

THRU THE GREEN

From The President

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THRU THE GREEN

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I was just thinking how similar my job as superintendent is to that of Bill Clinton, as President of the USA. I have 400+ members who think they are more qualified to do my job. The President has 400+ members of Congress that feel the same way. Hopefully, at my club at least half of those members are on my side. Presently in Congress, the President has less than half on his side. We have a Board of Directors; he has a Senate. We make a decision that the members don't like, our Board of Directors can overrule the decision, or withhold funds for implementation. If the President decides on something, Congress can simply withhold funding. We both work with huge budgets. We are both Commander in Chief of all around us, and we both make the big bucks (yeah, right).

At certain times, we're both God-like. Let there be a problem, and we slip from

Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

The Association is fortunate enough to have new members every month so we try to touch base on monthly meetings so everyone is aware of the "whys" of what the Association does.

Each GCSANC meeting is a joint effort of the Host Superintendent, Host Club, Pro and Dining staff and volunteer help from Association members. We ask you to make your reservation timely, so we can provide the number of guests to our hosts. The dining staff needs to know how much to purchase for our lunch, brunch, etc. The pro shop staff needs to be aware of how many carts we will be using so excess can be allowed to other players. They would also like to set up names and foursomes prior to our arrival. If you do not make timely reservations through the Association office, we cannot forward this information to the host club. If you do not confirm your foursome

God to goat faster than a down hill putt on a 12 foot stimp green. The golf course never looked better, or they remember 20 years ago how fast the greens used to be. We are a world leader and everything is great, or the country's gone to hell in a handbasket. That head greenskeeper we had two or three guys back sure had this course in great shape, and FDR, now there was a President!

All kidding aside, I guess the point is, sometimes you just can't win. We do our jobs to the best of our ability, we take the compliments as they come, and take the criticisms for what they're worth. Hindsight is 20-20. If we're wrong, so be it. Hopefully we go on and learn from our mistakes, and ultimately that is the best lesson of all.

Have a great July,

Richard Lavine, CGCS
President

Ridgemark Golf and Country Club June 12, 1995 - Golf Results

Gross	Net
David Hayes 73*	Doug Martin 64
Ross Brownlie 73	Craig Barrick 65
Steve Kilmer 75	Mike Eastwood 67
*won in tiebreaker	

preferences prior to submitting your reservation, Tom Jackson, (who voluntarily does pairings and scoring for the Association meetings) cannot prepare a list of players prior to our meeting day. If we cannot supply this to the pro shop, they cannot arrange names and foursomes for carts and tees assignments until the last minute. Tom very often misses lunch because of changes made the day of the meeting. Cart name tags and tee assignments are not ready as soon as they might be.

The reservation deadline printed on the meeting forms is there for a reason. This gives everyone some preparation time before the meeting. That is why we ask you to cancel your reservation by this date also. Your past cooperation is very much appreciated.

1995 Institute Topic Unveiled

By Bob Costa

The Education Committee, under the guidance and direction of Dr. Ali Harivandi, has announced the program for the 1995 Golf Course Institute. This year's event, scheduled for November 9 and 10 at the Doubletree, in Santa Rosa, will feature a full day of activities on Aquatic Environment, Construction & Management. The program will include a discussion on the ecology of lakes, construction techniques, and control strategies to reduce aquatic vegetation.

A host of speakers, considered to be experts in the field of lake management and construction, will share their knowledge and supply practical information, which can be

applied to a management program specific to your site and conditions.

The program will conclude with an open forum discussion, featuring all the speakers from the days event. This will provide you with a chance to have your questions answered, and an opportunity to gain additional information from the speakers, and superintendents experiences.

Don't miss this opportunity to participate in the most comprehensive seminar on golf course lake management ever offered!

The full schedule of events, as well as registration information will be available by late summer.

Golf and The Environment: Initiating Change

By Bob Costa

Last month, I cited several examples of negative publicity directed towards golf courses by various members of the media, and special interest groups. At first glance your reaction might have been mild anger, or perhaps frustration over what, at times, appears to be an endless stream of these types of attacks. I concluded the article by challenging those in our profession to actively and publicly promote the environmental and community benefits of golf courses. "Why me you might have asked? I haven't been directly affected, I don't like the negative publicity but I don't view it as an immediate threat."

The threat is more immediate than you may think, and if left unchecked has the potential to

(Continued on page 4)

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Facts About The "Greens"

By Richard Lavine

The following article is based on articles in the May/June issue of "Green Section Record" titled, *The Greens Against The Greens*, by Michael Fumento, and the editorial in the May issue of "Western Turf and Landscape Press" dealing with work of Dr. Bruce Ames from UC Berkeley. I strongly urge anyone who has these issues to read these articles.

FACT: In the US, we spend 150 Billion dollars per year on environmental compliance.

FACT: 150 Billion dollars is more than the national budget of all but a few countries worldwide.

FACT: The US government spends 10 Billion dollars per year on medical research.

Do these statements seem as mind boggling to you as they do to me? Are we receiving more benefit out of \$150 billion in environmental compliance than we get out of \$10 billion in medical research? Is our environment that bad? Well, we

probably all know the answers to these questions.

The public is driven by the fear of CANCER. Mention cancer, and inevitably someone will think of pesticides. Pesticides on your fruit, pesticides in your water, and pesticides on your golf course, yet there is no scientific proof that a lifetime of exposure to any of these chemicals is sufficient to cause cancer. Fumento points out that on the average, lab animals are given 280,000 times the dose that a human would face in a lifetime. He also points out that fully one-third of the time, cancer causing dosages in rats don't cause cancer in mice, and vice-versa. What does this say about the carcinogenic effect in humans?

Are golfers really at higher risk of cancer? You've no doubt heard of the four LPGA cancer cases. That sounds pretty risky until you know that in that sample size of 200 golfers, scientists would expect 20 cases of

breast cancer. Clearly, increased cancer risk from golf course exposure is not the factor here.

Are environmental problems really so bad? Over 300,000 lives have been lost to obesity, and 21% of our teenagers are obese. Where is the anti-obesity faction? Tobacco and alcohol are known killers of thousands each year. Why aren't these products more heavily regulated? "People are living longer and getting cancer because they are living longer," says Dr. Bruce Ames.

According to Dr. Ames, mice live about two years, and monkeys live about 20 to 30 years. About one third of both species have cancer at death. Humans live about 80 to 90 years. About one third will have cancer at the time of death. "When people only lived to their 40's, there was not much cancer.

Dr. Ames contends that people are living longer healthier lives because of

pesticides. Pesticides make fruits and vegetables cheaper to produce and purchase. Studies show that people who eat recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables show a two to three fold reduction in almost all types of cancer. Smoking, dietary imbalances, chronic infections and hormones are the main causes of cancer. Industrial or synthetic chemical pollution is the cause of less than one percent of all cancer today.

So what does all this have to do with me? How is this information going to help me to do a better job on my golf course? It's time for all of us to speak up. Answer the anti-pesticide charges with FACTS. If you see a misleading article in print, write to the editor and the author and correct it. It's too easy to criticize but not lift your pen. That time is past. If we don't start speaking up, we all might be regulated out of existence

Initiating Change

(Continued from page 3)
have a much greater impact on the future of our profession. One only has to look back 5 years to notice the dramatic change in the public perception of golf courses. If we fail to take action now, what changes will we be forced to endure as a result of future public and legislative pressure?

How do we initiate a change in the public perception of golf courses? We must begin by developing an awareness of the need to project a responsible and positive image in everything we do. Furthermore, before we can begin to advocate the positive aspects of golf courses, we need to make sure our house is in order. For

example, have we reduced water use or utilized effluent sources for irrigation, have we put programs in place to minimize our reliance on chemicals, how are we dealing with hazardous materials, have we reduced environmental risks by installing aboveground gas tanks, pesticide storage containment units, or closed

system wash areas, have we effectively increased, or protected wildlife populations on the golf course by the creation of natural habitats, or the participation in the Audubon Sanctuary Program, do we recycle green waste or pesticide containers?

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USGA

“Observations Around the Southwest”

By Pat Gross, Agronomist

It's shaping up to be a strange year in the southwest. The heavy winter rains have caused significant problems for several courses, but everyone seems to be doing better now that warmer weather is approaching. This month, I thought I would give you a quick update on our observations so far this year and fill you in on some of the problems and innovative programs we have seen during our travels.

• **Effects of Heavy Winter Rains**

Heavy rainfall during winter and spring caused serious flooding at some golf courses. I saw water marks as high as 10 ft. on buildings as a result of the storms. Most of these courses are just starting to recover after removing tons of silt and debris and reseeding damaged areas. One significant benefit of

the rain was that it removed most of the salt buildup in putting green root zones. But don't assume that the problems is gone for good - continue to monitor your greens on a regular basis if you have struggled with salt accumulation in the past. The rains also washed out many of the nutrients in putting green soil profiles. If you haven't done so already, have a soil test performed and adjust your fertilizer applications accordingly. So far, many courses have been deficient in potassium and could benefit from monthly applications of potassium sulfate at 1-2 lbs /1000 sq. ft.

• **Weeds**

If you are discouraged by high weed infestation levels, you are in the same boat with everyone else. There has been an explosion of *Poa annua*, clover,

and other broad leaf weeds at most courses due to the winter rains and the inability to get preemergent herbicides applied at the right time. So far, I haven't seen any problems with crabgrass, but it may still be too early to tell. I anticipate that most courses will be using more post emergence herbicides this year to catch up.

• **Diseases**

It has been a bad year for winter diseases on greens, especially pink snow mold and yellow patch. The extended cool damp weather has caused infection as late as June. I have also seen an increase in dollar spot and red thread, mostly due to low nutrient levels in greens.

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Par For The Course (Cont'd)

Please check your local listings for exact time and channels.

The goal of the program is to inform and entertain golfers and, in the process, enhance the public image of golf courses and superintendents. If successful, the program may help to redefine the way golfers view superintendents and the golf industry.

The producers of **Par For The Course** need your help. If you have stories or topics which you would like to see covered, call the Par hotline 24 hours a day at (913)832-4460.

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Initiating Change

(Continued from page 4)

The first step then, in our campaign to change the negative perceptions of golf courses is to examine each of our maintenance procedures and note examples of how we are already operating in an environmentally responsible manner. If we've fallen short in some areas, we need to, with the resources available to us, look for ways to make improvements. Once we are confident that our operation is functioning in a manner which is environmentally responsible, we are ready to spread the word. Next month I'll discuss the variety of public relations options which are available to do just that.

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USGA Observations

(Continued from page 5)

Innovative Management Practices

I have noticed that many courses with old layered greens are double aerifying in the spring using a combination of standard hollow core and deep tine machines. This has worked exceptionally well to remove thatch, relieve compaction, and create deep channels in the soil profile without impacting the time necessary for recovery. The more holes you can get in those layered greens the better your chances with deep root development and leaching salts during the summer. Another surprising program observed was double deep tine aeration. This was done by first aerifying with the Floyed McKay deep drill followed by debris removing and heavy sand topdressing. Then a solid tine Vertidrain was used to make additional

deep channels and help work the sand into the holes. The results were very positive, and full recovery was evident within 14-21 days. I have to admit, I thought this was overkill at first, but the results speak for themselves.

Well, that's it in a nutshell. If you

haven't experienced any of these problems, consider yourself lucky. Best wishes for a successful and trouble free summer season - heaven knows we've already had our share of problems early in the year.



Naumann's Norcal News

Joel Ahern is the new superintendent at San Jose Country Club in San Jose. Joel was the assistant prior to his promotion. He is replacing Skip McCaslin.

John Jorgensen is the new superintendent at Ruby Hill Golf Course in Pleasanton. John was at Brighton Crest Golf Course in Fresno before moving to the Bay Area.

The previous superintendent, Todd Norton is returning to Scottsdale, Arizona to build a new course and then stay on as superintendent.

Curtis Black, superintendent at Sunnyvale Muni has, after a few years, moved out of his temporary mobile facilities into a new state-of-the-art corporation yard recently completed at the Sunnyvale Muni Golf Course.

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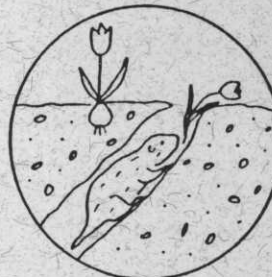
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