

THRU THE GREEN

**EDITOR**

Richard Lavine, CGCS  
415-454-6450

**OFFICE**

Barbara Mikel - Exec. Sec'y  
550 Main St., Ste G  
P.O. Box 3360  
Diamond Springs, CA  
95619  
Phone: (916) 626-0931  
Fax: (916) 626-5132

**PRESIDENT**

RICHARD LAVINE, CGCS  
Peacock Gap Golf & CC

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

LEON SNETHEN  
Saratoga CC

**SEC'Y/TREASURER**

KEN SCHWARK  
Tony Lema Golf Course

**PAST PRESIDENT**

RANDY GAI  
Claremont Country Club

**DIRECTORS**

BLAKE SWINT  
Castlewood Country Club

ROGER MARTINEZ  
Sherwood Greens Golf  
Course

ROBERT COSTA, CGCS  
Laguna Seca Golf Course

WAYNE LINDELOF  
Lone Tree Golf Course

**AFFILIATE ADVISORS**

MIKE LIGON  
H. V. Carter Co.

BOB WHITTAKER  
NSTC/Farmtec

**PUBLISHER**

Jo Harlow  
Key Publications  
Ph/Fax: (510) 674-1688

**THRU THE GREEN**

Published monthly by the  
Golf Course Superintendent's  
Association of  
Northern California

# From The President

**M**y first President's message! I've feared this moment for quite some time. What to say, what to say? Well, those of you who know me, know that I'm usually not at a loss for words. I've decided to take a very positive approach to this task. Along with the typical president's message announcements and tips, I'll try to enlighten, inform, educate and hopefully entertain you a bit.

Let me start by thanking you for your support, by electing me as the 47th president of this Association. I promise that I'll give you my best effort in guiding your Association. This brings me to my first tip. I said YOUR ASSOCIATION. The board of directors that you just elected works for you. Give us feedback, both positive and negative. Tell us what you want, what you like or what you don't like. Just tell us. (Sorry, no promises here. We all know that you can't please everyone.) Now for the second tip, GET INVOLVED. Volunteer to help on one of the committees. Check out the committee assignments on page 4. The more you put

into this Association, the more you will get out of it.

I also want to thank some other folks. Thanks to outgoing board members Brian Bagley, Bill Kissick and Leonard Theis for their efforts and hard work. Their contributions in helping to guide this Association are greatly appreciated. Also, a big thank you to

## Tip #1 - Your Association — Tip #2 - Get Involved

past president, Randy Gai for his excellent leadership this past year. (Sorry Randy, you have one more year of work.)

And Finally, congratulations to all of our award winners, Leon Snethen, Ray Story, Mitch Frasier, and Bob Livesey. Congratulations also to Bob Costa, along with a \$500 check for submitting the best newsletter article in the past year. (Yes, writing can be fun and profitable too.)

That's about it for now. Put down this newsletter and get back to work. We've all got lots to do following such a lovely winter.

Wishing you a great golf season.

Richard Lavine, CGCS  
President

# Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

Soon we will be preparing the annual directory for the Association. Any changes to your employment, business, or residence since your renewal questionnaire should be reported to the office by May 10, 1995 if you wish that updated information to be included in the directory.

Quite a few members didn't have name badges at the Annual Meeting. If you need a new name badge, call the office. Newsletter sponsorships support your Association. If you need more information regarding these sponsorships give me a call.

## Claremont Country Club April 7, 1995 Annual Meeting Tournament Results

**Gross**

Steve Kilmer	75 (Wins in Tie Breaker)
Bruce Olson	75
Mike Clark	77

**Net**

Ram Pal	66
Jim Karick	68
Willard Hayes	72



# Spring Is In The Aeration

By: Mike Huck

**S**pring is here! The time of year when every golf course superintendent in the country is accused of fondly and maliciously performing the most sacred maintenance task of all - aeration of greens! Every golfer on earth knows that the only reason a superintendent will aerate greens is to completely screw up perfectly good putting surfaces, giving himself much joy while watching the golfer suffer.

**A conversation that can be heard on any golf course:**

**Harry:** "Hey George, that

superintendent guy was trying to tell me that there was some good reason for punching the greens. I don't understand, they just got them perfect and now they go tear them up again! Then to top it all off, they spread a ton of sand all over the darned things, to fill up all those little holes they just finished making!"

**George:** "Why do they have to do this anyway? What good can it do? Hey Harry, there's the superintendent over there by that broken down machine. Let's go ask him why they have to ruin the greens like this."

*Superintendent thinking, "Oh*

*no, not these two guys again!"*  
**Harry:** "Hey buddy, how's it going?"

**Superintendent:** "Well I'm kind of busy right now, this darned aerator just blew up."

**George:** "We were wondering why it's necessary to punch all these holes in the greens? They were finally perfect, and now they'll be terrible for weeks!"

**Superintendent:** "Well the fact is that if we don't do this in the spring, we will have more problems later in the summer. Believe me, no one hates aerating greens more than my crew and I do, but it has to be done!"

*Harry thinking: "Sure he hates aerating, I bet this guy has been planning this day for a year now. These guys live to aerate!"*

**Superintendent:** "Do you think my crew and I enjoy putting in a ton of overtime to do this hot, dirty job? It's real important that we get this done in the spring."  
*Superintendent thinking: "I wish these two would leave me alone, I've got a lot of work to do!"*

**George:** "Yes, but why is it so important? What would happen if we didn't aerate this spring?"

*Superintendent thinking:*

*Continued on page 4*

## SUPPORTER LISTING

### SCOTTS PROTURE

Fertilizers - Poly S and new Triaform technologies Herbicides, Fungicides, Seed, Soil, tissue, water and turf disease testing.

Chick Dal Pozzo, Sr. Tech. Rep

510-791-8985

### CALCIUM

Pacific Pearl Oyster Shell -- the most efficient calcium for the turfcare professional. Available from your fertilizer dealer.

For technical assistance Call **John Mazura**

Jerico Products, Inc.


707-762-7251

### RUSSELL D. MITCHELL & ASSOC., INC.

Providing quality irrigation design and consultation services including bid document development, hydraulic analysis, and field staking.

510-939-3985

510-932-5671 FAX

 If you wish to place your Ad in *Thru The Green* contact Barbara Mikel at the GCSANC Office. Phone: (916) 626-0931



**Contra Costa  
Landscaping, Inc.**

27 Years - State License #263333

All Aspects of Golf Construction

Greens - Tees - Bunkers - Seeding - Hydroseeding

Lakes - Pump Stations - Drainage

Quality Work - Competitive Prices

**Jim Duhig**

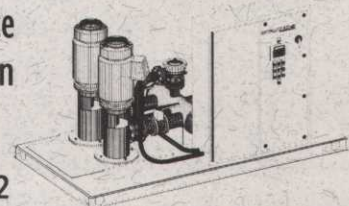
(800) 498-7339

(510) 229-1060

**FLOWTRONEX PSI**  
*Pumping Systems*

Industry Leaders in  
Quality, Service  
and Innovation

**Wes Hall**  
619-747-1662





# Annual Meeting Results

## Merit Award Winners

The selection of this year's merit award winners proved to be a difficult task for the Award Committee, comprised of last years' award winners and past president, Randy Gai. Many worthy individuals surfaced in the selection process, and after much deliberation, the following winners were announced:

### Superintendent of the Year

**Leon Snethen**, Saratoga Country Club

### Excellence in Turfgrass Management

**Ray Story**, Green Valley Country Club.

### George Santana Distinguished Service Award

**Robert E. Livesey**, CGCS

### Affiliate of the Year

**Mitch Fraiser**, West Start Distributing Company

Also **Robert Costa** received the newsletter "Best Article" check for \$500.00

## Committee Chairman Assignments

Membership	Roger Martinez
Program	Bob Costa
Tournament	Blake Swint
Education	Bob Costa, Chair Randy Gai, Asst. Chair
Scholarship	Roger Martinez
Bylaws	Randy Gai
Public Relations	Ken Schwark, Cochair Bob Costa, Cochair
Awards	Richard Lavine
Publications/ Newsletter	Richard Lavine, Editor
Affiliate Reps.	Bob Whittaker & Mike Ligon

The above board members are CHAIRMAN ONLY of these committees. A committee, by definition, is a group of persons. In order for our Association to function, participation is vital. Please get involved. If one of these committees interests you, call the chairman and volunteer to serve on that committee. You will find the service rewarding

GCSAA Past President, Joe Baidy's visit was cosponsored by GCSAA and H.V. Carter Co. Inc. We thank Joe and both sponsors for their cooperation.

## Aeration.....Cont'd

*"I'm never going to get rid of these two guys, guess I better give them the whole dog and pony show."*

**Superintendent:** "We aerate the greens for a number of reasons. All the traffic with spiked golf shoes causes soil compaction. Aeration opens the soil and lets the grass breathe.

**Harry thinking:** "So he expects me to believe we're compacting the greens with our spikes?"

**George:** "Don't we aerate the greens with our spikes?"

**Superintendent;** "Absolutely not! They contribute to

the problem, and besides compaction relief, aeration removes the thatch, stimulates root growth, increases the rate of water infiltration, enhances the decomposition of organic matter, allows for more efficient nutrient uptake, and helps release toxic gas in the root zone replacing it with oxygen."

**Harry thinking:** "If the greens have a gas problem, maybe he just needs to load up that spray rig of his with Roloids and Malox."

**Harry:** "I just don't see what benefit the player receives when you aerate the greens."

**Superintendent:** Well, you don't see the benefits because most of them happen under the soil surface. If we didn't aerate we would run a tremendous risk of having more serious problems come the end of summer. Aerating the greens now allows them to recover faster and gives them a better chance to survive the summer. Aeration is so important we plan our entire maintenance schedule a year in advance around this day."

**Harry thinking:** "I knew it!"

**George:** "Really?"

**Harry:** "Come on, let's go

George, we've got 9 more holes to play."

**Latter in the middle of the 10th fairway:**

**George:** "Think any of that stuff about aerating was true?"

**Harry:** "Just the part about planning it year in advance. As far as I'm concerned, the rest was all techno-babble."

**George:** "I don't know Harry, we're not the only course that aerates. In fact I can't think of one course in the area that doesn't. Besides, this place is always in great shape."

**Harry:** "Maybe you're right George."



## State GCSA Meeting

If you hurry, there might still be time to register for the state meeting and golf tournament to be held in San Diego. This year's meeting is titled, **BACK TO BASICS**. The San Diego chapter has lined up our own Dr. Ali Harivandi, Dr. Eric Nelson from Cornell, Dr. Dave Kopec from Arizona, and Dr. Joe Vargas from Michigan State to be among the featured speakers. The San Diego Chapter has arranged attractive room rates at the Princess Resort, golf at world famous Torrey Pines Golf Course and the flavor of America's Cup racing throughout our stay.

Call the CGCSA office for details at (619) 566-3400. See you there!.



## Think of Lawns As Rain Forests

*Release from The Turf Resource Center*

**W**hat does a rain forest do that a lawn doesn't also do? This was one of the many pro-turf and pro-environment questions posed to members of the Environmental Care Association at their annual convention during the keynote address delivered December 7 by Doug Fender, Executive Director of the Turfgrass Producers International.

According to Fender, "Both lawns and rain forests are made up of thousands or millions of plants . . . the average 10,000 square foot lawn has over 8.5 million individual grass plants with in excess of 8 million miles of roots. The micro and macro, flora and fauna populations living in that forest of grass are immense, serving very useful purposes." He concluded, "Who knows, maybe like the hope we hold for the

rain forests, the cure for many diseases may be waiting to be discovered, right under our feet!" He also noted that lawns, like the rain forests, moderate temperatures, hold soil in place and enrich it through decomposition of plant tissue and biodegrade many pollutants that would otherwise stay in the air or go into the water supplies.

During his hour-long presentation to the Idaho Association of Lawn Care Operators and Pest-Control Specialists, Fender encouraged them to increase their personal awareness and education about environmental issues. He also invited them to become more pro-active by sharing scientifically based facts about the benefits of turfgrass with the public to counter the pseudo-scientific attacks by people he termed "eco-terrorists." He suggested that if every-

*Continued on page 6*



### PACIFIC OPENSOURCE, INC. & NORTH COAST NATIVE NURSERY

- Drought tolerant landscaping of roughs
- Mitigation, restoration and erosion control plans
- Design, consultation and installation services
- Extensive inventory of native California species
- Contract collection and propagation

707-769-1213

P.O. BOX 744, PETALUMA, CA 94953 • FAX 707-769-1230



### ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

RODENTS  
BIRDS &  
OTHER NUISANCE  
ANIMALS CONTROLLED  
1-800-292-9845



### PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS

**Steve Franzen**  
Area Manager

Fertilizers • Irrigation • Landscape Equipment



SPRINKLER  
IRRIGATION  
SPECIALISTS  
INC.



**JOHN DEMING**

865 SWEETSER AVENUE • NOVATO, CA 94945

**415 892-4680**

NOVATO • SACRAMENTO • SAN MATEO • SAN JOSE • SANTA ROSA • SHINGLE SPRINGS  
DUBLIN • PACHECO • MODESTO • SAN DIEGO • LAGUNA HILLS • ESCONDIDO • PALM DESERT



## Think . . . Rain Forest

*Continued from page 5*

one in the turfgrass industry was as effective in teaching the environmental benefits of turf as they have been selling the aesthetics of lawns, the entire planet would benefit.

To illustrate his position, he took information normally used by those opposed to turf and showed how they had twisted the facts. For example, the EPA reports homeowners apply 70 million pounds of pesticides to their lawns each year, which seems like a frighteningly large amount. But, when that amount is divided across 20 million lawns it equates to less than two ounces of herbicide and less than a half ounce of insecticide per 1,000 square foot of lawn . . . below most recommended rates. He suggested that if people truly understood the environmental benefits of a properly maintained lawn, the concern would be

directed to the 62 percent of home lawns that are not receiving the best possible care as a natural resource.

In another example, he reported that

*"Both lawns and rain forests are made up of thousand or millions of plants . . . Who knows, maybe like the hope we hold for the rain forests, the cure for many diseases is waiting to be discovered, right under our feet!"*

because grass clippings going into landfills are calculated on a wet-clipping basis, they are said to represent 20 to 50 percent of the total flow of the waste stream. However, knowing that clippings are 90 percent water and they degrade quickly, the actual dry bulk amount clippings contribute to landfills is more like 2 percent. He added that while clippings are not actually large contributors to the waste stream, homeowners should be educated about the benefits of leaving the clippings on the lawn as it is mowed to return the nutrients they naturally contain.

Other environment-related points brought out during the talk by Fender included tree-turf water use comparison fallacies, the comparative low risk

actually resulting from proper pesticide use, and the massive size of the Environmental Protection Agency's annual budget.

In closing his presentation, Fender urged the audience members to begin examining their entire public relations and education efforts, as well as how they can more effectively market the benefits of their products and services to a population that is continuing to undergo major changes.

\* A copy of the 16 page manuscript is available from the Turf Resource Center. 800-405-TURF (8873)

R.V.



- ◆ Plumbing
- ◆ Irrigation
- ◆ Waterworks

**Thompson Golf Distributor**

**(800) 987-4002**

Don Allen - Manager - Member GCSANC

Your complete source for fertilizers, seed, chemicals, amendments, tools, irrigation, drainage, Otterbine Aerators and much more.



San Jose • Heavy Turf Division • Menlo Park • Napa  
Salinas • San Rafael • Concord • Santa Rosa  
Vacaville • Dublin • Fresno • Merced

herbicides • insecticides • fertilizers • seed •  
soil nutrients • tree root barriers • spray &  
safety equipment

**Dave Barcel**

Environmental Horticulturist

1-800-767-0719



SPECIALTY PRODUCTS  
QUALITY THRU SERVICE

1280 N. 10th Street • San Jose, CA 95112



**Pacific Sod**

California's Largest Selection  
of Cool and Warm Season Varieties

**Ray Freitas**

**1-800-692-8690**



# Mower Safety

## Do . . . . ✓

- ✓ Keep cylinder fins and governor parts free of grass and other debris as this can affect engine speed and clog the air cooling system. Continued operation with a clogged cooling system can cause severe overheating and possible engine damage.
- ✓ Pull starter cord slowly until resistance is felt. Then pull cord rapidly to avoid kickback and prevent hand or arm injury. Kick back is also the result of a loose blade or partially sheared flywheel key.
- ✓ Use clean, fresh, lead-free gasoline. This will result in fewer combustion deposits and longer valve life. Purchase fuel in quantity that can be used within 30 days, or use Briggs & Stratton Gasoline Additive #5041 to assure fuel freshness and volatility during prolonged storage.

## Do Not . . . . ✗

- ✗ Run engine in an enclosed area. Exhaust gasses contain carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly poison.
- ✗ Check for spark with spark plug or spark plug wire removed. Use an approved tester.
- ✗ Crank engine with spark plug removed. If engine is flooded, place throttle in "Fast" position and crank until engine starts.
- ✗ Crank engine more than 15 seconds without allowing starter motor to cool for two minutes.
- ✗ Smoke when filling fuel tank.
- ✗ Fill fuel tank while engine is running. Allow engine to cool for two minutes before refueling.
- ✗ Operate engine when an odor of gasoline is present or other explosive conditions exist.
- ✗ Operate engine if gasoline is

spilled. Move machine away from spill and avoid creating any ignition until the gasoline has evaporated.

- ✗ Store, spill or use gasoline near an open flame, or devices such as a stove, furnace, or water heater which utilize a pilot light or devices which creates a spark.
- ✗ Operate engine without a muffler. Inspect periodically and replace if defective.
- ✗ Operate engine with an accumulation of grass, leaves, dirt or other combustible material in the muffler area.
- ✗ Place hands or feet near moving or rotating parts.
- ✗ Run engine at excessive speeds.
- ✗ Tamper with Governor springs, governor links or other parts which may increase the governed engine speed.

*\* Reprinted from the Florida Turf Digest*

Michael Snow  
Certified Arborist No. WC 1049  
Superintendent

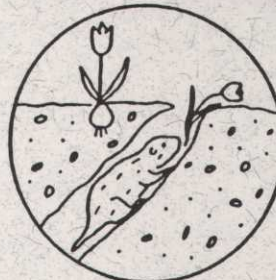
### ARBOR CARE

825 Mabury Road, San Jose, California 95133  
Tel: (408) 453-5922 • FAX: (408) 437-1817



a division of ENVIRONMENTAL CARE, INC.

### Rodent Control Specialists



### LANDSCAPE PEST CONTROL SERVICES, INC.

ALLEN TUNBERG  
Pest Control Advisor  
and Operator

(510) 426-8461

State License No. 05647

P.O. BOX 1166  
PLEASANTON, CA 94566

### BOETHING TREELAND FARMS, INC.



Serving all of Northern  
and Central California,  
Northern Nevada,  
and the North West.

1 GAL. TO 60" BOX SIZE  
ORNAMENTAL TREES  
AND SHRUBS

CONTRACT GROW trees and  
shrubs for those large projects, and  
to be sure of quality, size and savings.

#### TWO MAJOR LOCATIONS:

23475 Long Valley Rd. Woodland Hills, CA 91367-6006 (818) 883-1222 FAX (818) 712-6979	2923 Alpine Road Portola Valley, CA 94028-7518 (415) 851-4770 FAX (415) 851-4252
---	--

707-747-5000

## CARRYALL

DRIVE IT TO WORK. 

- 1200 lb. Cap.
- Hyd. Dump
- Demos For Sale

