

**THRU THE GREEN**

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**Thru the Green**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to begin my initial President's Message by stating I welcome the challenge and accept the responsibility of the position of GCSANC President. I have grown quite fond of our association; it has certainly helped to enhance my development as a golf course superintendent. I want to return my efforts to this association in the hopes it will continue to flourish.

Realizing the tremendous efforts put forth by our Past President, Brian Bagley, I can only hope to continue the dedicated leadership of a hardworking Board of Directors. On behalf of GCSANC, I would like to extend to Brian and the Board of Directors a most sincere "Thank You" for a job well done.

The accomplishments over the past year have been numerous, none to be surpassed by the reorganization of the newsletter. This board under diligent leadership never had a problem focusing on its intended goal and carrying it out to fruition. I hope to lead by delegating responsibilities, yet following those directives until the task is accomplished.

This is an association of individual members joining together to help improve the game of golf, specifically in the art of turfgrass maintenance. We joined this association to learn some of these finer techniques and to mingle with our peers as a means of gaining and passing on valu-

able information pertinent to our jobs. We have all learned from this association, be it a little or a lot. The point I want to make is: we have all benefitted from our organization and we should each, at some point, consider giving something back to it. This can be done in many ways: running for the Board, participating on a committee, hosting a meeting, or even writing a newsletter article. Many of us are "on the fence," so to speak, as to whether to become active. I urge you to take a stand and make a commitment to your association. Please feel free to call me and I will be happy to discuss the possibilities with you. I know there are vast numbers of talented individuals out there who could be a valuable asset. Let me complete this thought by saying: If you don't call me, I'll be calling *you*.

GCSANC calendar of events for the forthcoming year promises to be very exciting -- beginning with the state meeting May 15 & 16 at the Royal Scandinavian Inn in Solvang. The Central Chapter, as our hosts this year, have presented a very interesting education program which I urge you to attend. Mix with our counterparts from throughout the state and play in the golf tournament and help GCSANC defend the trophy. Our next local meeting will be on June 20th at Castlewood CC. We will conduct our Scholar-

ship/Research Tournament with proceeds going to support those necessary programs. I know the track will be razor sharp for our visit, so put it on your calendar.

Early next year, GCSAA's International Conference will descend upon us and I suggest you begin to make your plans early. This will be a great opportunity to bring your staff along to see an unbelievable trade show. In the upcoming months, this newsletter will relay pertinent information and requests for assistance as needed, and you...yes YOU...can help.

My telephone anxiously awaits your call regarding anything you wish to talk about. God bless.

See you on the tee,

Randy Gai  
President

### John Deere Regional Qualifier

John Deere's Regional Qualifying Golf tournament will be held June 13 at the Bayonet Course, Fort Ord.

Registration 10:00am. Lunch will be provided and awards will be presented at the end of the tournament. For further information, contact Clair Walker at 800/987-0102 or 209/983-0100.

### Job Listing Asst Superintendent

Oakhurst Country Club is seeking an individual with strong people management skills to fill the position of Assistant Superintendent. A qualified applicant should have three or more years of golf course experience with a minimum of one year of supervision experience. QAC and a knowledge of the game of golf are mandatory. An education in agronomy is desired, but not required. Additional desired abilities include good water management skills, experience with computerized irrigation systems, and the ability to converse in Spanish. Salary will be based on experience and abilities. Benefits include paid vacations, sick leave, medical, dental insurance and association dues. Resumes must be submitted by May 15, 1994.

Contact Mike Snyder, Oakhurst Country Club, PO Box 358, Clayton, CA 94517.

by Gil Mitchell

As has been explained in previous articles, trees are an asset to a golf course. But, if we tried to find trees in the asset column of a golf course's balance sheet, they wouldn't be cash, working capital or equipment. Trees would be inventory. We can increase the value of

for the care of hundreds or thousands of tree on our golf course? These questions, along with many others, can be answered with a multi-level tree inventory and analysis -- preferably performed by a certified arborist.

There are three levels of complexity to an inventory and analysis -- level one being the least, level three

fies all the trees on the course by genus, species and common name, and plots these trees on a map. The purpose of level one inventory is to help a superintendent see the variety and extent of their treescape. The map and species list is the first indication of how intimidating it can be to manage acres of trees on a golf course. At the same

## Arbor Care

### *Tree Inventory & Analysis: A Key Management Tool*

our inventory by planting trees and maintaining existing trees, or we can decrease the value through neglect or removal. On the other hand, even without our help, by either growing or dying, trees represent either a positive or negative asset.

Exactly how extensive is our tree inventory? How can we expect to plan and budget

being the most complex. Each level is a stand alone project, although time is spent more effectively if levels one and two are done at the same time. In the future, we will discuss levels two and three.

This month, we will review what is involved in a level one tree inventory.

Level one consists of no analysis. An arborist identi-

time, there is comfort in knowing that number of trees on the property is finite.

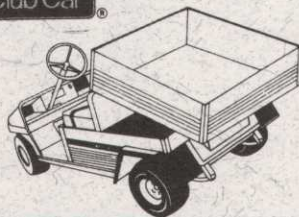
The map and species list can be provided to a private tree care contractor when tree work is bid and executed.

In the next issue, we will determine the data that should be recorded for each tree as part of a level two tree inventory.

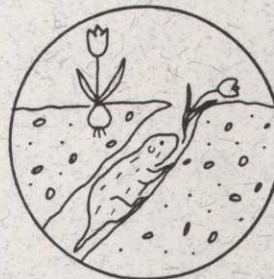
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## FYI

by Barbara Mikel

### New Year, New Board, Do You Have a New Address?

**T**he election is over! congratulations to all the new Officers and Directors. I look forward to serving the new board and continuing to work with the returning board members. Let me just take a moment to say thanks to the retiring officers and directors. I work with various non-profit groups in the course of my business and outside activities. It is important to any association to have good directors and officers. Your officers and board of directors have always been dedicated people. The association can be proud to have these individuals serving them. It has been my pleasure to work with Brian Bagley, Mike Basile, and Rod Kilcoyne since the beginning of my work for GCSANC. Thanks to all of you guys for making my job pleasurable and interesting.

New officers, directors and members...hmmm, must be time for an Annual Directory! New members accepted

at the April 25th meeting and all renewals for 1994 will receive a new directory in June. The directory is published after the annual meeting to allow current officers and directors to be included. Do you have a new address, club, or telephone number? All changes must be in the office by May 10th. If we receive no new information, we will publish what was submitted with your membership renewal.

**A reminder:** just because you see *Naumann's Norcal News* has printed that you have changed clubs, this does not mean that the office has updated information. We don't know when you will move, or if your residence will change, as well. So keep the office informed of changes in your life!

## WELCOME TO THE GREEN

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

### Class B

#### Kevin Smith

Moffett Field Golf Course  
Asst. Supt.

Eligible for Class B test

### New Affiliates

#### Brad Dozler

VP Sales  
International Seed, Inc.

#### Matt Moore

Shelton Transfer Service

### Reclassification

#### Raymond Hsu

Salinas Fairways GC  
Class A to Retired

In the past few months, the board has been reviewing the renewals and reclassifying some of the members. This has resulted in some class A and B members being changed to Associates, Inactive, or to Affiliates. If there are any questions or confusion, please refer to the GCSANC Bylaws in your membership directory or give me a call at 408/253-0340.

**Note:** Congratulations to DJ King and our editor, Brian Bagley, for the honorable mention in the national competition for our newsletter. A hearty "Well Done" goes to all of you.

Le

## NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

**Ron Forsyth** has left Napa Valley Country Club to become the new superintendent at Wolper's Vineyard Knolls Golf Course in Napa (an ultra-private nine hole facility). Ron is replacing Frank Wicker, who has moved on...**Ron Mahaffey** is the new superintendent at Ventana Canyon Golf Resort in Tucson,

Arizona. Ron's assistant, **Mike Snyder**, has been elevated to the superintendent's position...**Tim Sedgley** was hired as the super at Calaveras CC in Copperopolis, CA. It is a brand new 18-hole country club designed by Weiskof/Moorish.



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## GCSAA Announces Next Phase of Health Research Program

Plans have been made to implement the second phase of the association's planned in-depth study of occupational health issues. GCSAA will launch a new series of health research projects and expand its commitment to chemical application education.

The new series will advance a preliminary statistical study conducted by an independent research team from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. The results of the study, which was commissioned by GCSAA Scholarship & Research, were announced Feb. 6 at the association's annual conference in Dallas.

The study was a statistical analysis of death certificates among 618 former GCSAA members who died between 1970 and 1992. The Iowa researchers found that the group had a higher rate of mortality from lung cancer than the general population. They also found higher-than-average mortality for a number of other cancers, including brain, large intes-

tine, non-hodgkin's lymphoma and prostate.

The UI research team was led by Dr. Burton Kross, UI associate professor of preventive medicine and environmental health. Kross is associate director of the UI's Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health.

"From a public and occupational health perspective, the excess number of lung cancer deaths is a primary concern," Kross said. Lung and other head and neck cancers have been strongly associated with cigarette and cigar smoking, but Kross strongly cautioned that no cause-and-effect relationship to any illness can be determined by this statistical analysis. According to researchers, a statistical study cannot be interpreted to link any particular factor to cause of death.

Stephen F. Mona, GCSAA executive director/CEO said, "GCSAA initiated and financed this study because we needed to establish a baseline for future research. We now have that baseline and can better identify what merits further investigation."

"Our mission in funding this independent mortality

*Continued on page 7*

## Tips from the USGA Humates and Humic Acids

by Pat Gross,  
USGA Agronomist

As you can tell from previous articles written by Paul Vermeulen and myself, new product evaluation is one of our favorite topics. We are often asked during our travels about the benefit or possible negative side effects of these new products. One of the latest trends is the use of humates or humic acids as a turfgrass growth enhancer or biostimulant.

Whenever evaluating new products or materials for use on the golf course, it is a good idea to get the unbiased opinion of turfgrass researchers and other professionals. We get several research reports and articles sent to our office, and this month I wanted to share with you some thoughts on humates and humic acid and their value to turf culture by Dr. Wayne R. Kussow, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison. In a recent article in the "Wisconsin Soils Report," Dr. Kussow had several interesting things to say about humates and humic acids:

1. Humates generally contain a high carbon content and approximately 4% nitrogen. According to Dr. Kussow, this nitrogen is of little consequence to turf growth since only approximately 0.3% is actually available to the plant.
2. One of the beneficial properties of humates is its ability to raise the cation exchange capacity of soils. Some manufacturers recommend that humates be used to amend soil or a putting green root zone mix. It is important, however, to calculate the benefits and overall cost of adding humates to your soils before taking any action. Dr. Kussow estimates that adding 2 lbs. humate per cubic yard of 80:20 sand-peat root zone mix

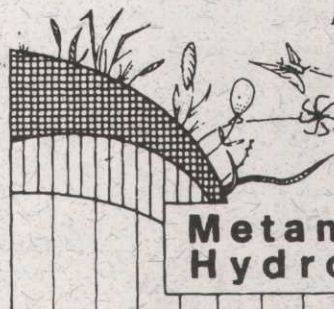
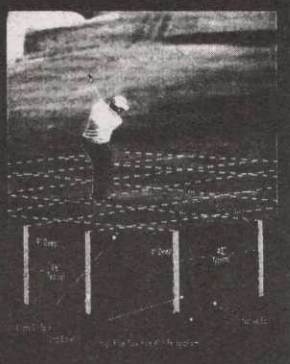
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**M**any people want to know if their moles are "okay." What do we look for if moles change? Here are some hints and reminders about moles that may help you:

- ⊗ The average person has 40-100 moles.
- ⊗ The more moles you have, the more necessary it is to check them carefully.
- ⊗ If "funny looking" or oddly shaped moles run in your family, you must be checked more frequently.
- ⊗ You should not be getting new moles after age 25.
- ⊗ A moles doesn't have to be raised to be a mole. It can start out flat and look like a freckle.
- ⊗ Birthmarks and moles that were present at birth need to be checked throughout life.
- ⊗ If moles have hair in them, it doesn't mean they are either safe or dangerous.
- ⊗ Stress and illness, as well as pregnancy, can make moles change.

Melanomas are abnormal or malignant skin cancers that

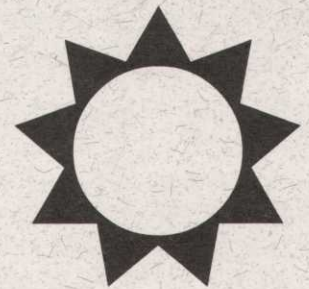
can spread throughout the body from a mole that has changed.

#### The Melanoma Danger Signs

- ⊗ Sudden change in size is of concern. This can happen in weeks, but it can be slower.

nodule.

- ⊗ Changes in shape or outline. Nature makes things even and symmetrical. When the borders or edges are irregular and notched, we want to know.
- ⊗ Changes in sensation. Feeling an "electrical"



## SKIN CONCERNS FROM SUN EXPOSURE

by Dennis M. Nigro, M.D.

- ⊗ Change in color. Can be multiple colors, brown to black, red, white or blue. It can have a white ring around it called a Halo Nevus. All these require biopsy.

- ⊗ Changes in surface. Scaly, flaky, crusted, ulceration, bleeding, hard lump or

sensation, tenderness, pain or itching.

- ⊗ Sudden appearance of a mole in an area where there was not one before.

We cannot always tell if you have a melanoma just from looking. If you have several symptoms, you may

need a biopsy. If there are abnormal cells present, further surgery may be required. The earlier a melanoma is found, the better your survival rate.

#### Prevention of Melanoma

Use a 15+ sunscreen or sunblock outdoors. Do not go to tanning salons. Avoid sunburn at all costs! Avoid exposure to the sun between 11:00am and 2:00pm. Remember that the sun is at its strongest in May when it takes less than one hour to burn. Higher elevations increase the sun's strength. The immune system becomes depressed with sunlight. Be smart, be knowledgeable -- live longer!

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**USGA***Continued from page 5*

would produce only a 13% increase in the CEC. Given the high price of the humate used in Dr. Kussow's examples, he did not believe the cost justified the benefits.

3. Another benefit of humates or humic acids are their ability to solubilize micronutrients already in the soil. Dr. Kussow points out that turfgrass roots also excrete organic compounds that solubilize micronutrients and he believes that the chelating action of humic acid has to be considered of little benefit to turfgrass.
4. During Dr. Kussow's review of scientific literature, he noted several studies that indicated humic acids can absorb fungicides and herbicides. These studies indicated that surface applications of humic acids or humate can significantly reduce

the effectiveness of systemic pesticides by reducing their absorption by plant roots and soil-borne pathogens and insects. Another study noted that humic acid and humate products showed no significant improvement of root length or root number in creeping bentgrass.

5. Dr. Kussow concludes his article by saying that there are situations where significant positive responses can occur in turfgrass, however, positive effects should not be expected over a wide range of conditions.

Obviously, there is a need for more research in this area before the true merits of these products can be determined relative to their cost. It is not my intention to discourage the use of any particular products. The turfgrass industry continues to produce products at a rapid pace which may show significant benefit to turfgrass growth. The best advice is to test these products on a limited basis and be cautious, particularly when it comes to products for use on putting greens.

environment."

The next phase of the overall effort could include helping association members stop smoking, expanding GCSAA's current education and training programs, and completing a statistical mortality ratio study to put UT's preliminary data into context.

"We also think this gives us an opportunity to forge a new partnership with groups that can help us accomplish our mission," Mona said.

"For example, the chemical manufacturer's have made great strides in packaging and formulation over the past decade. This is one more reason to work closely with them in an effort to develop new technology in products and packaging. Another example could be working with an organization like the American Cancer Society on the smoking issue. This also gives GCSAA the opportunity to continue to strongly encourage and support the Environmental Protection Agency."

**GCSAA HEALTH PLAN***Continued from page 5*

study was to begin the first phase of an overall look at occupational health and safety

issues that affect our members," Mona continued. "This is a long-term commitment to ensuring that superintendents work in a safe and healthy

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