

## THRU THE GREEN

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**Thru the Green**

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## FYI

by Barbara Mikel

## A New-Year Reminder for New Members

**W**ell, the Annual Meeting is upon us. I hope to see ALL of you at The Villages Golf & Country Club for the election of new officers and Board of Directors. This year, the Affiliate Representatives to the Board of Directors will be

elected. It is important for all members to attend.

Since we have a number of new members in the Association, let me take this opportunity to review meeting procedures. Registration for the meeting begins with return of your meeting reservation form and appropriate monies. We establish a cut-off date as a courtesy to the host superintendent to give his staff time to prepare for the meeting. On the day of the meeting, a registration table is set up for check in. At this

time, you will receive your receipt (prepared based upon reservation) and a door prize ticket. Next step is to check in with the golf chairman for foursome and tee assignments. It is important to check in at the registration table BEFORE checking in for golf. If you are grouped, try to collect your group and sign in at registration and golf together. It gets very distracting if 80-100 people are trying all at once to talk to one person. I try to bring

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Like Gary Cooper in "High Noon," it's time for me to get on my horse (or maybe that should be my greensmower), and ride on into the sunset. Unlike 'Ole Gary, who didn't get any help when times got tough, I have been very fortunate to work with a great, hard-working board, which made my term as President a pleasurable experience. At this time, I'd like to say "Thank You!"

Being on the Board isn't the most difficult job in the world, but it does require a commitment. I can't remember how many times I've had to finish something for the Board when, at the same time, some emergency (or three!) came up on the course which required my attention. It's happened to us all, but somehow we survived. Everyone got their responsibilities handled with the possible exception of that guy responsible for the President's Mes-

sage every month.

Besides being lucky to work with this board, I have had the pleasure of working with many other dedicated members of our association on various committees.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank two other people: Barbara Mikel for keeping me headed in the right direction and doing whatever it took to keep everything running smoothly, and DJ King for turning our newsletter around and making it what it is today - a national award winner!

Once again, it's been a real honor and pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors. To repeat something I wrote in a previous President's Message: When you're on the board and active in the business of the association, you really get a great feeling of being a part of the association. Like most things in life, the more you put into it, the

more you get out of it.

With the 1995 National Conference ahead and, with it, the challenge it brings to our chapter, I look forward to supporting our next President and Board of Directors. I urge you to become involved with our chapter during this next exciting year.

I can only hope that some of my President's Messages have gotten at least a few people thinking a little. When Mike Garvale first asked me to run for the Board, he said he wanted me to get on the board and "stir things up a little." I hope I have.

"I'm just the straw that stirs the drink."

Reggie Jackson

Respectfully submitted by  
Brian Bagley  
President

**Gil Mitchell**

Trees represent a great asset to a golf course. Unfortunately, they can also represent a great liability. Recently, the City of Gilroy, California, was ordered to pay a man over \$600,000 because an oak tree in one of the cities parks fell over and severed the man's arm off. The judge felt that the city was negligent in that it didn't maintain the tree in safe condition.

This court case has sent shudders through the arboriculture industry. The reason is that every arborist knows all trees will eventually fail. But which trees will fail first and when will the failure occur? Will individual limbs break off or will the entire tree fall over? These questions are difficult to answer, but a trained arborist learns to identify key criteria when doing a hazard evaluation.

When doing a hazard evaluation, the tree is divided into three areas: The root crown and root zone, the mainstem and major scaffold limbs, and the foliage including smaller branches. Let's do a brief analysis of a tree from the "top down."

Foliage that is sparse,

dead, or dying indicates a tree in poor health. A tree in poor health can be a hazard. Conversely, thick foliage growing on structurally weak limbs can cause breakage, too. Siberian Elm trees are notorious for outgrowing their structural support.

Major scaffold limbs that have tight "V" crotches are hazards that, in many cases,

limb incorrectly, decay will follow. This can create future hazards.

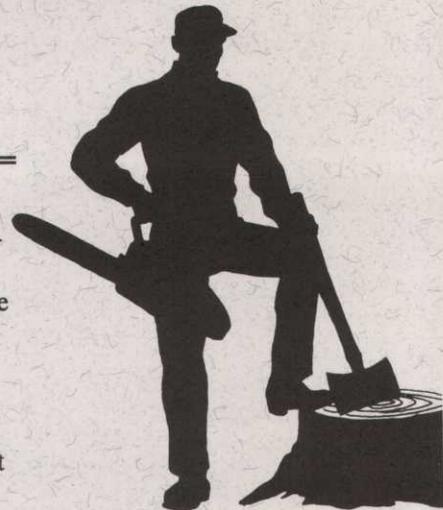
Root zone or root crown damage and decay is the cause of entire trees failing and falling over. In young trees, the problem is poor planting techniques and/or faulty irrigation practices. In old trees, it can be from mechanical damage, a change

tional year's growth on a poorly structured or anchored tree can break a tree apart long before the storm season.

To minimize a golf course's liability for personal and property damage, it would be wise to have a Certified Arborist evaluate all trees near structures and where people congregate. If and when a tree limb does create damage, an arborist's report will help prove that the golf course took responsibility for their trees.

## Arbor Care

### *Hazard Trees Represent A Liability For A Golf Course*



can be alleviated through trimming and cabling. Very young trees should have "V" crotches removed as soon as possible, or better still, not be selected at the nursery. Old pruning wounds on scaffold limbs and the mainstem should be monitored for wound closure and/or decay present. When a tree worker removes a major scaffold

in grade, and/or faulty irrigation practices.

One misconception people have is that trees fall over or limbs break off only in storms. Unfortunately, and especially for golf courses, this is not true. Trees are just as likely, or in the case of deciduous trees, more likely, to fail in July and August. The reason is that an addi-

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**MEET THE CANDIDATES***Continued from page 1*

**Ken Schwark:** I would like to say thank you for allowing me to run for a director's position. I consider serving the association an honor and a privilege. It has given so much to me in the past, I feel it's time to give something back. I hope the qualifications and experience I would bring to this position will help in making this the best board possible. I feel overwhelmed by the challenge of filling the shoes of people who have served in this position in years past, but look forward to meeting that challenge. Thank you.

**Roger Martinez:** I have been working for the City of Salinas Golf Course for the last 20 years and have been a member of GCSANC and GCSAA for the past 15-plus years. I have gotten many benefits from the association and I think it is time for me to give something back. By being active in the organization and getting to know the issues of interest to us, I will help make our organization stronger and work to keep the membership well informed.

**Leonard Theis:** I have been the Golf Course Superintendent for the City of Modesto for the past 5 years and am currently in charge of 45 holes of golf. I have overseen the construction of two championship golf courses, one in Modesto and one in Sacramento. Prior to Modesto, I was the Superintendent for the County of Sacramento, in charge of Ancil Hoffman Golf Course for 9 years. I have been involved in the hiring of two Golf Course Architects for construction of golf courses and the hiring of an architectural firm in charge of building facilities for Calif-Muni Golf Operations. I am 50 years old, married with four grown children. I have a handicap index of 4.7 and have been involved in golf and golf course maintenance since I was five years old.

**WELCOME TO THE GREEN**

**W**elcome to the following new GCSANC members:

**Class B**

**Jeff Jackson**  
Superintendent  
Mace Meadow Golf & CC

**Associates - 30 day wait**

**Scott Stambaugh**  
Asst. Superintendent  
The Golf Club at Quail Lodge

**Vincent Keats**  
Asst. Superintendent  
Contra Costa Country Club

**Thomas Bastis**  
Intern  
Spyglass Hill Golf

**Thomas Estrada**  
Superintendent  
Corral de Tierra CC

**Rene Viviani**  
Superintendent  
Willow Park Golf Course

**Affiliates - 30 day wait**  
**Sally Hilton-Painter**  
Boething Treeland Farms

**Andy Slack**  
West Star Dist.

**Keith Kaminsky**  
Keith Kaminsky Construction

**Upgrade - Class B to A**  
**Anthony Steers**  
Contra Costa Country Club

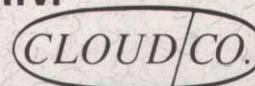
**NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS**

**Mike Higuera** has accepted the superintendent position at Riverside Golf Course is Coyote. Mike was the superintendent at Carmel Valley Ranch prior to accepting this position...Mike is replacing **Cliff Rourke** who left Riverside Golf Course to become the superintendent at Summit Pointe Golf Course in Milpitas. American

Golf Corp. has taken over at Summit Pointe...**Sierra Pacific Turf Supply** has obtained the Rainbird Golf Distributorship for the Northern California Coastal region. **Tom Jackson** left the H.V. Carter Company to become the Rainbird Golf representative for Sierra Pacific Turf Supply.

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Dave Bingham - Manager - Member GCSANC

## USGA/NCGA Green Section Conference

by Rich Lavine

The annual USGA/NCGA Green Section Regional Conference was held on March 16th at Castlewood CC. Those in attendance heard great presentations by USGA staff members Larry Adamson, Tim Moraghan, and Nancy Sadlon. Their topics included Tournament Administration (get those entries in on time, folks.), US Open Preparation, and the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and the role it can play in a sound maintenance program. Dr. Don White from the Univ. of Minnesota separated the facts from fiction of *Poa annua* maintenance and/ or control, while Dr. Robert Green from UCR gave a very interesting talk on his research of spraying gasohol (you read it right, *gasohol*) on bentgrass turf to promote increased growth. Lectures on Green Speed by Paul Vermeulen, The Shrinking Golf Course by Larry Gilhuly, and Turf Tips by Pat rounded out the program.

As usual, this was a great event; one that should be attended by all. If you couldn't be there this year, don't miss it next year.

### FYI

Continued from page 2

application forms and handicap information to each meeting. The handicap cards are normally out on a table for you to pick up and paste to the back of your card. If you have questions, by all means, ask! You won't learn unless you ask!

It's  
Spring!

## Now That's a Maintenance Headache!

Floyd S. Rood tackled the biggest course on record when he played the entire United States, coast to coast, in 1963 and 1964. He teed off in the Pacific surf and finished at the Atlantic shore more than a year later. No one knows what par was, but Rood took 114,737 strokes to cover nearly 3,400 miles.

## Tips from the USGA Be Gentle When Waking A Sleeping Giant

by Paul Vermeulen,  
USGA Agronomist

With the arrival of Spring and the accompanying warm temperatures, bermudagrass fairways across the entire southwestern region will soon awaken. For most golfers, this is a welcome event. Through their eyes, green, actively growing turf not only looks better, it plays better, too. Actually, it only looks better. If you analyze the handicaps of most golfers, the numbers do not change very much between March and April.

Ah, what the heck, if believing that the condition of the course is better because the grass simply turned green makes golfers happy, why not accept the compliment. Maybe in some small way these compliments help balance the scales of justice. After all, how many negative comments about the condition of the course have most superintendents had to endure from avid golfers. Especially the ridiculous comment such as, "I want the greens 'hard-soft', so I can hold a 3-wood without making a ballmark."

Since not-so-green bermudagrass (that has not been destroyed by uncontrolled cart traffic, of course!) plays as well as green bermudagrass, there really isn't a good reason to turn it green a few days early with excessive applications of soluble nitrogen. Furthermore, such applications should be avoided because of the possibility of aggravating spring root decline.

Spring root decline is the natural loss of roots on warm-season turfgrasses as they are recovering from winter dormancy. This event is caused by the rapid breakdown of carbohydrates stored in the root system for the production of new leaf tissue.

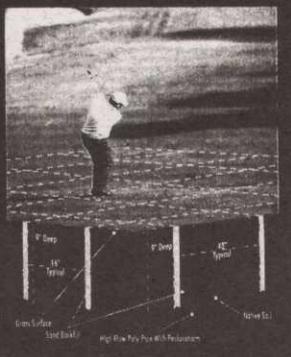
How can nitrogen applications play a role in spring root decline? If you think of a growing bermudagrass plant as

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## CALIFORNIA CLIPS AND CUTS

### State Golfers Win At GCSAA Tourney

California golfers took top honors in four of the nine flights at the 1994 GCSAA Championship Tournament played Jan 31 to Feb 1 in Austin, TX.

**Michael Garvale, CGCS,** Palo Alto Hills CC took the First Flight (7-12 hdcp) Gross award. Second Flight (13-18 hdcp) Gross was taken by **Jess Pifferini** from The Links at Spanish Bay. Jess won this

flight for the second year in a row. In the Senior I Flight (Age 50-56), **Corey Eastwood, CGCS,** of Stockdale CC was the gross winner. And in the Affiliate Flight, **David Bingham** of R.V. Cloud Company beat the pack.

The Chapter Team Net competition was won by Midwest AGCS #6 (Illinois) and the Gross competition by Georgia GCSA #1.

### State Chapter in Business to Serve the Local Chapters

A concern frequently voiced by local chapter members has been that the state association is trying to "take over and run things." This concern has been addressed at a recent state board meeting.

The state board would like to reemphasize to everyone that the state chapter is run by the representatives from the

local chapters and answers to its members (the local chapters). The state does not, and has no desire to, dictate policy to local chapters; instead, it is driven by the needs of the local chapters.

If you have questions or concerns about state chapter business, please take it to your local chapter representative and it will be addressed at the next possible board meeting.

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### Mechanic's Workshop

by Rich Lavine

The first of what we hope to be at least an annual mechanic's workshop was held on March 14th at Castlewood Country Club. Twenty-six mechanics and a few superintendents showed up to share their knowledge and discuss common problems and solutions to equipment maintenance. Topics ranged from diesel fuel problems and diesel engine maintenance, in general, to a very hands-on demonstration of greensmower cutting units overhaul and repair.

Mike Humes from Pacific Power Equipment Co. also had a demonstration on basic small engine troubleshooting.

Our thanks to: Mr. Humes for his participation, Blake Swint for allowing us the use of his shop, and especially to Ben Showard of Turf Equipment Services for coordinating the meeting and sharing his knowledge with us.

### Integrated Turfgrass Pest Management for Professionals Seminar at UC Davis

A two-day course focusing on current techniques and research results for turfgrass integrated pest management is being offered April 26, and 27 at UC Davis. Topics include: Turf Selection: The first step in pest management; Pre-emergent turf weed management and control; Post-emergent turf management and control; Turfgrass management practices to reduce disease; Turfgrass insect management and control; Rodents and other turf animal pests; Turfgrass nematode diseases management and control; Managing turfgrasses in shade to reduce pest activity; Low temperature turfgrass diseases; and High temperature turfgrass diseases.

The program will be held from 9am - 4pm each day at the University Club, Old Davis Road, in Davis. The cost is \$175.00 per person, which includes lunch and course materials. You may enroll by phone if you use a credit card. Call 800/752-0881. For more information, please contact Sandra Cooper at 916/757-8948.



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**WAKING A GIANT***Continued from page 5*

a continuous chain of chemical reactions that occur due to environmental stimuli, then it stands to reason that every action also has a reaction.

When nitrogen, in a readily available form, is applied, a mechanism is triggered within bermudagrass plants. This mechanism, or rather transport shuttle, immediately starts absorbing the nitrogen until its concentration drops below a critical level in the soil. Much like a labrador retriever, bermudagrass will try to gorge itself until it can no longer function. Unlike a dog, however, bermudagrass must expend energy, i.e. break down stored carbohydrates, to absorb nitrogen from the soil and incorporate it as complex proteins.

By further reducing carbohydrate reserves with early nitrogen applications, spring root decline can become a catastrophic event, if followed by a late season frost. In other words, if a late season frost damages a significant portion of the new leaf tissue, there may no longer be

enough stored carbohydrates left to make a full recovery.

With the possibility of disaster on the horizon, it would seem best to allow

Mother Nature to take care of her own, and apply only light applications of soluble nitrogen until the possibility of freezing temperatures has

safely passed. As someone much wiser than myself once said, "It's best to be gentle when waking a sleeping giant."

**CALIFORNIA CLIPS***Continued from page 6***State Chapter Bylaws Changed**

A review of the state chapter bylaws last year revealed some discrepancies and inconsistencies owing to various changes made over the past several years. To address these inconsistencies, the board approved the hiring of an attorney to review the bylaws for legality and consistency and to make required changes. Mike Duffy, a specialist in Non-profit law from Tustin, CA, who holds both a masters and a Doctorate in law, and is a professor of law, was hired to perform this review.

Some minor changes were necessary. The most significant change included redefinition of membership classifications and dues structure.

Article III, Section 1 now states: *The membership of this association shall be limited to those associations which are organized as regional golf course superintendents associations and are within the state of California.* This means that the local associations, not each individual chapter member, are members of the state organization. Each chapter appoints two representatives to the Board of Directors who are responsible for representing the desires/wishes/needs of their individual chapter.

This change was made for several reasons:

1. to protect the local chapters from any tax liabilities connected to affiliation with the state,
2. to guarantee equal representation on the Board of Directors for each local chapter,
3. to provide for fair distribution of funding to the state assoc. from among the local chapters
4. to assure that royalty monies we receive from Adams Publishing for use of our name to publish California Fairways are not taxable.

The Bylaws have been rewritten by the attorney. The changes will be presented to the board for approval at the May 14 board meeting and, once refined and approved, a copy will be mailed to each local chapter office. Copies are also available from the state office to anyone who wishes to review them.

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