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THRU THE GREEN

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dent's Association of
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Test Is A Dinosaur

Is it time to change? The "test" the Association gives to attain class A status is an outdated dinosaur. I can remember several occasions when the board has had lengthy discussions regarding this issue. We have approached both the pros and the cons. Some of these thoughts are: GCSAA does

not require testing for class A status, the requirement of three years experience as a golf course superintendent is in itself a sufficient test as to ones qualifications and abilities. Some of those who have been around awhile might say "Yes, I took and passed the test. If you eliminate it now, what about my efforts. Are they forgotten?"

The GCSAA certification program is adequate separation for those who wish to be elevated from the pack, so to

speak. We are the only association in the state which has a test. Then there are those who might say, "We have been doing this for years, why change it?"

Yes, it is obvious the test is a dinosaur. I would expect, unless we are inundated by your response, there shall be a change expected.

Please check the classified ads in this newsletter.

See you on the tee,
Randy Gai, CGCS
President

LAWS & REGS

Continued from page 1

been made recently regarding golf course pesticide use. Included were comments such as, "Golf courses use nearly seven times the amount of pesticides applied on agricultural land." Mr. Bergman, as do the rest of us, finds these types of statements outlandish. His concern, which as an industry we should share, is that there is no means of determining the actual pesticide use on golf courses in California, making these statements difficult to refute. His suggestion was to actively pursue, with the Department of Pesticide Regulation, a separate code for golf courses. Golf course pesticide use could then be separated from other landscape uses. This concept potentially has a great deal of merit and warrants further exploration.

Glenda Dugan, a Life Scientist with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, provided a summary of the re-registration process currently being conducted by the EPA. Presently three commonly used turfgrass chemicals have been re-registered. These include Aliette, Roundup and Subdue. Ms. Dugan stated the majority of products used by the golf course industry will be reviewed by 1998. There is concern that chemical manufacturers may choose not to re-register products currently labeled for turf use, the deterrent being the expense associated with developing the scientific

data required for re-registration. In simple terms, this may mean fewer pesticide options in the future. Perhaps all the more reason to be re-tooling your pest management strategy.

John Donahue from Cal-EPA, Department of Pesticide Regulation outlined the procedures involved in the event an employee sustains a pesticide-related injury at work. In short, expect an investigation from your Agricultural Commissioner's office of both the incident and your entire pesticide operation, including storage practices and training records.

Mr. Donahue also touched on the new Worker Protection Standards presently not affecting our industry. The standards are designed to protect the safety of workers in environments where pesticides are applied. Some of the new legislation increases the requirements for re-entry intervals, personal protective equipment and notification. The application of the new standards to golf course operations appears to apply only to the production of sod or landscape materials grown for sale, which would have little, if any impact on our industry.

Worker protection legislation is worth keeping an eye on, however. It is very possible that sometime in the future legislation could be expanded to include golf courses, particularly if we do not act to improve our tarnished image.

GCSAA Focuses on Career and Employment Issues

In accordance with its strategic plan, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) recently convened a meeting at its headquarters to discuss ways to provide members with resources to effectively secure employment and pursue career goals.

The Career Development Resource Group met at GCSAA headquarters October 7-8. The group focused on employer education, practical job-seeking skills and tools, and career guidance and counseling. The purpose of the meeting was to give input and direction to the successful establishment of GCSAA's new career development department.

In addition to chapter relations and information services, career development is one of three new areas of emphasis introduced by GCSAA's strategic plan. All three areas now are represented by new departments at GCSAA headquarters.

Some of the suggestions that came from the meeting

included improvements to:

- GCSAA's Employment Referral Service. New changes in the format for the weekly job notices have already been implemented.
- GCSAA's Employment Resources Kit.
- GCSAA's Salary Survey.

In addition, the group recommended changing the purpose and direction of The Leader Board, GCSAA's club and course leader-directed newsletter. The group discussed plans to shift The Leader Board from a subscription-based publication to one that would be provided free of charge to every golf course with a GCSAA member. The publication would stress the vital importance of hiring and properly compensating a well-qualified individual for the position of superintendent.

GCSAA Director Scott Woodhead, CGCS, is a chairman of the resource group.

Tips from the USGA A Christmas Story

*by Paul Vermeulen
USGA Agronomist*

The Christmas shopping season has arrived. It is a time of year that should bring peace and joy to every American man, woman and child. If you're like me, I'm sure you're rejoicing at the thought of screaming children at the toy store and a man dressed like Santa Claus at every street corner clanging his bell. Peace and joy or holiday mayhem? Sometimes I get confused.

In times of holiday confusion I'm reminded of a Christmas story about a superintendent who received a very special gift from ole' Saint Nick. This superintendent had been good all year long. He mowed the rough before it got too long, he set the course up easy on guest day so everyone would have a good score, and he even got rid of the gophers without killing a single one.

Despite all these good deeds, however, the golfers began referring to the superintendent as Agent Orange (the "defoliator"). The impetus for this affectionate nickname was due to the July disappearance of all but a few miserable blades of bentgrass on number six green.

It was a mystery to the golfers. Here was a green located in what many considered the most ideal location for growing turf. Surrounded by tall pine trees on the south that provided welcome relief to the golfers from the summer sun, and located in front of a pristine brook, most golfers thought number six green held "signature hole" status.

To solve the mystery the Green Committee applied the following five Laws of Turfgrass Management that all golfers know to be true:

Law #1: Golfers who wear cleated shoes improve the turf by aerating the soil.

Continued on page 5

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COOP EXTENSION COMPILES SAFETY RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL/HORTICULTURAL WORK

Ali Harivandi
University of California
Cooperative Extension

Agricultural (Horticultural) employers are required to comply with myriad regulations that are not all well publicized. A major problem for many farmers, as well as urban agricultural or horticultural managers, who want to meet their legal responsibilities is lack of knowledge of what the rules are, or misunderstanding of their specifications. In the realm of workplace safety, employers have a general obligation to observe every applicable safety order issued under the California Occupational Safety and Health Act (Cal-OSHA), but access to those orders has been both expensive and cumbersome.

A new reference book from the University of California Cooperative Extension alleviates this problem for farm business owners, as well as the broad range of Green

Industry Managers. Publication APMP001, Selected Safety Orders Affecting Agricultural Employers, contains the general industrial safety orders (GISOs) that are most likely to apply to agricultural and horticultural work. It includes, for example, rules regarding field sanitation, pruning saws, hand and portable power tools, transportation of employees and materials, machinery and tractors. A detailed table of contents and a subject index help readers find regulations that pertain to a specific interest.

"Plenty of public policies have been designed to protect the human as well as other natural resources involved in agriculture," says Howard Rosenberg, Extension Labor Management Specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC College of Natural Resources at Berkeley. "Though they apply to the many, they are comprehended by the few. Disseminating this set of GISOs to the people who are

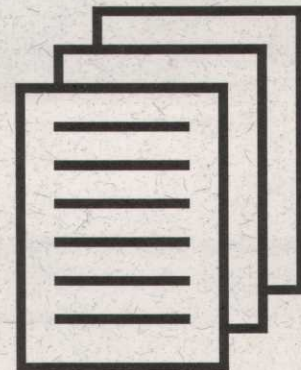
supposed to follow them certainly ought to reduce a significant barrier between their intent and effect."

The 134-page publication was developed by Stephen R. Sutter, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, and L. George Daniels III of the Farm Employers Labor Service, with sponsorship of the UC Agricultural Personnel Management Program.

Daniels says, "In developing our publication we appreciate the cooperation we received from Barclay's Law Publishers which produces the official version of the California Code of Regulations on behalf of the State of California. These regulations are subject to change. Information on changes to these regulations may be obtained and copies of or updates to the regulations may be ordered from Barclay's Law

Publishers Customer Service Department at 415/244-6611."

Order the UC book by title, Selected Safety Orders Affecting Agricultural Employers, and number from ANR Publications, Dept. N.R., University of California, 6701 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94608-1239. A check payable to UC Regents for \$10 will cover tax, postage, and handling. Orders billable to VISA or MasterCard are accepted by phone at 800/994-8849 (outside California call 510/641-2431) and by FAX at 510/643-5470.



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IN MEMORY OF
Fred Mays

It is with a heavy heart that I write this memorial to Fred Mays, golf course superintendent for 17 years at Peninsula Golf and Country Club in San Mateo, California.

Fred was born November 16, 1936, in San Jose. He grew up in Sebastapol and later moved to the San Mateo area. Fred joined the Marine Corps in 1954 and served his country during the Korean war as a sergeant. He was wounded in battle and was decorated for valor with the purple heart.

Fred Mays got his first taste of the golf industry while working at the military base golf course in Twenty Nine Palms. He then returned to his hometown and worked at a Sebastapol golf course. In 1965 Fred came to Peninsula Golf and Country Club. Fred worked there for better than half his life: twenty-nine years, 17 as the superintendent. Fred passed away at his home on October 27, 1994, in the company of friends. He is survived by his wife Ada, his son, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

On Monday, October 31, 1994, a memorial service was held on the 13th tee at the club. The service was attended by about 80 family members and friends. A redwood tree was planted and dedicated to Fred's memory.

Fred, don't forget to rake the bunkers, replace your divots and repair your ball marks. As we will all be joining your foursome someday soon.

We'll miss you.

green would recover.

In the final chapter of this story, the superintendent is rewarded for protecting the golfers' delicate beliefs. After all, far be it for a superintendent to tell the golfers that their Laws have no real scientific merit.

On Christmas Eve Santa slid down the chimney with the gift that was on the top of his list: the pine tree that had killed number six green in July decorated with beautiful ornaments and hundreds of colored lights!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Golf's Greatest Holes
4th Hole, Turnberry Scotland

The 4th at Turnberry bears the name Woe-Be-Tide. It is a 175-yard one-shotter; you practically stand on the firth and hit into a crosswind to a green about as big as your golf bag, with water on the left and the hounds of the Baskervilles on your right

-Dan Jenkins
August 11, 1969

USGA

Continued from page 3

Law #2: Planting more trees on the course improves its aesthetic quality.

Law #3: Mowing greens at an 1/8th of an inch improves turf density.

Law #4: Greens should never be aerified when the weather is suitable for playing golf.

Law #5: All turf ailments can be cured by spraying pesticides.

Based on the five Laws of Turfgrass Management, the Green Committee came up with the obvious conclusion. The superintendent spends too much time in his office talking on the phone with other superintendents who don't understand the basics of

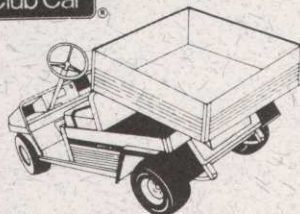
turfgrass management.

As the heat of summer gave way to the arrival of fall, the golfers watched as the sixth green slowly recovered from the superintendent's neglect. Given their belief in the Laws of Turfgrass Management, they knew all that was needed was to threaten the superintendent's job and, bingo, the sixth

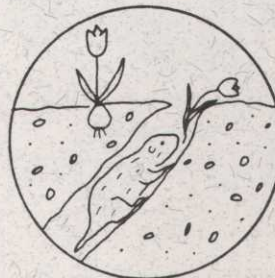
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Notices & Classifieds

GCSAA seminar registration forms for December 15 and 16, 1994 are in the mail. You can reserve space by calling GCSAA education office - 800/472-7878.

Education Committee of GCSANC: Anyone interested in joining, call Randy Gai at 510/653-6789.

Wanted: Energetic, dedicated golf course superintendent to serve the GCSANC association by running for the Board of Directors in 1995. Contact Brian Bagley at 408/274-0433.

Wanted: Golf Course superintendents to man the host booth at GCSAA Conference in San Francisco in Feb. 1995. GCSANC is responsible for 12 man-hours. Contact Randy Gai.

Wanted: Spouses to assist GCSAA with the spouse program. Contact Randy Gai.

FYI

by Barbara Mikel

The 1995 renewals are coming in hot and heavy. I want to thank all for the return of the questionnaire with your checks. The success rate is running 95%. Most of those I contact have actually handed it over to their financial types who, when pressed for a copy, can produce the original given them by their superintendent. Thanks, it really makes my day!

Cards and 1995 plates mailing began 12/7/94. We had a delay with one of our suppliers this year. If you don't have a GCSANC plaque and want to order one for your 1995 plate, give me a

call.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

1995 INSTITUTE

Continued from page 1

on our education committee: Dr. Ali Harivandi, Bill Kissick, CGCS, Brian Bagley, Bob Costa, CGCS, Randy Gai, CGCS, Jean La Duc, Dan Miller, Ken Schwark, and Don Naumann. This is a dedicated group presenting great programs for your benefit.

Lastly, a sincere thank you to Barbara Mikel who ties together all the loose ends.

For more information, see *Laws and Regulations Seminar Update*, Page 1.

Naumann's Norcal News

Mike Rothenberg has accepted the Superintendent position at Sharon Heights Golf and CC in Menlo Park. Mike was the super at Tucson Country Club in Arizona...**Mike Eastwood** is now the Director of Sales for HV Carter Co. He most recently was the Special Accounts Manager for Jacobsen North America...Also joining HV Carter is **Mike Ligon** who was a Sales Representative for West Star prior to his move. Kind of a Mike month this month!



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Golf Tip

Chipping Downhill

When chipping downhill, the ball should be back in your stance, and that stance needs to be wider than usual to be properly balanced. Align your shoulders to the slope of the hill as best you can (your right hand is lower than your left even on level ground) and choose a more lofted club, like a pitching wedge instead of an eight-iron. To avoid those embarrassing skull shots, keep the club pointing down the slope on the follow through.

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