

THRU THE GREEN

From The President

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THRU THE GREEN

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June has finally arrived, and with it I hope we will have more typical summertime weather. It has been a wild winter and spring, with many of us receiving up to twice our normal rainfall. Throw in a few wind storms and some flooding, and it adds up to an intense springtime work load. As I compose this message in mid-May, I still have a crew clearing out downed tree stumps and topdressing out tire ruts from stuck mowers this spring. I know I'm not alone in this extra workload. Much of the turf will still be recovering from the severity of this past winter, well into the summer. Maybe then, we can sit back and take a well deserved break.

I managed a brief break a few weeks ago to go to San Diego for the CGCSA Annual Meeting. The educational sessions were excellent, with great talks by Dr. Harivandi, Dr. Kopec, Dr. Nelson and Dr. Vargas. Carol Gallagher, who spoke at our own institute, gave a brief overview of hiring and keeping good employees. Gary Grigg, CGCS, President of GCSAA presented us with a very fast paced review

of where GCSAA is heading in the next few years. Check out page 4 for a more thorough review of GCSAA. By the way, have you noticed that GCSAA has selected San Diego to host our national conference in the year 2001. San Diego will be a great addition to our rotation.

The CGCSA and GCSAA will be conducting a statewide salary and benefit survey in a few months. This survey, unlike the one that GCSAA does by itself, will be custom tailored for each chapter and broken down to response areas that we hope will be very useful for our members. **Your valid input is vital to the success of this survey.** More information will be available in a month or two.

Once again, please feel free to contact me or any board member with any comments or suggestions.

Thank you for your support.

Richard Lavine, CGCS
President

Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

Maybe, just maybe spring is here? Official rainfall measured in my neighborhood was 65 inches as of the last storm.

In case you missed the Lone Tree meeting, it was decided to reinstitute a "name badge" policy. If you show up at a meeting without your association name badge, you will "contribute" \$1.00 to the Scholarship/Research Fund.

If you need a new name badge, contact the office. Leave your name, club, course or company and city. I will order a new name badge for you.

A new membership directory is in the works. We hope to have it distributed with Turfgrass Culture by the end of June.

Lone Tree Golf Course May 15, 1995

Tournament Results

Gross	
Ken Drew	70
Scott Pajak	75
John McMillen	76
Net	
Ram Pal	66
Jim Karick	68
Willard Hayes	72

New Research Locates Friendly Microbes

The label on the bag says it contains Trichoderma, Gliocladium, Enterobacter, and Pseudomas. The question is, what do you do with it? Do you A) Haul it to a toxic waste dump, B) Use it to brew your herbal tea, C) Call your local witch doctor to report that you found his magic potion, D) Apply it to your greens, tees and fairways. Well, if you've attended the recent CGCSA Meeting in San Diego, then you know that those are the names of various beneficial soil microbes. Are these the

future of golf course management? Maybe. Should we all run out and buy tons of these materials? Probably not yet, but the next generation of superintendents might be referring to these soil microbes just as casually as we refer to N, P, and K.

Is this new technology? Definitely not. Is this new research? Definitely! Past generations of golf course superintendents applied many of these microbes to their golf courses without knowledge. These microbes, and many others are found in composted organic wastes. These composts were topdressed into the soils, and

organic fertilizers were applied directly to the turf.

This new research comes from the laboratories of Dr. Eric Nelson at Cornell University. They have isolated organisms that cause suppression of many of the soil borne parasitic fungi of Turfgrasses. They have also isolated microbes that aid in nitrogen breakdown and thatch reduction.

Some of these materials are available commercially right now. You can bet that additional material will be available soon. One word of caution, however; **Research.** Check out the trade journals and other sources of research

data. Look for independent university research that identifies specific microbes. Do your own research on nursery greens. Ask lots of questions. Do pesticides kill off beneficial microbes, and if so, which chemicals? Don't think that this is a cure all for all of your problems. There are no substitutes now, nor will there ever be, for good sound agronomic practices. This new research/old technology is another tool for us to use in our overall management program.

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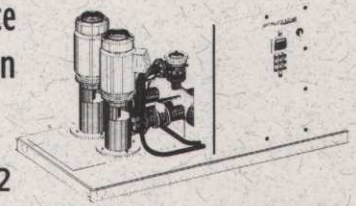
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GCSAA UPDATE

Guest speaker at our recent CGCSA Meeting in San Diego was GCSAA President Gary Grigg, CGCS. He outlined very briefly some Board actions that were taken at the pre and post conference meeting, as well as the recent early May Board Meeting.

• The Board of Directors and staff, seeing that the original three mandates (getting house in order, restoring broken relationships, and increasing member involvement) were satisfied, developed an additional three mandates that they will use to drive the Association for the next three to five years. The mandates are: 1. Enhance the image of the Golf

Course Superintendent's profession. 2. Communicate the positive impact of golf on the environment. 3. Work with the chapters to serve the members. Along with the initial three mandates that tell the Association how to function, these new mandates will provide the association with a more defined direction and purpose.

• "Par For the Course" was renewed for 32 more episodes for one more year. ESPN wanted 52 more episodes but the GCSAA opted for 32, and will work at achieving a better time slot, especially on the West Coast.

• The GCSAA has entered into a partnership with the EPA, FDA, and the USDA in

a program called the 'Environmental Steward Program.'

• GCSAA and the Chapter Relations Department will be providing us with "image building materials" to help us in our quest for recognition within the golfing community.

• The GCSAA will start an "Affiliate Chapter Logo Merchandise Program" that will allow us to provide GCSANC logo merchandise to you at very reasonable prices.

• The GCSAA has completely changed the CGCS attesting form and will be working through the local chapters to provide attesting for new CGCS candidates. Attestors will receive a .5 CEU's for their efforts.

• The GCSAA has started the Chapter Cooperative Research Program. The GCSAA will provide matching funds up to \$10,000 (per year up to three years) for approved local research.

• The GCSAA Foundation will be increasing the life insurance for GCSAA members up to \$10,000.

• Lou Holtz has been named as the opening session keynote speaker for GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida next February.

Look for details of all these items in upcoming issues of "Golf Course Management" and "Newline".

Grass Carp Update

By Bob Costa

Senate Bill SB 157, which would have legalized the use of sterile Grass Carp in controlled waterways, has suffered a serious blow. The bill, authored by Senator Kelley, was presented before the Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee in April. After two re-writes, a modified version of the original bill was approved, limiting the use of sterile Grass Carp to Imperial and Riverside Counties. The bill, in its present form, must now go before the Senate Appropriations Committee before being voted on by the

Senate and Assembly. Jim Husting, who spearheaded the effort on behalf of the CGCSA stated that opposition from the Pacific Coast Fisherman's Association was just too strong. The fear on behalf of the Association was that non-sterile fish may escape into unconfined waterways, and because of the Grass Carp's voracious appetite, destroy commercial fish habitat. It appears unlikely that Grass Carp will attain widespread legal status in California in the near future, eliminating what would have been a biological alternative to aquatic weed

management for golf course superintendents and other managers of aquatic environments.

Recognizing the problems aquatic environments pose in golf course settings, a comprehensive look at lake management will be the primary topic of the 1995 Golf Course Superintendents Institute. Stay tuned for more details.

Editor's Note:

We owe a debt of gratitude to Pete Bowman, CGCS; Jim Husting, CGCS; and Bob Tillema, CGCS for their efforts on our behalf. I think we all learned a lesson in politics from the pros. This will help in our future efforts, and there will be future efforts.



USGA

Murkey Water

By Pat Gross

At the recent California State Superintendent's Meeting, Dr. Ali Harivandi gave a great presentation on evaluating water quality. This is a topic all California Superintendents need to be aware of since it is arguably the most important factor influencing the health and vigor of your turfgrass. As Dr. Harivandi Pointed out, many golf courses are being forced to use less water, and the water is often lower in quality. While many superintendents do a good job of evaluating the chemical properties of the water, what about the physical properties (suspended solids) in your irrigation source?

This point came to mind a couple of weeks ago when my partner, Mike Huck, made a visit to a golf course in

Arizona that was using canal water for an irrigation source. As he was sampling the greens, he noticed a small but distinct layer of silt near the surface. It appeared that the silt was coming from the irrigation water and sealing off the greens.

Many water tests include a measurement of suspended solids, but how does that effect your turf and how do you demonstrate this point to your members or management? You can take the academic approach and spend an afternoon with your calculator trying to crunch the numbers, or you can take a simpler approach suggested by Jim Moore, Director of the Mid-Continent Region. Jim advises buying one of those very large rain gauges from K Mart

(about 2' high and 3" to 4" across). If you catch the "blue light special" you can get one for about \$15.00. Collect enough water out of your irrigation supply (or from the sprinkler) to fill the

"While many superintendents do a good job of evaluating the chemical properties of the water, what about the physical properties (suspended solids) in your irrigation source?"

gauge to the number of inches you apply to your greens in a year. For most courses, it's probably close to 20" or 30". (If the gauge doesn't hold that much, just fill it to half your amount and multiply by two.) Be sure the gauge is not tapered and has as flat a bottom as possible. After letting your experiment sit for a week, you may be shocked to find out much crud is in the bottom of the gauge. If there is a 1/8"

Continued on page 7



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Golf and The Environment: The Battle Continues

By Bob Costa

"Few suburban landscapes are as pretty or as toxic as your typical golf course." "If you scraped a golf course green and tested it, you would have to cart it off to a hazardous waste facility." (National Audubon Society)

"The modern golf course, with its perfect fairways and pretty flowers, at any price, is a living laboratory, and it appears greenskeepers do have more than their share of lung cancer." (Paul Harvey)

"What makes a golf course? One thing, and that's water! Anything you can do to dry up a golf course will be productive. Even two days will take the green out of the grass and the spring out of the golfers and greenskeepers alike. Forget all that you've heard about pouring gasoline, or Roundup on the greens. Don't even

bother carving up the tees or stealing golf carts, just cut off that IV from the aquifer." (Earth First)

On a recent local radio commentary, golf courses and development were cited as the primary cause for the placement of over two hundred species of plants and animals on the endangered species list, on the island of Hawaii.

The preceding comments are just the latest salvo of anti-golf course comments being made across the nation. If this isn't enough, the National Golf Foundation suggests that some key environmental attitudes amongst golfers and non-golfers are more negative than previously thought. According to the study — more than one third of golfers believe that golf courses pollute lakes and streams. Both golfers and non-golfers perceive that too much water is used for course conditioning.

In a survey conducted by Golf Digest on consumer attitudes and perceptions, 68% of the respondents, who were subscribers of Golf Digest and an environmental magazine, didn't know if courses in their area were taking actions to mitigate environmental problems.

Clearly, we need to do a better job of communicating to those, other than ourselves, that golf courses do provide some benefit to the environment and community. It's time as individuals, and as an industry, that we begin to openly promote our profession, as opposed to hiding our heads in the sand. Educating the public is the only effective method of improving golf's tarnished image. Now is the time to act, after all, your future may just depend upon it. Next month I'll discuss some strategies to help accomplish this goal.

R.V.

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Do Away With Bad Shots

Many bad shots result from a poor address, and especially incorrect ball position. Every golfer is different, so each one's proper ball position is different. To find your best ball position, take some practice swings with wood and irons. For woods, the correct ball position for you is where your wood first scrapes the top of the grass, for an iron, at the start of the divot hole.

*Golf Lessons, Published annually by Harris Publications, Inc.



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Naumann's Norcal News

Todd Cook has accepted the superintendent's position at Poppy Ridge GC in Livermore. Poppy Ridge is the new 27 hole golf complex owned by the NCGA. Landscapes Unlimited is constructing the project. Todd was the assistant at the Olympic Club prior to his move.

Forrest Arthur is the new superintendent at Spanish Bay Golf Links in Pebble Beach. Forrest was the assistant at Pebble Beach Golf Links prior to his move.

Tim Greenwald, superintendent at Rancho Canada GC has been extremely busy lately.

With the three storms of March he lost one bridge and three others were damaged. As a result, no golfers could get to the other side of the course. Luckily they have 36 holes and were able to make 18 playable holes on the high side while they repaired bridges, removed damaged trees and washed off two feet of silt. All 36 holes should be open in June.

John Allen is the new superintendent at Wolpers Vineyard Knolls Golf Course in Napa. John is replacing Ron Forsyth.

Murky Water (Cont'd)

layer on the bottom of the gauge, that tells you in a year's time you are placing the same 1/8" of crud on top of your greens.

Obviously, this is a rough test. Water quality can vary a great deal from day to day depending on the source. This test does give some indication that suspended solids might be causing problems in new and old greens in the sneakiest of ways. After all, what do you put on your greens in greater amounts than water? Also, the heavy winter rains and runoff this season can be a potential source of higher suspended solids in your irrigation supply.

The point of the story is this. Have your water tested frequently, not only chemically, but for suspended solids. The little experiment I just described is another good way to demonstrate this occurrence to your membership and gives you a chance to head off a problem before it causes failure of your greens.

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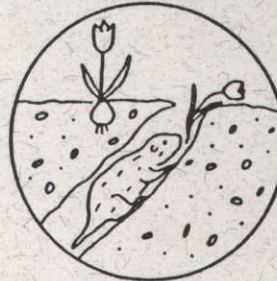
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