

THRU THE GREEN

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THRU THE GREEN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Oh! How we love the days of fall! The beautiful colors on those wonderful trees, the cool crisp air, the shorter days and longer nights, the ideal turfgrass growing conditions. Soon after completing that fall aeration we will be able to reclaim our putting greens from the clutches of those summertime problems.

However, what's ahead involves stocking the chemical shed with fungicides to combat the cool season pests. I suppose we do deserve a pat on the back for coping with the problems handed out by Mother Nature while still presenting our golfers with

quality playing turf. The part that amazes me is we continue to come back year after year to many of the same problems. I presume it's the overall beauty which continues to lure us. "Ah, the humanity of it all!"

The board of directors is looking at having a spouse shopping trip the day of the golf tournament at this year's Christmas Party. The plan being developed is to visit a few wholesale only (not open to the general public) stores by bus at a cost of about \$25. The time is ideal as it will be about 3 weeks to Christmas. I would appreciate some input from the members as to whether we should pursue

this.

Also related to the spouses, GCSAA is requesting assistance from spouses the three days of the spouse program during the conference in San Francisco next year. They require two spouses be available before the program begins each day to assist in the smooth operation and possibly answer some questions. We have been advised a possible economic consideration may be available to those volunteering their time. Please call me if your spouse may be interested.

See you on the tee,
Randy Gai
President

DELAWEAGA

Continued from page 1

bentgrass, the tees are overseeded 3 times/year with perennial rye, and the fairways and rough twice, also with perennial rye. This overseeding program in combination without aerification, fertilization and improved irrigation management has resulted in a noticeable improvement in quality throughout the course.

Recent projects on the course include extensive Cambridge Drainage work which was installed on #6, #17, and #18 fairways, a brand new state-of-the-art Driving Range Facility, and a major tree removal and planting program. We're excited about the changes being made to the golf course and are looking forward to some upcoming projects: #1 tee reconstruction, practice green reconstruction, and the maintenance building and yard expansion.

The Superintendent: I was born and raised in Corvallis, Oregon where I was, and still am, very involved in sports. In high school I played

football, basketball and was a four-year letterman in golf. My dad introduced me to the game of golf when I was about 7 years old. I used to caddy for him as a kid and can remember thinking that all that work I did seemed worth more than the four measly bucks I received! But I learned a love of the game, and for that I'll be forever grateful.

I went to college at Oregon State University where I received a bachelor of science degree in Horticulture in 1988. I was in the turfgrass management program at OSU which was instructed by Tom Cook, who is highly regarded for his professional knowledge of turfgrass management in the Northwest.

My first job on a golf course maintenance crews was in 1984 at Corvallis Country Club. After graduation in '88, I worked at Spyglass Hill Golf Course for about a year. In 1990 I landed the Assistant Superintendent position at Marin Country Club where I worked for three

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Stockdale Goes Soft

by Corey Eastwood, CGCS

I believe that with the gradual elimination of metal spikes on golf shoes, we will see a drastic increase in the quality of our golf greens.

Stockdale Country Club recently took the initiative to offer one set of the new revolutionary softspikes installed on one pair of each member's shoes at no charge. This practice is spreading like wildfire in the midwest with great success.

I was able to get this policy into effect by purchasing ten sets out of my budget and giving them to my green committee. One month later the committee voted unanimously to offer them to all members on a one time basis.

Some of the clubs that made this offer to their members are The Honors Course, Ooltewah, TN; Pine Valley Golf Club, Pine Valley, NJ; Muirfield Village Golf Club, Columbus, OH; and Double Eagle Golf Club, Columbus, OH. Many clubs have banned metal spikes, including Muirfield.

Let's all get together and start the process of slowly getting rid of metal spikes. There will be much skepticism among the golf professionals, but with persistence

most clubs will give this new idea a chance.

Benefits:

▲ There is **no more slippage** than one would get with standard metal spikes. Remember, everyone slips at one time or another.

▲ Softspikes cause **no damage** to golf greens, including scuffing and spikemarks.

▲ There should be no introducing of Poa Annua seeds into the greens.

▲ There is **no splitting or tearing** of the grass leaf tissue normally caused by metal spikes.

▲ **No damage** to the clubhouse and pro shop carpets extending the life of these many fold.

▲ The ability to wear these in any clubhouse location or even driving a car.

▲ **Eliminate scratches** on golf cart windshields and bodies.

▲ **Eliminate slipping** on cart paths and damage to parking lots and concrete areas.

Editor's Note: See related story this page - *December 31, 1999 - A 21st Century Fairy Tale.*

Tips from the USGA December 31, 1999 A 21st Century Fairy Tale

by Paul Vermeulen
USGA Agronomist

Today, December 31, 1999, I am reminded of some significant achievements of the last 100 years. The invention of the reel mower in the early 1900s, the discovery of 2,4-D by Fanny F. Davis in the mid-1940s, and, of course, the banning of steel spikes in the late 1990s.

While some achievements were readily embraced because their value was tangible to Superintendents across the country, the banning of steel spikes was an exception. It started as a small idea and slowly grabbed the American golfer's attention. In the early 1980s William "Bill" Bengeyfield, Chairman of the USGA's Turfgrass Research Committee, contacted the office of Dr. Gibeault at the University of California, Riverside. Under Dr. Gibeault's guidance, an in-depth study of the effects of various golf shoes on putting greens was conducted.

The results of the golf shoe study were irrefutable. Golf shoes equipped with steel spikes literally cut the turf apart and compacted the soil. Furthermore, they "significantly" disrupt putting quality. Based on these results, how could the American golfer fail to immediately embrace spikeless golf shoes?

When the shoe study was conducted, it was done with shoes designed with spikeless soles. Two problems rose. First, the spikeless sole designs wore quickly, and were both difficult and expensive to replace.

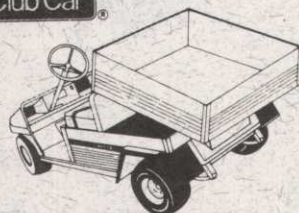
Second, many golfers without a clear definition of a spikeless golf shoe were inadvertently sold athletic shoes for Astroturf sport fields. Unlike spikeless golf shoes that did little or no damage to putting greens, the Astroturf athletic shoes did unbelievable damage. As a consequence of this later problem, platoon discipline was evoked. All

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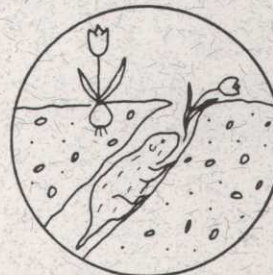
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had the privilege of representing our chapter along with 67 other chapter delegates at the Chapter Relations Meeting a few weeks at GCSAA headquarters.

We were welcomed by President Joe Baidy, CGCS. He presented nine major issues that the GCSAA is currently involved with, ranging from GolfAsia to the selling of sponsorships for

3) increasing member involvement.

The first two items are well under way, or somewhat complete, and much has been written about these items. This meeting was partially in response to the third item. There are now about 200 members serving on GCSAA committees. There will probably be three new standing committees formed following

the two days assessing a list of 23 current problems that the chapter relations planning committee formulated. Items such as chapter volunteers, leadership continuity, non-member access to GCSAA information, chapter affiliation agreements (I bet you never knew we had a formal agreement with GCSAA), low GCSAA membership within the chapters, and many other items were discussed.

Two final items that I took away from the meeting:

1) Expect a survey in the mail very soon dealing with many of the services that GCSAA offers. Please fill it out ASAP and return it. The Board of Directors will be holding a strategic planning meeting in early December. **Your input is strongly requested.**

2) If you are not a GCSAA member, please consider it. The benefits are enormous and the educational opportunities are too important to pass up. Remember, the actions of each and every superintendent, member or not, reflect upon our entire industry. Can you afford not to have the resources of GCSAA behind you?

the next board meeting.

Mona spoke of a new commitment from the entire staff dedicated to member and chapter services. If you have a need or request, the staff will do their best to accommodate. If you have any problems that are not being met, Steve Mona's direct personal phone number is 913/832-4401. He wants to know of any problems!

The group spent most of

DELAVEAGA

Continued from page 2
years. The superintendent position at DeLaveaga was offered to me in June, 1992.

I have been allowed to manage the course at DeLaveaga the way I see fit and have received tremendous support from the Head Professional, Gary Loustalot, and upper management.

In addition to my membership in GCSANC, I am also a member of GCSAA, OGCSA (Oregon), CAPCA, and PAPA.

I am single (still looking for Ms. Right!). I love to play golf, basketball, and tennis, and I enjoy going to sporting events or relaxing at the Santa Cruz beaches. I'm an active member of the DeLaveaga Men's Club and participate in many of the tournament events held throughout the year.

I enjoy my work as a superintendent very much and am pleased to be a member of GCSANC. I've met some great people and look forward to someday holding office in the association.

The staff at DeLaveaga is looking forward to hosting the Institute in November and we hope to see all the members there for a challenging round of golf!

GCSAA Chapter Relations Meeting

by Rich Lavine, CGCS

GCSAA events. Not all the issues were positive, but he presented the facts, and stood by them.

Steve Mona, CAE, our new CEO, spoke of the new board and staff mandates:

- 1) getting our house in order;
- 2) restoring broken relationships with allied associations, and;

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USGA

Continued from page 3 shoes, except traditional steel spiked golf shoes, were banned on most golf courses.

From the nationwide ban of spikeless shoes in the early 1980s, the results of Dr. Gibeault's study were almost forgotten. In 1991, however, an ingenious inventor, who's name is not easily remembered, developed a soft, rubber spike. This spike could be used to retrofit all brands of steel spiked golf shoes. Unfortunately, it still took three years before this invention, known today as Soft-Spike, gave new life to the game of golf.

In 1994, the idea of banning steel spikes started grab-

bing hold. At the time, I remember being called an idealist for wearing Soft-Spikes during my travels and encouraging their use. I was told over and over by superintendents, golf professionals, and club managers, that until PGA Tour Players took off their steel spikes, the American golfer would never take note.

They were right. It was not until Murfield Village Golf Course in Ohio, home of Jack Nicklaus, instituted a steel spike ban that the tide started turning. The ban at Muirfield Village finally got the American golfers' attention. When golfers from Ohio returned to their winter retreats in the sunny southwest,

they brought with them "a new invention" for eliminating spike marks on greens. From Ohio and then the Southwest, the use of Soft-Spikes gradually spread across the entire United States.

Unbelievably, it was not until this year, when the United States Open returned to Pebble Beach Golf Links, that a major championship was hosted under a steel spike ban to preserve putting quality. It is hard to even imagine that major tournaments before 1999 could be won by a player whose putt was deflected into the hole by a spike mark left by a competitor.

(Please note that the USGA does not officially

endorse the sale of products by for-profit organizations. This agronomist, however, is an idealist who, as a golfer, is disgusted with greens that are torn apart by the time he gets to the course after work.)
Editor's note: See page 3 for related story *Stockdale Goes Soft*.

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That Looks Easy

or Simple advice on how to make your home lawn look like a golf course.

by Bob Costa

One of the interesting aspects of being involved in the maintenance of a golf course is the questions people ask regarding our maintenance practices and how they relate to the care of their home lawns. What makes this business unique is that most everyone has, in some way, been involved in the maintenance and care of a lawn and, therefore, believes that they have developed a certain level of expertise. As a result, questions and comments regarding turf maintenance are at times a daily event.

Frequently I have people inquire about the establishment of a putting green in their back yard. A common question is "What

type of grass do you use on your green?" As if the variety we use is what causes the grass to grow so short. After I explain that it is not so much the type of grass, but the height at which it is mowed, I follow with comments like, "you'll need a mower that will cut at less than 1/4", a new one could cost as much as \$5,000, and the green should be mowed a minimum of five times a week." By now I can sense a general uneasiness, a slight shuffling of the feet, but I don't stop there. I conclude that in order to mimic putting qualities the green will have to be occasionally verticut, lightly syringed, and may require an application

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FYI

by Barbara Mikels

Well, October is finally here and maybe the hectic pace will lessen once the rains show up.

I was digging for something in the office storage area the other day and decided you might like to know what the association was doing in years past. Believe it or not, GCSANC as an organization has been in existence since 1932.

Three decades ago, in 1964, Joe Venturella was President; Walter Boysen, VP; and Clifford Wagoner, Secretary-Treasurer. Board of Directors consisted of Walter Collins, Frank Logoteta, Aubrey Babson, John Da Dalt and Richard Vieregger. There were 112 members of

all classifications. GCSANC was making contributions to UC College of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Station, Davis for Turfgrass programs of Dr. John Madison.

At the Annual Business Meeting it was voted to form a "Federation of Golf Course Superintendents Associations of California." Dick Vieregger and John Da Dalt appointed to serve on an

advisory committee for the new "Federation." The joint NCGA, USGA, and GCSANC sponsorship of a "Communications" seminar held at the California Golf Club to "help solve the communication problems existing around most clubs." Club presidents, green chairmen, managers, and professionals were encouraged to attend... "The more things change, the more they stay

the same." Job opportunities were being published in 1964. In June - Cherry Chase Country Club, Sunnyvale. 9 hole, par 31. Salary \$600.00 to \$700.00...depending on experience.

The Superintendents October 1964 meeting was held at Travis Golf Course, Travis Air Force Base.

See ya in Santa Cruz.

Naumann's Norcal News

Bill Kissick has left Salinas Golf & CC to become the superintendent at Sun City Golf in Roseville. Sun City is a new golf development...Mike Garvale, Superintendent at Palo Alto, has been busy redoing and lining his lakes. Cook and Solis is the contractor on the job...Brian Bagley, Superintendent at The Villages Golf & CC, is in the middle of changing his controllers to Thompson. Hydro Engineering is the contractor on the project...Bob Guadani from Rainbird Golf reports in July they produced their 250,000th eagle head. It is now enshrined at their office in Glendora.

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THAT LOOKS EASY

Continued from page 5

of fungicide. It's apparent at this point that the living room carpet is looking like a much better option and the conversation usually dwindles to something like, "Really? That much for a mower, huh?"

Another question I am often asked is "What kind of fertilizer should I use? Every time I fertilize, I burn my lawn." I explain that burning a lawn is not the result of the material you choose, but rather the application technique, or lack of it in this case, that results in the call to 911. Most all fertilizers have

the potential to burn because they are salts. To compensate for the salts contained in fertilizer, the lawn should be well watered prior to the fertilizer application, as well as after. It is equally important that the material is applied evenly over the entire area. Too much fertilizer equals a high concentration of salts, and there is no amount of water that will put that fire out. "That's interesting," they say. "Salts, huh?"

Then there's always the classic "How do I get rid of crabgrass in my lawn?" My response, of course, is: "Well, it's likely not crab-

grass, but a warm season grass called kikuyu." I go on to explain that this is a variety that originated in Africa and was first used to stabilize the banks along the ocean. Kikuyu is very well adapted to the central coast and is virtually impossible to control once established. I suggest the most effective temporary control is to spray the entire area with Roundup, reseed or sod the area, and then count the days until it returns. A six-month calendar is usually all that is required. They mumble, "Africa, huh?"

I guess the moral of stories like these, if there is one,

is that nothing is ever as easy as it looks, even simple things like maintaining a putting green, fertilizing a lawn, and controlling crabgrass. Next question please.

Wanted Sites for Future Meetings

If you and your club are interested in hosting GCSANC at some time in the future, please call: Ken Schwark at Tony Lema, San Leandro Muni 510/483-7149.

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