

## THRU THE GREEN

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## THRU THE GREEN

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to direct your thoughts to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and address those of you currently not GCSAA members. This professional organization lists a membership roster of almost 14,000 international members. At the top of the list of services provided by this association are continuing education seminars. Both regionally, as well as at the Annual Conference, these seminars are put on by many of the finest educators in the world. Attending these seminars provides the progressive golf course superintendent the opportunity to stay on top of this ever-changing business in this rapidly changing world.

The next most important service offered by GCSAA, in my opinion, is in the area of Public Relations. An exam-

ple of GCSAA impact in this area was most recently noted when all GCSAA members received a memo entitled "Facts on Pesticides." These two pages of information explained how to handle questions related to pesticide usage when you, the superintendent, are approached by the media, an environmental group, a member, or the public. This information will certainly help me address questions head-on in a positive way should I ever be approached.

GCSAA is also involved in lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the golf course superintendent in many political arenas. We all carry the title of Golf Course Superintendent, and those of us not members are riding along on the coattails of GCSAA as it strives to enhance our professionalism.

These are just a few of

the many services available.

I am well aware of the costs involved in joining GCSAA, as well as the costs of the seminars. These should be incorporated into your annual budget as the benefits your golf course will reap from your advancement will be tremendous. You need to sell this point to your owner, green chairperson, Board of Directors, or general manager. Should you need some help selling this point, I would be happy to write a letter on behalf of this valuable membership.

GCSAA offers new members free registration to the annual conference, which coincidentally just happens to be in San Francisco in 1995. What an opportunity!

See you on the tee,  
Randy Gai  
President

## 1994 GCSANC Institute

**Site:** Coconut Grove Conference Center,  
Santa Cruz

**Hotel:** Dream Inn, Santa Cruz

**Golf Course:** Delaviega GC

**Host Superintendent:** Don Paul

The topic of this year's Institute veers away from the traditional turf management and related items. The Institute committee picked **Personnel Management** as the main topic -- an area that is becoming more important all the time, and in which many

superintendents have little formal training. Our speaker will be Dr. Elizabeth Gibson who is with the RHR International Company.

Be sure to mark your calendars for November 2-4, 1994. This year's Institute promises to be very interesting and informative for us all.

The registration flyers will be going out in the mail shortly.

## Developing a Control Program for English Daisy

by Bob Costa

Those of you located near the coastal regions of Northern California are no doubt aware of the problems associated with the control of English Daisy. It's perennial life cycle, waxy leaf cuticle, woody root system, and adaptability to coastal areas has placed this broadleaf weed at the forefront of many a superintendent's greatest maintenance challenges.

In many instances, populations of English Daisy persist at levels well beyond established thresholds for golf courses and fine turf areas. Chemical applications provide the most effective control, however, when applied improperly the degree of control can vary greatly.

To assure responsible turfgrass maintenance, all pesticide applications must be made with the objective to obtain maximum reduction of the target pest, in the most cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner. In order to accomplish this goal, careful attention must be paid to chemical selection, timing of application, and application

techniques.

Prior to scheduling a chemical application, identify the specific areas where populations of English Daisy exist. Based upon the density of weed infestation and accessibility to spray equipment, determine whether broadcast or spot applications are required. Precise location of English Daisy infestations will assist you later when you evaluate the effectiveness of your spray program.

Proper chemical selection and rate of application are just the first steps in an effective spray program. Of equal importance is to ensure these chemicals are applied at the proper time, and with the most effective application techniques.

Before scheduling your next chemical application for English Daisy, be aware of the following factors which will improve your overall control, and assist you in meeting the objectives of your spray program. Remember, it doesn't cost any more to do it right.

*Continued on page 4*

## Tips from the USGA They're Always Too Something

by Paul Vermeulen  
USGA Agronomist

What is always too hard or too soft, too wet or too dry, too dark or too light, and/or too coarse or too fine? If you do not know the answer, then you probably have never played a round of golf. If you have, then you have never landed in a bunker. That, by the way, is the answer -- a bunker. A depression, usually filled with sand, that is defined as a hazard in the Rules of Golf. A place where you are never happy because you know you are going to get punished. And that is what the argument is all about. What is fair punishment?

Should the ball plug if it lands in the face? Some people say it should, others say that plugged lies are unfair. Should you have an opportunity to putt, or must you get the ball airborne? Some people say a bunker would not be a hazard if you have the opportunity to putt, others say being in the sand is hazard enough. Should the surface of the sand have a smooth finish, or should it have deep furrows? Some people say the sand should be perfectly smooth so you have an opportunity to make unobstructed contact with the ball and spin it on the green. Others disagree, saying the bunker should not be a place of opportunity.

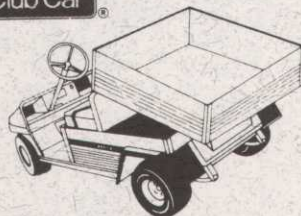
Who is the Supreme Judge when it comes to deciding what is fair and equitable punishment? The answer is the Green Committee Chairperson. In the Rules of Golf it says that the Committee, usually meaning Green Committee, decides the condition of the course, e.g., the condition of the bunkers. Stop! Before you run for office and become a tyrant, remember that there are at least some basic guidelines that should be considered. Just because you become Green Chairperson doesn't mean you should use,

*Continued on page 6*

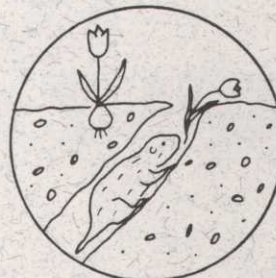
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**ENGLISH DAISY***Continued from page 3***Timing**

☑ Best control is achieved with post-emergent herbicides when weeds are actively growing. This requires soil temperatures of a minimum of 55 degrees.

☑ Chemical uptake by weed species is enhanced by warm sunny days. Avoid chemical applications when temperatures are below 65 degrees, and under foggy or cloudy considerations.

☑ Mowing prior to or immediately after application may remove the chemical from the leaf, or reduce the leaf surface area. When possible, avoid mowing prior to or after chemical application.

☑ Rain or irrigation following a chemical application may reduce the absorption of the pesticide into the leaf tissue. Avoid spraying when rain is forecast or irrigation is scheduled within 24 hours.

☑ Aerification and vertical mowing of fairways and roughs provide an ideal location for seed deposition and subsequent germination. Schedule these activities after chemical applications when possible.

*Continued on page 7***WELCOME TO THE GREEN**

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:

**CLASS B****Scott Stambaugh**

Quail Lodge

**ASSOCIATES**

(30 day wait)

**Harry Adkinson**

Sugar Mill Country Club

**Al Nunez**

Blackhawk Country Club

eligible for upgrade to B

**AFFILIATES**

(30 day wait)

**Doug Martin**

Sales rep

**Dan McKay**

West Star Dist

**Phil Reiker**

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The next testing location will be at Saratoga Country Club on August 22, 1994 at 3:00pm.

We will be setting a location in the North Bay for testing in September to be announced in the next newsletter. Get your upgrade application in now.

Our members are eligible for a NCGA handicap card through the association at no charge. If you do not have one, please contact Roger Martinez or Barbara Mikel to get an application.

To those of you signing up for golf at meetings via the reservation forms, it would expedite the pairings if you will send in your index with the reservation. There is a lot of time spent at meetings trying to get all the information and complete the pairings. Pairings are made in advance, so make sure your preferred foursomes are confirmed prior to sending in your reservations. There is a lot of confusion at the meetings because of changes at the last minute. This can run more smoothly if everyone will help us.

Leon Snethen

**Naumann's NorCal News**

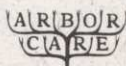
**Ross Miller** has left Valley Gardens GC in Scotts Valley to become the superintendent at Pinhigh GC and Driving Range in San Jose. Pinhigh is a range and 3-hole practice facility...**Chris Shank** has left a foreman's position at Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club

to become the turfgrass manager at Divot City, a golf practice facility in Milpitas...At Palo Alto Muni Golf Course, **Dave Davies** reports they are putting in place a new pumping system along with a blending facility so they can get on line this fall.

Blaine Boccignone  
Sales/Client Representative  
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Dave Bingham - Manager - Member GCSANC

**Trophy, trophy, who's got the trophy?**

I was just informed there is a perpetual trophy for low net superintendent for the Superintendent-Pro tournament. It has not been around for three years, as far as I know. We are taking anonymous tips as to its location. Call 408/253-0340, ext. 32, if you have information as to its whereabouts.

**Scholarship Research Update**

The annual Scholarship/Research Tournament generated \$2,400 into the S/R account. Special thanks to **OM Scott Company** and **Far West Supply** for sponsoring the beverage cart at the tournament.

**Wanted Sites for Future Meetings**

If you and your club are interested in hosting GCSANC at some time in the future, please call Bill Kissick at Salinas Country Club - 408/443-4566.

**And The Winners Are...**

**Superintendent Low Gross**

**The Ayershire Trophy**

Jeff Roberts	
Blackhawk CC	74
Bob Lopic	
Boulder Creek G & CC	77
Scott Lewis	
Menlo CC	79
Ed Stoke	
Santa Rosa G & CC	82
Mike Snyder	
Oakhurst CC	82

**Superintendent Low Net**

Jess Pifferini	
The Links @ Spanish Bay	65
Lalo Pacheco	
Franklin Canyon	68
Bill Davis	
Peninsula Golf & CC	71
Jim Husting	
Woodbridge Golf & CC	72
John Martin	
California Golf Club	73

**Pro Low Gross**

Mark Sherman	
Green Valley CC	72
Scott Hoyt	
Almaden CC	73
Charlie Gibson	
Windsor Golf Club	75

**Super-Pro Two Man Low Gross**

Santa Rosa Golf & CC	
Ed Stocke/Val Verhunce	69

Blackhawk CC	
Jeff Roberts/Steve Crane	69

Windsor Golf Club	
Rick Hanson/Charlie Gibson	71

Green Valley CC	
Ray Storey/Mark Sherman	71

Almaden Golf & CC	
Mike Phillips/Scott Hoyt	72

**Low Net**

Franklin Canyon Golf Course	
Lalo Pacheco/Gill Flynn	59

Silver Creek Valley CC	
Nick Checklenis/Jay Jackson	63

The Links at Spanish Bay	
Jess Pifferini/Rich Cosand	64

Santa Rosa Golf & CC	
Ed Stocke/Val Verhunce	65

Aptos Seascape	
Mike McCraw/Bruce Plum	66

**Four Man Low Net**

The Links at Spanish Bay	54
Jess Pifferini, Rich Cosand, Don Naumann, Jim Lipari	

Franklin Canyon Golf Club	55
Lalo Pacheco, Gill Flynn, Scott Olsen, David Perez	

Silver Creek Valley CC	57
Nick Checklenis, Jay Jackson, Jim Juarceys, Patrick Clark	

Parkway Golf Course	58
Ron Wakayama, Tim Flanagan, Ralph Villescaz, Bill Gabbert	

Santa Rosa Golf & CC	63
Ed Stocke, Val Verhunce, Al Meillon, Andy Bressoud	

**Affiliate/Guest Low Net**

Bill Gabbert	
Parkway Golf Course	66
Don Naumann	
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply	70
Rich Coombs	
Windsor Golf Club	71
Patrick Clark	
Silver Creek Valley CC	71
John McEnery	
Santa Teresa Golf Course	72

**Longest Drive**

Greg St. Germain - Pro	
Salinas Country Club	

**Closest to the Pin**

#7: Jim McGrath, 2'3"	
Santa Teresa Golf Course	
#15: Gill Flynn, 4'4"	
Franklin Canyon Golf Club	


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**LEON SNETHEN***Continued from page 1*

The stress got the better of him and Leon headed back to the farm: well, kind of. Maybe back to nature is a better analogy. He went to work at Saratoga Country Club in 1987 as the mechanic under Brian Bagley. Leon fell in love with the golf industry, so when Brian accepted the position at The Villages three years later, Leon applied for the superintendent position. Now, he hadn't been just sitting around tinkering with trucks for that three years. He had acquired his spray certificate and taken some turf management classes. The management at the course figured he was pretty well qualified. And the rest is history.

**USGA***Continued from page 3*

or rather abuse, your power to seek revenge on fellow golfers.

The basic purpose of having bunker maintenance guidelines is that they (1) help avoid controversial ruling decisions, and/or (2) help simplify routine bunker maintenance. For example, one guideline is that the sand particle size distribution should be between 0.25 and 1.0 millimeters. This guideline excludes fine silt and clay particles that would impede drainage. Can you imagine the controversy if someone went to win a major Championship after they were granted relief in a bunker because of standing water? Ouch! This guideline also excludes small

stones and/or pebbles in the sand that, if blasted onto the putting surface, would cause damage to delicate mowing equipment.

Another important guideline is that the sand should have a blocky or semi-blocky particle shape, as opposed to a smooth, almost round shape. This guideline encourages the selection of stable sands. From a Rules of Golf perspective, stable sands withstand buried lies, thus preventing the need for golfers to literally dig for a lost ball in a hazard. Stable sands also simplify routine maintenance because they remain in place on the architecturally popular steep bunker faces. This prevents the need to shovel sand back on the faces of bunkers after golfers have

walked on them.

Practicality, that is what guidelines are for -- practicality. So far we have learned that desirable bunker sand should (1) drain well, (2) be free of large debris, (3) resist buried lies, and (4) remain in place on bunker faces. Is there more to learn? Not really, the rest is a matter of personal opinion. By nature, bunker sands are too hard, too soft, too wet, too dry, too dark, too light, too coarse, and too fine. It depends on how well, or how poorly, you played your last round. That, folks, is golf; if you do not agree, run for Green Chairperson and make your own rules. Remember, however, the home of a tyrant can be a lonely one!

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## ENGLISH DAISY

*Continued from page 4*

☑ Chemical uptake by weed species is increased when there is adequate soil moisture. Avoid making herbicide applications under conditions of moisture and drought stress.

### Application

☑ Apply herbicide in sufficient volumes of water to ensure adequate spray coverage. Consult herbicide labels for recommended volumes of water.

☑ Adequate coverage is essential to effective chemical control. Applications should

be made when dew is present, or with indicator dyes to prevent skips or overlaps which may result in turf damage or costly reapplication.

☑ Properly calibrate spray equipment to ensure chemicals are applied at the recommended label rates. Inaccurate application rates may result in reduced control or turf damage.

☑ Post-emergent herbicides should be applied at low spray pressure (15-30psi) to reduce the drift potential and increase chemical coverage of the leaf surface.

☑ Repeat applications may often be necessary following initial chemical control. Careful monitoring of post application English Daisy populations is an important step in successful weed management. Evaluating control provides you with some basis for scheduling secondary applications, as well as determining the success of your chemical control program.

In conjunction with the use of chemicals for the control of English Daisy, we must always be aware of the role healthy turf plays in weed management. Proper fertilization, irrigation, and

culture practices such as aerification, verticutting, and mowing, all contribute to the development of dense, weed-free turf.

In the final analysis, the measure of success of a pest management program is often the result of the inclusion, or exclusion, or these factors. With the cost of chemicals, the demand for "perfect" playing conditions, and the concern for the health of the public and the environment, it's your responsibility to ensure that all chemical applications are made with forethought, applied safely, and produce the maximum results.

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