

## EDITOR

Richard Lavine, CGCS  
415-454-6450

## OFFICE

Barbara Mikel - Exec. Sec'y  
550 Main St., Suite 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

JOE RODRIGUEZ, CGCS  
Rossmoor Golf Course

## SEC'Y/TREASURER

KEN SCHWARK  
Tony Lema Golf Course

## PAST PRESIDENT

RANDY GAI, CGCS  
Claremont Country Club

## DIRECTORS

BLAKE SWINT  
Castlewood Country Club

ROGER MARTINEZ  
Sherwood Greens Golf  
Course

ROBERT COSTA, CGCS  
Laguna Seca Golf Course

WAYNE LINDELOF, CGCS  
Lone Tree Golf Course

## AFFILIATE ADVISORS

MIKE LIGON  
H. V. Carter Co.

BOB WHITTAKER  
NSTC/Farmtec

## PUBLISHER

Jo Harlow  
Key Publications  
Phone: 510-827-9676  
Ph/Fax: (510) 674-1688

## THRU THE GREEN

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

## From The President (Cont'd)

but we have decided to hold the deadline until just after the Annual Meeting so that we may publish the results of the meeting. Look for your May issue the week of May 13.

Due to space limitations in this newsletter, I'm not going to list the bylaw amendments here. Please refer to your ballot as I discuss them with you.

There are actually ten individual by law amendments that you are being asked to vote on. On your ballot however, they have been placed into four groups and will be voted that way. The groupings are as follows:

- **Changes necessary for GCSAA affiliation**
  - Article II Section 3 Membership Classes
  - Article II Section 5 Dual Membership
  - Article III Section 1 Annual Dues
  - Article V Section 1 Board of Directors
- **Changes recommended by GCSAA legal counsel**
  - Article IX Section 1 Indemnification
  - Article X Section 1 Dissolution (new article)
- **Changes to bring our bylaws into conformity with the way we have been conducting business**
  - Article VI Section 1 Board of Directors
  - Article II Section 3 Associate Member
  - Article II Section 4 Reclass. of Membership

• **Addition of student membership class**  
Article II Section 3 Student Membership  
The first group are all changes that will be required if we are to remain affiliated with GCSAA. Dan Church, GCSAA's legal counsel, reviewed our bylaws this past January. These were the items that he presented that were in direct conflict with GCSAA's bylaws, and the text is mostly as he recommended.

The second group are items that he recommended to bring our bylaws into conformity with current laws. The indemnification clause has only some very minor changes. Article X is entirely new. Although we feel and hope that this article is never necessary, the Board felt that it should be included in our bylaws.

The third group are items that will bring the bylaws current with the way the Association actually operates. Article VI Section 1 will delete language that states when the Board will meet. In practice, the Board sets their own meeting schedule, and this change will reflect that. Article II Section 3 is partly due to GCSAA change of Class B & C members and also a problem that the Board has had in classifying prospective members employed at driving ranges. Article II Section 4 does two things. First, it deletes

the language dealing with 'the test', abolished by last year's Board. Second, it brings the bylaws current with our new annual dues renewal statement, and the automatic reclassification that will result from its use.

The fourth item, actually one new membership class, is one that I have wanted to add for quite some time. It will allow us to welcome and nurture turfgrass students into our Association. The Board will then have the option of setting their dues at a reduced level.

The Board of Directors, at their last meeting in March, discussed and fully endorsed these changes to our bylaws. They encourage your support. If you have any questions about these changes, feel free to contact me. I would be more than happy to discuss them with you.

This will be my final President's Message. For the most part, I've tried to keep them on the light side. I hope that you've enjoyed them. It seems like my year as President has gone by very quickly. I feel that the Association has enjoyed a very successful year. The events that we have put on have been well attended, and for the most part even made budget. These events did not just happen. I thank you all for your support this past year. I especially want to thank the Board of Directors. These guys are real workers. As President, I just sit and point my finger. The Board members are the ones that do the work. They are a truly dedicated bunch of guys. I especially want to thank three individuals. Randy Gai has helped me enormously with many details of this office. I've leaned on him often, and he has always come through. Another thank you to our newsletter publisher, Jo Harlow. Jo has worked hard to produce this new format for us, and always handles the last minute details and change that always seem to come just before press time. The other big thank you is to Barbara Mikel. Barbara is like the little parrot that sits on your shoulder and gives advice. There probably isn't a decision that got made at the Board level that Barbara doesn't ask, "What about . . ." Her participation is invaluable and is a real asset to this Association.

This past year on the Board has been very rewarding. I've talked with lots of people and made lots of friends. I will always cherish this time. I still have one year of Board service remaining. I offer my support to our next President to use me as he sees fit. Thank you all for your patience and indulgence this past year.

Richard Lavine, CGCS  
President



## USGA

### Rebuilding Green - The Journey Begins

By Pat Gross

#### Part I - Selecting the Sand

As most of you are aware, the USGA revised the recommendations for putting green construction in 1993 in an effort to incorporate new information and answer concerns about laboratory procedures. Over the past three years, our office has had several calls and questions asking for clarifications regarding the new putting green construction recommendations. Many people, including architects, contractors, sand suppliers and superintendents are still unclear about the revisions to the recommendations and the possible pitfalls along the road to selecting suitable materials for putting green construction. This article is the first in a four-part series to help answer some of these questions and outline some of the common problems associated with selecting suitable construction materials.

So the journey begins. Let's say you have a problem green on the golf course and you

get authorization from management to go ahead and rebuild the green. Where do you start? Assuming you have already accurately identified the problem the next step is to enlist the services of a golf course architect and decide on the design for the new green and the scope of work to be completed. In other words, develop a good plan. Then, just like building a house, you begin by laying the foundation. In the case of putting greens, that means selecting the right construction materials.

It's best to start with the development of the root zone mix since this is where the plant will be growing, and the proper selection of materials is critical for long-term success. You should **make time** to survey the vendors in your area and personally obtain one-gallon samples of representative sands and submit them to a laboratory that has agreed to test the materials according to the USGA testing protocols and

procedures. Although many sand suppliers will offer their latest test results, it is critical that you test the materials yourself since sand quality can change due to a number of factors. Also, be aware that many of the sands used for golf green construction are the product of blending two or three different sands to achieve the desired sand particle size distribution. It is possible that the particle distribution can change depending on the mixing procedures and ratios. You should ask the sand supplier these questions and find out what materials they use in blending and producing sands for golf green construction. Once you have obtained the samples, the laboratory will perform a sieve analysis to determine of the sand falls within the USGA guidelines.

Many superintendents are concerned about the infiltration rate, or "perk" rate of

Continued on page 5



### 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

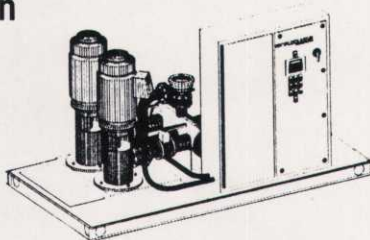
800-498-7339

510-229-1060

## FLOWTRONEX PSI

### Pumping Systems

Industry Leaders in  
Quality, Service  
and Innovation



Wes Hall

619-747-1662

## Supporter Listing

### 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

### SCOTTS PROTURF

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

Chuck Dal Pozzo, Sr. Tech. Rep. 510-791-8985

### BENTGRASS SOD

West Coast Turf — Crenshaw, SR 1020, and Penncross, Contract grow and installation available. Washed or sand based. Also, hybrid Bermuda, and 100% rye sod.

800-447-1840

### CALCIUM

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

For Technical assistance call **John Mazura**.

Jericho Products, Inc.

707-762-7251





## GCSAA's 1996 Environmental Steward Awards

Two GCSANC members recently were honored as recipients of the GCSAA Environmental Steward Award. Nicholas Checklenis from Silver Creek Valley Country Club and Joseph A. Rodriguez, CGCS from Rossmoor Golf Course were Merit Award winners in the Western Region. The award is to showcase environmental efforts they have made to enhance their properties for the benefit of wildlife, golfers, and their surrounding communities.

Both Superintendents will receive similar awards, however the paths that both took to win these awards differ substantially. The Rossmoor course, over 30 years old, is involved in efforts to attract wildlife. They are working

with the California Bluebird Recovery Program, and have installed over 60 Bluebird nesting boxes on the course. They are encouraging creek side wildlife habitat areas, and are members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Additionally, Rossmoor has an integrated pest management program, computerized irrigation system, and a wastewater recycling system. Silver Creek Valley is a much newer course. They have recently applied for certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Silver Creek Valley has set aside sensitive areas for the endangered Bay Checkerspot Butterfly, Mt. Hamilton Thistle, and the Metcalf Canyon Jewelflower. They are also renovating their lake edges with aquatic plant material. The use



*Joe Rodriguez accepting his Environmental Steward Award from John Mielke, Advertising & Communications Manager, Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. at the Environmental General Session in Orlando, Florida.*

of plant material such as *Festuca rubra*, *Iris*, *Juncus*, *Spartina Fliosa*, *Nymphaea*, and *Eleocharis* will allow them to brighten up these areas and use fewer algae control chemicals.

Please join me in congratulating these two individuals for an excellent job in promoting our profession with these awards. ♦

## Naumann's NorCal News

Scott Szydoski has accepted the position of Superintendent of Grounds at Blackhawk Country Club in Danville. Scott was the Superintendent at Morgan Run Golf Course in Southern California before his move.... Tracy Shanahan is the new Superintendent at Saratoga Country Club, replacing former V.P. Leon Snethen. Tracy was

the assistant under Mike Phillips at Almaden Country Club before accepting his new position..... Jeff Gorham is the new Superintendent at El Macero Country Club in Davis. Jeff is replacing Campbell Turner now at Riverview Country Club in Reading. Jeff was the Superintendent at Spyglass Hill Golf Course in Monterey. Replacing

Jeff at Spyglass is Eric Johnson.. Bill Keeler has accepted the Superintendent position at Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club. Bill was the assistant there under Bob Laic before his promotion. Bob has moved on to a similar position in the Bay Area.... Andy Slack has been hired by Sierra Pacific Turf Supply as the new customer

service representative for Rain Bird Irrigation and golf course supplies. He will be working with Tom Jackson and Ron Seibel..... John Martin has accepted the Superintendent position at Sun City Golf Course in Roseville. John was the Superintendent at California Golf Club before his move. He is replacing Bill Kissick.

PREMIUM QUALITY **BENTGRASS**  
**SOD** WASHED OR ON SAND,  
INSTALLATION AND CONTRACT  
GROW AVAILABLE.

DANIELLE MARMAN  
1-800-447-1840

**WEST COAST**  
**TURF**

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

**AUTOMATIC**  **RAIN COMPANY**

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



## Rebuilding Greens (Cont.)

Potential sands, and many sand suppliers will ask what kind of "perk" rate the superintendent desires. Be aware that the infiltration rate test is the most variable and least reliable parameter to use when evaluating a potential sand and rootzone mix. If the sand particle size distribution is correct with a minimum of fine particles, the sand should have good long-term performance characteristics and the infiltration will fall into line. The ranges that are recommended by the USGA for infiltration rate should only be used as a guide, and the wide range reflects the degree of variability one may expect in testing.

So, what if the course is planning to use effluent water or a poor quality water source? Once again, if you have the right sand, the infiltration rate should take care of itself. With poor quality water, you should be careful about having too many fine particles in the sand, and you may wish to discuss with the sand supplier the possibility of increasing the percentage of particles in the medium-to-coarse range. Since most sand mixes are a blend of two or three materials, the sand supplier may be willing to work with you in this regard. But

don't go overboard — an excessive amount of coarse particles or fine gravel could be a problem for future topdressing operations, and the resulting mix may not hold enough moisture to sustain healthy turf growth. The mix still needs to retain an adequate amount of moisture.

Once you have selected the proper sand, you are well on your way to developing a good rootzone mix for successful putting green construction. Stay tuned, next month we will discuss the second step of rootzone mix development - selection of the organic matter. ♦

The GCSAA Public Relations Department has announced a series of new member benefits and programs. Beginning March 1st, a Media Guidebook, Environmental Guidebook and Emergency Communications Guidebook are being made available to all GCSAA members. The guidebooks were developed to assist Superintendents, in a systematic manner, with issues involving the media. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Informational Services Department at 800-472-7878.

Fertilizers • Irrigation • Landscape Equipment



**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

**Craig Linquist**  
Estimator

Certified Arborist No. 1510

**ARBOR CARE**

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



a division of ENVIRONMENTAL CARE, INC.



**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



**Pacific Sod**

California's Largest Selection  
of Cool and Warm Season Varieties

**Ray Freitas**

**1-800-692-8690**

**BEST.**

**NPK**  
HOMOGENEOUS  
PELLETS



WITH

OR

**POLYON.**  
CONTROLLED-RELEASE NITROGEN

YOUR **(BEST)** INVESTMENT IN TURF PERFORMANCE!

For more information, call your BEST® Area Manager,  
Steve Franzen, at (800) 992-6066





## Candidate Statements

### For President

**Joe Rodriguez, CGCS**

Experience:

I have been the Superintendent at the Rossmoor Golf Course since 1978. Prior to that, I was the chief gardener for Contra Costa County in charge of all landscaped and turf areas within the county's jurisdiction. I have been involved in the horticulture industry for over 35 years. I have previously served on the Board of Directors for a period of six years. My education includes a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Diablo Valley College, a Management Certification from Los Medanos College, and a Bachelors Degree in Business Management from Saint Mary's College. I also possess a State Contractors License for Landscaping.

Candidate Statement:

After having previously served on the Board as a Director and as President, I can recall that it was an enlightening and frustrating experience and very often an imposition of my time. At the same time, it was a rewarding and learning period in my life. I welcome this opportunity to serve the membership and would definitely like to see more members involved at all levels. What I have to offer is my experience and the belief that one person can make a difference.

### For Vice President

**Ken Schwark**

In running for Vice President, I want the voting members of this Association that care about where we're headed to know that I too am concerned about our future. Times are changing at a rate that has never been seen before. We, as an Association, have to be prepared to know whether it's in our best interest to change or to stand against certain changes if they aren't in our best interest.

I used the word "prepared" in the last paragraph because that is what a Vice President has to be. I believe I'm very prepared for the task ahead. My first year I served as Programs Director. During that time, I learned how successful a meeting was, depended on the amount of time spent in preparation. I was dedicated to spending as much time as necessary to make those meetings a success.

This is my second year on the board and I'm serving as Secretary/Treasurer. During this time I've gained an understanding of how this Association works and functions. I worked closely with our former Vice President, Leon Snethen, on several projects, one of which was the redesign of the newsletter. All these opportunities have helped me in preparing for the next step as Vice President.

As Vice President, I plan to do

a lot of listening, to bring new ideas to the board from our membership, on helping to make this a more professional Association than it already is. There is going to be a tremendous amount of change in the near future coming from the golfers, environmentalists, politicians, state and federal laws, all of which have an impact on how we do our jobs. Our own National Association is implementing just as many changes. Again, the board has to have strong leadership to disseminate correctly that information to its membership, in order for the membership to choose correctly the path in which it should follow. In order to stay on top in our profession, we must have a vision and the ability to make sound decisions. If these issues concern you the way they do me, then I hope you will vote for me. Thanks!

**Blake Swint**

I accepted the nomination to be a candidate for Vice President of our Association because I feel that I may best represent all of the classifications of our membership.

I have been a member of the GCSANC since 1985. During the past 11 years, I have gained much from the network of GCSANC member Superintendents sharing their ideas in the informal settings during our meetings. Our Asso-

ciation has provided me the opportunity to attend outstanding educational sessions. Being a member of this Association has allowed me to play your fine golf courses. I have enjoyed serving as Director this past year. I have supported the allocation of funds to improve the quality of speakers for our monthly meetings during 1996.

### For Secretary/ Treasurer

**Roger Martinez**

My name is Roger Martinez, and I am a candidate for Secretary/Treasurer. I have been a member of the Board for the last two years and of this Association of ours for 15 years. Also, I've been working for the City of Salinas for the past 23 years.

My goal is to dedicatedly to serve all members and the Association. If I am elected I will be ready to tackle many difficult issues as they come up from the National Association. I would like to have the opportunity to continue working on issues that are of concern to all of us.

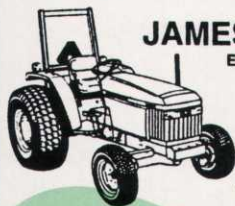
**Dave Davies, CGCS**

I am currently the Superintendent at Palo Alto Municipal GC. I have held that position for three years and have been a Superintendent for a total of 7 years. I served on the Board of Directors in the Sierra Nevada GCSA from 1990-

**TURF & INDUSTRIAL  
EQUIPMENT**  
SINCE 1968

**SALES • PARTS • SERVICE**

**JAMES SHERMAN JR.**  
EQUIPMENT ADVISOR



**1 (800) 655-8873**

2715 LAFAYETTE STREET • SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

**JOHN DEERE  
CUSHMAN  
CLUB CAR  
LAND PRIDE  
HOWARD PRICE  
DAIHATSU**

707-747-5000

**CARRYALL**  
**DRIVE IT TO WORK.** Club Car®

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





## Dave Davies (Cont.)

1994, and held the office of President in 1993. I have been a member of this Association since 1984 and it is my desire to be a more active participant in our future direction. I would like to work on efforts to increase meeting participation as well as continue the current high quality of educational opportunities at our meetings and the annual Institute.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

## For Director

### Wayne S. Lindelof, CGCS

As a current member of the Board of Directors I have been a willing participant with a positive attitude. I was appointed to the Board in 1995 and have enjoyed serving the Association. I would like to continue these efforts and would appreciate your vote.

### Forrest W. Arthur

I currently serve as Golf Course Superintendent at the Links at Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula. I will have held this position for one full year in April of 1996. I previously held the position of Assistant Superintendent at Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill Golf Course and Hominy Hill Golf Club in Colts Neck, NJ. I also served on several committees for the New Jersey GCSA from 1987 - 1992. I have always had a great interest in serving my profession more politically through the GCSANC since moving to California in 1992.

The GCSANC has a past history of serving superintendents in

## Forrest Arthur(Cont.)

a professional and ethical manner. In serving on the Board of Directors for this Association, I would vow to continue this philosophy and offer new insights to further promote our profession and industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

### Gary K. Carls, CGCS

It is a honor to be nominated to run for the Board of the GCSA of Northern California. I have been a member of this Association since 1981 and feel I have the opportunity to give something back to this Association at this time. This past year I served on the GCSANC Scholarship Committee and in 1996 I will be serving on the GCSAA Scholarship Committee. I look forward to serving our Association in an expanded role in the years to come. If elected, I will do my best to serve in the interests of our entire membership and do whatever I can to strengthen our local organization. Thank you for your support.

### Mike Nunemacher

Originally from La Crosse, Wisconsin, I came to California in 1985 to serve in the US Air Force. I served four years at Travis AFB as an electrician. In 1989 I started my own landscape business and continued the business through 1992 along with the golf course business.

I started in the golf course business at Rancho Solano in Fairfield, California. I spent three years learning the ins and outs of

## Mike Nunemacher (Cont.)

becoming a Superintendent and fulfilled one year before moving to Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton, California as the Assistant Superintendent. After eleven months as the assistant, I was promoted to Superintendent which I currently hold.

The golf course industry has been a positive influence in my life. I am looking forward to continuing my education and gaining more knowledge as I grow to be a better superintendent. By participating on the Golf Course Superintendents Board of Directors, I hope to enhance the image of the Golf Course Superintendents.

### Bruce W. Olson

We must continue to improve the ability of our Association to identify and act upon the individual and collective needs of our members. Interfacing activities with GCSAA, improved educational programs in turf, people, and business skills, and the fiscal health of the Association are areas of importance to me.

I would like an opportunity to reciprocate all the assistance the organization has given us at Emerald Hills. My current position allows me the time commitment necessary to be an effective Director.

Thank you for considering me a qualified candidate. Jim and I would be most happy to assist in any activity that would help the Association.

## Rodent Control Specialists



### Landscape Pest Control Services, Inc.

Allen Tunberg

Pest Control Advisor and Operator

P.O. Box 1166

Pleasanton, CA 94566

(510) 426-8461

State License No. 05647

## R.V.



Thompson  
Golf

Distributor

(800) 987-4002

- ◆ Plumbing
- ◆ Irrigation
- ◆ Waterworks

Don Allen, Manager  
Member GCSANC



Animal  
Damage

Management

Rodents, Birds &  
Other Nuisance Animals

Controlled

1-800-292-9845

## It's every player's responsibility...

- Repair ball marks
- Replace or fill divots
- Rake bunkers



*A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA*

To obtain a copy of this clip art for use on local golf publications or even on scorecards, contact the GCSAA Public Affairs Department

