

THRU THE GREEN

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THRU THE GREEN

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Association of
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a great pleasure to announce that the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has selected Dr. Ali Harivandi as one of three recipients to be honored with the Association's 1995 Distinguished Service Award. The awards will be presented during the Opening Session on Thursday, February 23 at the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco.

Many of us have known Ali for a number of years and are familiar with his dedication to the golf course superintendents. He is always accessible to help solve a problem whether it be simple

or complex. In his role as an environmental horticulturist with the University of California Cooperative Extension, Dr. Harivandi has been a moving force establishing the use of effluent water on golf courses. He has produced publications which will be beneficial to generations of superintendents and horticulturists as well. Dr. Harivandi's expertise as a research scientist is greatly appreciated today and in the years to come.

Dr. Harivandi has been very active in our Association here in Northern California, most notably as co-chairman of our Annual Golf Course Superintendents Institute

which has proven to be a very successful undertaking. Ali occasionally attends our board of directors meetings to bring us what is "new" on the horizon and also what should be passed along to our superintendents. He is also a regular contributor to our newsletter.

We, the golf course superintendents of Northern California, are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and true friend. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Ali Harivandi for receiving this well deserved and prestigious award.

See you on the tee,
Randy Gai, CGCS
President

Rutgers Report

by PJ Spellman, II

After completing my final year at Rutgers Professional Golf Turfgrass Management School, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank some individuals who helped make it possible. First, I'd like to thank Randy Gai, the Board of Directors of GCSANC, and anyone else responsible for granting me the \$1500 scholarship last June. That scholarship paid for my tuition and allowed me to use money from my savings account to help support my family while I was away at school. Second, I'd like to thank my superintendent, Manny Sousa, and General Manager, Paul Porter, for approving my personal leave of absence and supporting my decision to pursue quality education. Finally, I'd like to thank my lovely wife, Tina, for encouraging me and supporting my decision to attend Rutgers. We both realized that attaining Rutgers certification would enhance my turfgrass career and outweigh the hardship of a temporary separation.

So what is the Rutgers program? This course is presented in two ten-week sessions of comprehensive learning focused on golf turfgrass management. Also required are two seasons of supervised field experience at a golf course of your choice to allow the student to apply some of the technical and intellectual skills developed in the classroom.

Some of the topics taught in this program are: botany, soils, turfgrass morphology and ID, weed ID and control, diseases of turfgrass and ornamentals, landscape plants and design, and irrigation, just to name a few. Also included are personal skills such as managing employees, writing skills, effective speaking, computer skills, and budgeting and financial management. Needless to say, there's a lot to learn in a ten week period. However, the combination of textbooks and a binder each year to hold all handouts and other materials gives each student an ample supply of resources to keep for future

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Landscaping with Native Plants: Topic of January Meeting

Dave Kaplow of Pacific OpenSpace, Inc. will speak about native plant and drought tolerant landscaping for the roughs and other landscapes that are out of play. Pacific OpenSpace provides consultation and also designs and installs practical and aesthetic landscaping for golf courses. Pacific OpenSpace operates the North Coast Native Nursery which propagates a wide variety of hardy, low-maintenance perennials, shrubs and trees. Dave will discuss the advantages, cultural requirements and maintenance tech-

niques of native grasses and other native vegetation in golf course settings.

31st ANNUAL TURF AND LANDSCAPE EXPO COMING IN JANUARY

The Northern California Turf and Landscape Council and UC Cooperative Extension will host Northern California's largest Landscape Expo January 11-12 at the Santa Clara Convention Center in Santa Clara, CA.

The program, designed to benefit professionals in the turf and landscape industry, is free of charge and no advanced registration is necessary.

Wednesday sessions include Turfgrass Management and Weed Management. Thursday's seminars will cover Landscape Tree Management, Irrigation Design, Pest Management and Urban Forestry.

For more information call 510/490-6282.

Tips from the USGA

Top Ten Questions Asked by Golfers

by Pat Gross
USGA Agronomist

I ran across an excellent article by John F. Anderson, Superintendent at the Oregon Golf Club, regarding the top ten questions asked by golfers at his course. I thought the questions were universal, and his answers were wonderful. This article is shared with you in the hope that you can put this in your file and possibly use it for your own club newsletter.

So, here they are, direct from the home office in Lake Forest, California, via our field operation in Portland, Oregon.

Question #10:

"Why is the grass cut so short on fairways and the rough cut so long?"

Answer: Specific mowing heights for the golf course are established by the green committee. They take into account what heights are best suited for the ability of our golfers and for maximum playability. Much thought was given at the time of construction choosing the proper grass varieties that would provide the best playing surfaces at these specific heights.

Question #9:

"Why are the greens so much faster than they were yesterday?"

Answer: Many factors determine green speed, they include: mowing height, wind, topdressing, fertility, moisture, and the time of day. Any of these factors can vary the speed of the greens. Although these factors may vary from day to day, we strive for consistent speed from one green to the next.

Question #8:

"What or who determines hole locations?"

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Larry Lloyd Memorial Golf Tournament

The annual Larry Lloyd Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Monday, December 5 at the Meadow Club in Fairfax. Our host superintendent, **Dave Sexton, CGCS**, had the course in excellent condition for our tournament. When you consider Dave has had over 18 inches of rain -- more than four of those falling on the Saturday before the tournament -- the course played extremely well.

Our thanks to Dave and the entire Meadow Club staff for a job well done. The hors d'oeuvres and service for the reception following golf were absolutely great and needed by most of us.

THE WINNERS

Ladies low net

Valorie Schmidt	92
Tania Weiss	93
Janet Karrick	110

Guest or affiliate low net

Mark Harrison	66
---------------	----

Mike Camello	69
Mike Ligon	72
John McMillan	74
Don Naumann	74

Superintendent Low Gross

Scott Pajak	75
David Hayes	76
Scott Lewis	76
Ed Stocke	81
Dana Waldor	81

Superintendent Low Net

Mike Phillips	65
<i>Winner of the Larry Lloyd Memorial Trophy</i>	
Randy Gai	69
Larry Norman	70
Blake Swint	71
George Singh	73

(All ties were broken by front 9, back 9 and last 6 holes.)

Closest to the pin (#11)

- Super: George Singh, 18 feet
(won 19" color TV donated by HV Carter)
- Affiliate: Don Naumann, 6' 4"

A special thank you to **Tom Jackson** for handling the check-in and the scoring for the tournament.

Special Thanks

Our special thanks go to all of the affiliate sponsors whose donations ensured the success of the Christmas party. Please look through the list and give these affiliates your support throughout the year.

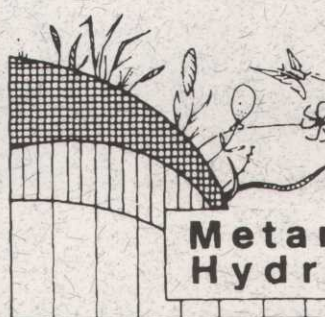
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RUTGERS

Continued from page 2
reference.

This course also stresses the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a key to successful turfgrass management. The cultural practices of proper fertility, irrigation and mowing heights greatly influence turf health and density. The healthier the turf, the more resistant it is to the invasion of pests such as weeds, fungi and insects. This in turn should decrease the amount of pesticides needed which is better for the environment and also saves money. IPM was a topic discussed often and should be an essential part of every good turfgrass manager's program.

In summary, these two years at Rutgers have been a

positive learning experience for me. Combined with my fifteen years of golf course turfgrass experience, I'm hopeful for the opportunity to implement my own program as a golf course superintendent in the near future.

If anyone has any questions about the Rutgers program, feel free to contact me. However, it's not my intention to solely recommend Rutgers Turf School for college education. Continuing education is a career-long process. Rutgers is just one of many viable alternatives to choose from. I exhort any superintendent who has employees with the desire to advance in our profession to encourage them to attend one of the programs available.

FYI

by Barbara Mikel

Well, a new year is upon us already. First of all, Happy New Year. I am looking forward to another enjoyable year with GCSANC.

With the New Year comes all the bills from last year. This includes some of your 1995 Dues Renewals for the Association.

At the end of December 1994, a \$20 late fee was assessed to all who had not yet paid 1995 dues. If you have not received your card by this time, chances are I haven't received your renewal check and questionnaire. If I have one and not the other, I have been sending notices. In any event, I can not waive the late fee, so please don't ask. If you feel you have a legitimate reason for being late, write a letter to the Board of Directors requesting they consider the reason and waive the late fee. If your accounting department simply didn't get it out in a timely manner, chances are almost 100% you will have to pay the extra charge. The late fee is really an attempt to cover the additional costs of sending bills (paper and office time).

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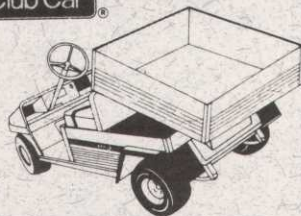
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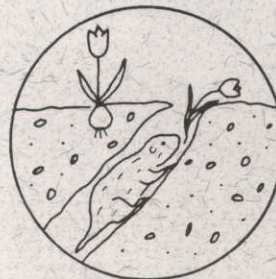
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USGA*Continued from page 3*

Answer: Although it is rumored that my mood and the number of cups of coffee consumed determine daily hole locations, this is only partially true. During the heavy play season, holes are changed seven days a week. A specific hole rotation is used to determine placement, so theoretically the golf course plays the same length every day. Each day, six holes are located in the front third of the green, six in the middle and six in the back. Hole locations are also rotated so that sequential greens have holes in varying thirds (i.e., No. 1 green--front; No. 2 green--middle; No. 3 green--back; etc.)

Question #7:

"How come you tear up the course and aerify when it is in perfect shape?"

Answer: Aerification has always been a necessary evil. The main benefits of this process are that it decreases thatch, relieves soil compaction, improves water infiltration through the soil profile and disturbs the playing surface, which in turn, disturbs the golfers. Because of our strategies to combat the invasion of *Poa annua*, new tech-

nologies and equipment will be employed for aerification so that disruption can be held to a minimum. Our plan is to aerify greens once in the spring and once in the fall since this is the best time for rapid turf recovery. Fairways will be aerified twice a year with a deep tine aerifier which has the capability of penetrating up to eighteen inches into the soil. This will help reduce the compaction on our heavy clay soil.

Question #6:

"Why are you handwatering during play? Can't you tell the course is already too wet?"

Answer: Although we have one of the most technically advanced irrigation systems, there has not been a system designed that can water every area on the golf course perfectly. Shade, slopes, soil types and grass varieties are just a few factors that can change water requirements in any given area. Our goal is to try to keep the playing surfaces as firm as possible while maintaining the health of the turf.

Question #5:

"Why do we have to stay on the cart paths when the course seems so firm?"

Answer: Because of the size and topography of the golf course, we realize the convenience that a cart provides for the golfer. We want to make the course as accessible as possible for all. There are only three reasons that cart usage is restricted on certain days: (1) Your safety: because of the unique terrain at the Oregon Golf Club it is very easy to lose control of a cart on a wet, slippery slope. (2) Damage to the turf: When the soil is wet and unstable, tearing and rutting of the course can occur from the use of carts. This not only takes time and labor to repair, it also detracts from the aesthetics and playability of the golf course. (3) Excessive wear on turf: This becomes a problem during the winter months when the plant is not actively growing or during summer months when heavy cart traffic can severely damage the turf.

Question #4:

"Why do you have to topdress so much?"

Answer: Through the years, I have found topdressing to be THE most important element in my putting green maintenance program. Some of the major benefits of topdressing are to: (1) control thatch; (2)

smooth the putting surface, (3) firm the putting surface, (4) provide a good growing medium for the turfgrass plant.

Question #3:

"Why is that person on the mower following me around from hole to hole?"

Answer: In the past, this has been a problem when the mowing operation is progressing at the same rate as the pace of play. This year, we will be trying some different routes and mowing techniques (i.e., mowing holes in reverse order so we will only pass a group one time rather than following them throughout the course).

Question #2:

"Why is it necessary to use so many pesticides?"

Answer: Our first rule of maintenance is to apply pesticides only when it is absolutely necessary. We have adopted an integrated pest management program which includes the following steps: (1) identify target pests, (2) establish acceptable threshold levels for damage, (3) determine cultural practices that can be used to deter the pests without the use of pesticides, (4) when intervention with a pesticide

Continued next page

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USGA

Continued from page 6

As necessary, we choose the most environmentally friendly product available. We will post signs on the first and tenth tee describing our method of control.

Question #1:

"Why do you schedule all the maintenance activities on the only day that we play?"

Answer: The majority of the staff works Monday through Friday. We start as early in the morning as possible so that the majority of the work can be completed before play begins. On weekends, when most of the golfers come out to enjoy the golf course, we limit our maintenance activities to those that are necessary to prepare the course for

play. Although our schedule varies throughout the year according to the weather, the staff normally works a 40-hour week. It takes many labor hours to keep the golf course in the condition you've come to expect. Obviously, some of this work needs to occur during playing time; unfortunately, this cannot be avoided. I feel that we are very fortunate to have a staff that is so committed to quality and excellence in their profession. Our goal is to give you the best-maintained golf course anywhere. We refuse to settle for second best.

We hope we can reduce these top ten question to just one... "HOW DO YOU KEEP THE GOLF COURSE IN SUCH GOOD CONDITION?"

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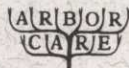
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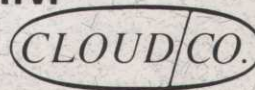
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