASS SEED

# **MEDALIST GOLD**

## **PERENNIAL RYEGRASS BLEND**

### **STRENGTHS**

1. Excellent seedling vigor for rapid establishment.
2. Very wear resistant and tolerant of compacted soils.
3. Superior density in closely mown turf.
4. Exceptional dark green color.
5. Improved resistance to brown patch and rust diseases.
6. Endophyte enhanced for improved insect resistance.

### **FORMULA**

50% APM, 25% Target, and 25% Dandy perennial ryegrasses.

### **PRODUCT DESCRIPTION**

Medalist Gold is formulated for both permanent Northern turf and Southern dormant bermudagrass overseeding. Medalist Gold is a high maintenance formula for use where wear tolerance and/or rapid establishment are of primary concern. On permanent turf, Medalist Gold should be used for rejuvenating thin, heavily trafficked, or diseased turf where complete turf replacement is not necessary. It is particularly well suited to golf course and athletic field turf because of its excellent tolerance to traffic, compacted soil, low clipping heights, and its ability to establish rapidly following regular overseeding operations. Rapid establishment is also valuable in turf applications which require soil stabilization. Medalist Gold is well suited for high maintenance turf in full sun to partial shade. APM is noted for forming a very dark, dense and disease resistant turf. Target excelled in Minnesota field trials for winter hardiness. Dandy was the top performer in wear tolerance trials on athletic fields.

### **SEEDING RATES**

New Seeding:	200 - 275# / Acre
Overseeding:	100 - 200# / Acre

For more information, please contact: *Mr. Mike Tentis at (916)731-5534.*



## Waste Oil: So Now What do you Do?

by Leon Snethen

Last month I told you that waste oil is hazardous waste, thereby regulated by state code. This means you can't just dump it down your drain when you change the oil in a piece of equipment. There are steps you need to take to dispose of this waste.

First, you need to obtain an E.P.A. number so you can dispose of the oil. It takes a very simple phone call to (415) 495-8895. A number will be

assigned to you and is valid after a 90-day waiting period.

Second, you need to monitor your storage facility (It must have secondary containment) on a weekly basis. The form is simple and I would be happy to send you a copy. It must include the date of the inspection, the inspector's name, leak check, labeling, clean tops, incompatibles segregated, proper aisle space to inspect containers, disposal time verification, proper sealing of

drums, and verification of secondary containment.

Third, call your waste oil pick up person and find out what is compatible for waste. If you mix the wrong types of oils, it will cost you more to dispose of it.

Last, make sure you have a contingency plan in place -- What to do if you have a spill, fire, earthquake, or any disaster that results in the release of a hazardous waste. This plan should include who to contact

(management, emergency coordinators, agencies, etc.) in case of an emergency, detailed descriptions of action to be taken by your personnel, and evacuation procedures. Then document your employee training in this plan.

If you have information to add to this, please write an article and submit it to the chapter office. If you have any questions, call me at (408) 253-0340.

## Ammonium Sulfate Fertilizer Fights Summer Patch

A new study shows that ammonium sulfate fertilizer (21-0-0-24S) suppresses summer patch, a fungal disease attacking the roots of grasses, according to Dr. Joseph Heckman of Rutgers University.

Heckman said the intensity of this turf disease increases during hot, humid summers. Summer patch affects Kentucky bluegrass, annual bluegrass and fine fescues.

Heckman has been working with Rutgers plant pathologists David Thompson and Bruce Clarke. Thompson said it appears ammonium sulfate's effects on summer patch are linked to the lower soil pH achieved when using this fertilizer.

"Ammonium sulfate reduces soil pH almost immediately and that has been shown to

suppress summer patch in our test on Kentucky bluegrass," Thompson said. "Urea lowers the pH in the long term, but in the short term it actually increases the soil pH and urea does not suppress summer patch."

Neither calcium nitrate nor potassium nitrate offer the pH lowering effect found with ammonium sulfate, according to Thompson.

Tests in 1991 showed a 60-to-80 percent reduction in summer patch when ammonium sulfate was applied and a 35-to-45 percent reduction when sulfur-coated urea was applied compared to urea or nitrate.

Thompson also said ammonium sulfate caused a delay of three to five weeks in the development of symptoms while sulfur-coated urea only

showed a one to two week delay of symptoms compared to nitrate nitrogen.

Kentucky bluegrass is grown in pH levels between 6 and 7, but Thompson's research shows that this grass also grows well at pH levels in the mid-fives. It is in the fives that Thompson said summer patch is best suppressed. That's also the preferred pH level for bentgrass.

Thompson said it is often hard to foresee if the weather will be conducive to summer patch problems, and fungicides must be applied as preventative treatments at high rates due to the soil-borne nature of the disease.

Reprinted from Golf Course News

See related article on page 3 - *Summer Salt Accumulation*

### Exercise is the Key to Back Rehab

92% of all patients with low back pain will recover on their own in two months, states Gary Jacob, a Santa Monica chiropractor. For the other 8%, "active" therapy and exercise are more beneficial than "passive" therapy such as ultrasound or manipulation. In a recent talk, he stated that traditional therapies have little real value. Active movement is the key to true recovery, and the exercise program should begin immediately after the injury.

While heat packs or ultrasound may make the patient feel better temporarily, they do not address the underlying injury. However, since Worker's Compensation is paying the bill, they continue to be used month after month after month.



## CALIFORNIA CLIPS AND CUTS

California chapter will again submit the name of **Ali Harivandi** to GCSAA for the Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Harivandi's name was submitted last year along with that of Victor Gibeault. Mr. Gibeault was presented with the award. Because of Ali's tireless efforts on behalf of superintendents in Northern California, and in the state, his dedication to keeping us informed through articles and speaking engagements, and his contributions to the Insti-

tute, it was decided to submit his name once again for this prestigious distinction.

### Annual Meeting Topic Sought

Central Chapter is researching topics for the state meeting in 1994. Anyone having ideas should contact John Beltz.

A suggestion was made to consider combining a full day GCSAA seminar in conjunction with the state meeting to

add to the educational benefits.

The 1994 meeting will be held May 15th at the Royal Scandinavian Inn in Solvang. The tournament is May 16th at the River Course at the Alisal.

### State Scholarship Monies Awarded

The state board decided at its August 21st meeting to distribute the \$3,300 balance in the CGCSA scholarship

account evenly among the six local chapters. The state currently has no scholarship procedure in place; each of the local chapters does.

This money came from the tee sponsorships at the Hi-Lo annual meeting two years ago.

### State Hires Manager

CGCSA recently hired DJ King of King & Company in

*Continued next page*

## NATIONAL NOTES

### GCSAA Scholarships Available

Scholarship applications have been received from GCSAA for the upcoming school year. If you know of a turfgrass student who would like to apply, please have them contact our office.

GCSAA currently offers three types of scholarships. They are:

#### 1. GCSAA Scholars Program

These awards of \$1,500 to \$3,500 are available to outstanding undergraduates and graduate students who are planning careers as golf course superintendents. Students must have completed the first year of an appropriate associate's or bachelor's degree program (agronomy, turfgrass science, horticulture, etc.). The GCSAA Scholarship Committee evaluates applications based on academic excellence, career preparation and leadership potential. The deadline for applications is October 1.

#### 2. GCSAA Graduate Student Grants

These awards of at least \$5,000 are available to candidates for master's and doctoral degrees in fields related to golf course management. The goal of this program is to identify tomorrow's leading teachers and researchers. The GCSAA Scholarship Committee evaluates applicants on academic excellence, professional preparation, peer recommendations, and potential to make an important contribution in science and/or education related to golf course management. The deadline for applications is October 1.

3. **GCSAA Legacy Awards** These \$1,500 scholarships are available to children and grandchildren of GCSAA members. Applications are evaluated by an independent committee of college administrators based on academic excellence, extracurricular activities and an essay about the student's parent/grandparent's career. The deadline for application is April 15.

#### 4. GCSAA Student Essay Contest

The contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students in appropriate academic fields. Essays should be seven-12 pages and should focus on the relationship between golf courses and the environment. Prizes totaling \$2,000 are available to winners. Entries must be submitted by December 1.

If you believe you may be eligible to compete for any of these scholarships, please contact the GCSAA Development Department at 913/841-2240 to request the appropriate application form.

### Magazine Topics Sought

As the California representative to the GCSAA Publication Committee, Bob Tillema has requested topics or ideas to propose for publication in *Golf Course Management*. If there is a topic of interest that you would like to see addressed by the national publication, please contact one of the board members or Bob Tillema in Central Chapter by September 22nd.



San Diego to provide association management services. DJ is also the manager of the San Diego chapter and the publisher of *Thru the Green*. CGCSA's address is now 7150 Shoreline Drive, #3215, San Diego, CA 92122. The telephone number is 619/558-4769. Fax 619/558-7387.

mer. Seeding with improved varieties of creeping bentgrass on a frequent basis will help improve stress tolerance on the greens. Creeping bentgrass is more salt tolerant than *Poa annua* and will help provide adequate turf coverage and density during the summer.

On a final note, you may recall that warm temperatures have persisted well into October during the past two years. Don't let your guard down too early. Remember that regular monitoring and early implementation of management programs will help avoid severe problems later in the season. Best wishes for the remainder of the summer. We look forward to seeing you during our travels on behalf of the USGA Green Section.

### Summer Salt Accumulation

*Continued from page 3*

Unfortunately, many courses experience black layer following leaching operations. If this is the case, try to combine aeration and leaching operations as suggested and then hand water dry spots for the remainder of the week. This is a difficult balancing act, but many superintendents have been able to find a happy medium with this program through experience.

### Overseed with creeping bentgrass.

Despite these efforts, *Poa annua* has a tendency to "check-out" during the sum-



## Tips on SB198 Compliance

Now that SB198 has been in effect for a while, most golf courses have set up a written safety program to comply with it.

However, at this point a compliance officer will also be looking for evidence that the program has actually been implemented and is being followed on an ongoing basis.

"Many clients believe they need only show a compliance officer that they have a written program, but the emphasis in enforcement of the requirement for an IIP Program is on the **effectiveness** of that program," says Colleen Britz, a safety professional with Marsh & McLennan Protection Consultants.

During an inspection, you should be able to produce evidence that shows:

1. Scheduled, periodic workplace inspections, including the names of the persons responsible for the inspection;
2. Documentation that hazards were corrected;
3. Documentation that employees were disciplined or rewarded for work practices;
4. Records of safety training or re-training, including employee names, dates, types of training, topics covered and names of trainers;
5. Safety Committee minutes;
6. A written Respiratory Protection of Hazard Communication program if appropriate. These need similar documentation to demonstrate that they are actually being followed.

Check your SB198 procedures to make certain you have these records current and available. It's not only important for legal compliance, but for the health and safety of your employees.

## How to Keep Good Workers

When you can't offer cash or promotions to keep good workers on board, try these incentives:

- **Acknowledge** their sacrifices. And don't err by suggesting that they should be grateful for keeping their jobs during the recession.
- **Remind them** often to "keep in mind how much we value you here."
- **Involve them** more deeply in decision-making.
- **Offer them** the chance to learn new skills -- inside or outside the company.
- **Give them** new titles and greater visibility
- **Build bonds** by having lunch and an occasional coffee break with them.
- **Give them** some tangible award. *Example:* One company recognized outstanding performers by giving them antique Waterman fountain pens.

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