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THRU THE GREEN

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

From The President

I accept the position as President of this Association with great humility and would like to think it means I have the full support of the membership. Next, I would like to apologize for not being able to attend the Annual Meeting at Peacock Gap. The only thing that would have prevented me from attending the meeting was personal family matters, and that is exactly what happened. I have found out in my declining years that number one priority in life is family. Work, the golf course, that big game, all pale in comparison.

The Officers and Board of Directors which you have just elected are the ones that have stepped forward in the best interests of the association. It will be up to me to work with them and the existing Board members for the overall well being and success of your Association.

I would like to thank Richard Lavine, Past President, for all his hard work during the past year. There were a lot of changes, especially with the GCSAA regarding bylaws and amendments which had to legally conform in order for us to remain affiliated. I will be leaning on you, Rich.

To sum it all up, no matter who is in charge, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California will continue to thrive and it is because of the diversity of it's members, the support of our affiliate members, and your willingness to volunteer when I ask you to be a member of a committee or work on a special project. This should be an interesting year for all of us, and I am looking forward to seeing and working with you.

Joe Rodriguez, CGCS
President

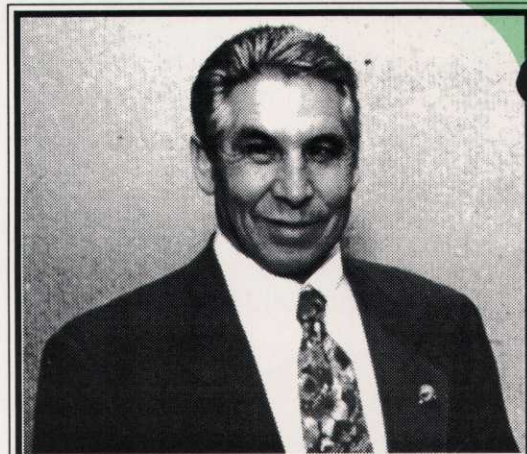
Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and "see you at the next meeting" to all retiring Officers and Directors of GCSANC.

Each year I get to work with new people, new ideas and new members in Association leadership positions. I look forward to 1996 to be an interesting and challenging year.

April rains bring May flowers . . . It also brings in new Association Directory for members. Judging by the number of job listings coming to the office, a fair number of you are changing positions and clubs. If you have moved: clubs, positions, or homes since the last membership renewal question-



Joe Rodriguez, CGCS
GCSANC President 1996-1997

"Par for the Course," the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) television program, will return to ESPN in 1996. The show, which presents a look at the world of golf and its beauty, was renewed by ESPN after a successful inaugural year on America's Total Sports Network.

Twenty-five original, half-hour episodes of "Par for the Course" will air weekly on Sunday mornings at 7:30 Eastern, beginning March 10. GCSAA feature segments which ran during ESPN-televised golf tournaments, also will return in 1996.

Every week "Par for the Course" will bring viewers a fast-paced look at the world of golf. Each episode will contain informative and entertaining stories.

"Par for the Course" episodes will re-run on ESPN every Sunday from March 10 through August 25 and will run five bonus times on weekday afternoons. "Par for the Course" will also re-run weekday evenings on ESPN2 which currently reaches more than 25 million U.S. households. ♦

naire (dues renewal questionnaire), you need to let me know. New addresses, phone numbers, clubs addresses and FAX numbers are a must to keep our directory current. If you can clip your address label off a recent GCSANC mailing and return/fax it to the office along with the changes, that would be great. Call and leave a message if you want.

Please be sure to leave me a phone number where I can contact you if you have moved. The postcards mailed by the Post Office do not contain new phone numbers!!!

USGA

Rebuilding Greens - The Journey Continues

By Pat Gross

Part I - Selecting the Organic Matter

Last month, we discussed the first and most important step of developing a root zone mix, the selection of sand. The next step is selecting an appropriate organic matter to blend with the sand. Some people question whether organic matter is even needed in the root zone mix, saying that it is too expensive and that several courses have successfully built greens without the addition of organic matter. While this may be true in some cases, there are several good reasons for including organic matter in the root zone mix. First, organic matter increases the nutrient holding capacity and moisture retention characteristics of the sand. This is very important from an environmental perspective to prevent rapid leaching of nutrients applied to the turf. Second, the addition of organic matter reduces the bulk density of the Mix. Other benefits of using organic matter include

improved green-up and establishment, better rooting stability and wear tolerance, improved gas exchange, and increased microbial activity. Actually, the addition of an organic amendment is most critical during the first few years of establishment until the turfgrass stand can generate its own organic matter through normal decomposition of roots, stems and clippings. As a comparison, the greens I have seen grown on pure sand experience significant problems during the first few years including rapid thatch accumulation (no microbial activity to break down the thatch) and they need a tremendous amount of fertilizer to sustain active growth. In my opinion, the cost of adding organic matter to the root zone mix is minimal and will give you a healthier green with fewer inputs.

Organic matter sources - The most common organic amendment is peat because of its availability and high organic matter

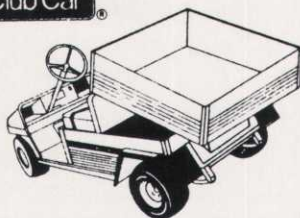
content. There is a wide variability in various peats depending on the source of the peat, degree of decomposition, pH, ash content, and moisture content. These factors can influence the performance of the root zone mix depending on the characteristics of the sand selected for construction. There is no way to determine the suitability of a particular peat or other amendment by simply looking at it - laboratory testing is a must! Other organic amendments have been used successfully including rice hulls, sawdust, and bark products. The only caution here is that the materials must be adequately composted through the thermophilic stage (when the compost pile gets very hot) to the mesophilic stabilization phase (when the pile cools off). All of these materials can be used successfully, but the bottom line is to have the materials tested by the laboratory to see which one works best

Continued on page 5

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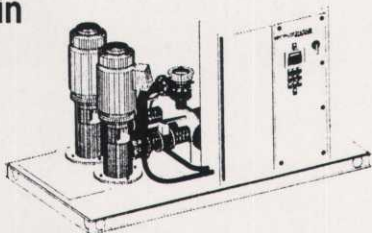
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Strictly Business

By Bob Costa

The Golf Course Superintendent profession by nature is one that could easily be described as volatile, and it's a pretty sure bet that before each of us retire and take up golf as a hobby, we will have changed jobs several times. Those who are familiar with the process know that it is often an emotional experience. By the time you've crossed the finish line, you are likely to have felt frustrated, disappointed, rejected, dejected, insecure, anxious, and if you are successful, for at least a fleeting moment, elated.

I have always viewed the job search as a three step process which includes, an objective evaluation, the search, and marketing. How well you acknowledge and prepare yourself for each of these steps will make the emotional experience a little

more palatable and is also likely to culminate in a successful ending.

I recommend you begin your job search by purchasing a new note pad, a well sharpened pencil, and find yourself a quiet location where you can be alone with your thoughts. Start by making a list of the advantages and disadvantages of your current job. If you are in between jobs, you can perform the same exercise using your previous job. You're not through yet. A second list should be developed that notes all the qualities you would seek in a new position. The list should be comprehensive and include the obvious, such as, salary, private or public facility, and location, and the not so obvious, such as challenge, potential for growth, prestige, stability and career advancement. Rank these qualities based upon priority. Keep in mind that while

searching for the right job you need to establish realistic expectations. Rarely should you expect to find a job that meets all of these qualities you've identified. Make special note of those qualities you can't live without, as well as those where there is room for compromise.

Now that you have identified the job qualities that are most important to you, ask yourself if those needs are already being met in your present job? Or perhaps with some adjustments they could be realized? If so, your job search is over, congratulations, for you, the grass is probably not greener on the other side. However, if in your objective evaluation you feel your present position will never allow you to realize your personal and professional dreams, particularly those for which you have acknowledged as priorities, it's time to continue the process. Be prepared to

have your decision questioned and challenged by those close to you. They'll refer to cliques about green grass and fences. Don't waver. Remember, without risk there is usually little reward.

Keep your lists close at hand. You will need them again and again in the weeks and months to come. They will guide you, and ultimately help in minimizing the risk of making a decision you may regret. More on this subject next month.

FYI -
CGCSA Job Hotline
619-497-5170

GCSAA Makes Plea For History

The GCSAA Historical Committee has announced plans for a future golf course maintenance museum. The museum will likely be located at headquarters in Lawrence Kansas. Until plans are finalized, members of the committee are asking anyone who has equipment, or written materials of historical value to hang on to them. Details of the historical museum will be forthcoming.

Holmquist Elected As The Affiliate Representative

John Holmquist of Automatic Rain was elected as the affiliate representative at the annual meeting on April 25th. John, replaces Bob Whitacker from NSTC Farmtec, who's two year term expired. He is joined on the board by Mike Ligon from H.V. Carter. Congratulations!



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Don Naumann
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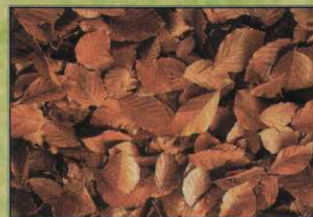


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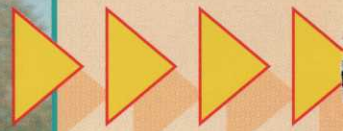


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By simply changing the straight flails to cupped flails, the Goossen Super Rake 'n Vac can mow grass and vacuum up the clippings all in a single pass. A full width anti-scalp roller minimizes chances of turf damage.



All the vacuumed material is blown into a large 4' x 6' x 8' trailer which has a 150-bushel capacity.

Unloading the trailer is a breeze with its hydraulically controlled dumping action which automatically opens the rear door and then closes it once the load is dumped. The operator never leaves the seat of the tractor. A smaller 100-bushel trailer is also available.

The hydraulic controls to raise the lower deck and to dump the trailer are all located within arm's reach of the operator's seat.

The Goossen Super Rake 'n Vac's unique three-deck design provides total flexibility, allowing the operator to



T I L L I T Y

designing the new Goossen Super Rake 'n Vac.



Features:

- Light-weight aluminum extrusion, 10" dia., 10-row poly brush
- Automatic endgate
- Adjustable, sealed connection between vacuum chute and enclosed trailer
- Hydraulic controls for flail deck lift cylinder, bed lift cylinder, brush drive

choose a specific deck for a specific application. To buy three separate pieces of equipment could cost five times more, making the Goossen Super Rake 'n Vac a true bargain with unmatched versatility.

Decks available are:

Rake 'n Vac which combines rotating flails, brush and vacuum to rake the turf and then vacuum up the loose debris.

Brush 'n Vac which utilizes a 10" counter-rotating brush and vacuum to sweep areas clean of small debris.

Vacuum Only deck which concentrates the power of the 32" blower to vacuum a 96" wide swath.

Changing the decks is quick and simple. Disconnect one, roll it out, roll the next deck into place and reconnect. It all takes about 15 minutes.



Jon Kaufman
Designing Engineer

The new Goossen Super Rake 'n Vac is the result of five years of listening to our customers and working hard to meet their demands. That dedication has brought about several new and innovative features that will continue to make the Goossen Super Rake 'n Vac the best-selling product of its kind. We here at Goossen Industries hope you'll try our products and find out for yourself why people like you look to us for solutions.

The New Goossen Super Rake 'n Vac

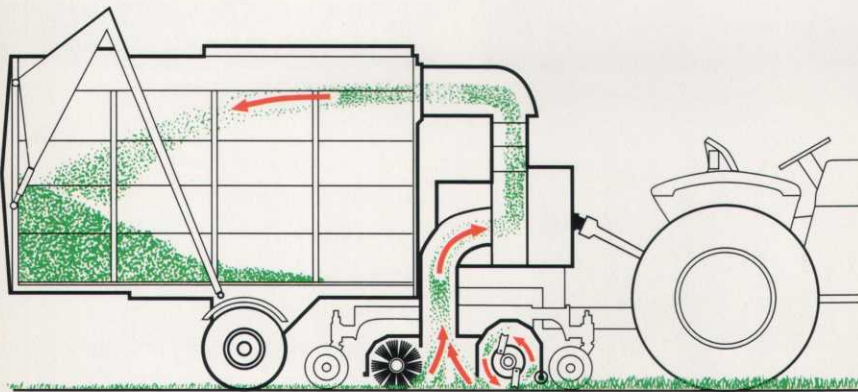


Illustration shows material flow through Super Rake 'n Vac system.



An optional 8" x 20' hand-held vacuum attachment is also available for cleaning those hard to reach areas.

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Specifications:

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Deck dimensions: 11" x 35" x 70"
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- **Vac Deck**
Powered by: 540 P.T.O.
Blower dimensions: 32" diameter fan
Swath width: 96"
Floating head: 4 casters
- **Brush Deck**
Powered by: Tractor hydraulics
Swath width: 70"
Floating head: 4 casters
- **Trailer**
Lift cylinder powered by: Tractor hydraulics
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Rebuilding Greens (Cont.)

in your sand.

Weight or Volume? - Most people still describe root zone mixes on a volume to volume basis such as a 90:10 mix or 80:20 mix. One of the most significant changes to the 1993 USGA Recommendations for Putting Green Construction was the requirement that the labs report the percentage of organic matter by weight. This is more precise because the volume of a peat or other organic source can be distinctly different due to particle size, density, and how it was handled. It was far more difficult to get an accurate measurement on a volume basis because you never knew if the organic matter was measured in a compressed state or fluffed up. Also, an 80:20 mix with fir bark may end up having the same amount of organic matter as a 90:10 mix with Sphagnum peat. As you can see, this led to much confusion. The new recommendations suggest an organic matter content of 1 to 5 percent by weight determined by loss on ignition. Burning the peat determines the actual organic matter content aside from any water or soil that may be in the peat and gives a more precise measurement. Once again, have the material tested by a physical soils testing laboratory.

What Material do I choose?

- Some people may have the luxury of choosing from several good locally available organic amendments. In this case, you want to verify the quality and consistency of the product, and test the material for compatibility with your sand. After the laboratory has done some performance tests, it may be easier to see which material gives you the desired results at an economic price.

Pitfalls - Some of the common pitfalls associated with the organic component of the root zone mix involve the handling and mixing of the material with the sand. Sometimes a sample of the organic matter will be sent to the lab for testing without being fluffed or shredded the same way it is during mixing. The handling procedures and degree of shredding can have a significant effect on the particle size of the amendment, and this will influence the performance of the mix. Be sure to talk with the laboratory and the blender to be sure they are handling and mixing the material in a similar fashion. Also, have the laboratory and the blender discuss the moisture content of both the sand and organic amendment since this directly effects the

relative weight measurements. The other common mistake is bucket mixing or trying to rototill the amendment into the root zone. I have one simple recommendation - **DON'T DO IT!** I made this bonehead mistake several years ago while constructing a putting green nursery. That poor course is still living with fudge marble layers in the

root zone because of my error. Have the materials mixed off site by a reputable soil blender and you will be more assured of getting a homogeneous mix.

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Conditions Rival Those of Augusta At Annual Meeting

By Bob Costa

Under **weather** conditions rivalling those of the "96" Masters, Peacock Gap Golf and Country Club played host to the GCSANC annual meeting. President Rich Lavine, presided over the meeting which featured the election of new officers, awards presentations and the long awaited vote on the bylaw amendments. The days events were capped with a golf tournament attended by over 90 players.

Seventy voting members were in attendance at the business meeting which was called to order at 9:45 a.m. After the minutes of the last meeting were read by Ken Schwark, Rich asked for a moment of silence to remember former members Kasu Maseba, and Stanley Pitcher who passed away during the year.

The microphone was then passed into the capable hands of Brian Bagley who, with some help from those in the first row, proceeded with the election of officers. Joe Rodriguez, who was unable to attend the meeting due to family business, was elected as the new President. The hotly contested Vice President's position was won by Blake Swint. Dave Davies, who served in a number of board positions with the Sierra Nevada Chapter, was elected Secretary Treasurer. Five candidates, and floor nominee Ken Schwark vied for the two available board of directors positions. Gary Carls and Wayne Lindeloff emerged as the victors.

Dr. Ali Harivandi stepped to the podium next and gave a brief summary of the research projects that are scheduled for this year. Ali, with the assistance from the staff at Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course, will be examining 40 bentgrass varieties and evaluating their performance with reclaimed water. Dr. Harivandi noted that he will be off to New Zealand this summer to present the results of the bentgrass trials he conducted recently. Numerous other projects are ongoing Dr. Harivandi stated, including a buffalograss overseeding study.

The awards presentation followed, with last years recipients making the presentations. Randy Gai was honored as the Superintendent of the Year, with Larry Norman winning an award for Turfgrass Excellence. Other winners included Mike Clark for Distinguished Service and Ben Showard who was named the Affiliate of the Year. Recognized for 25 years of membership was Stan Burgess and for fifty years Bert Graves.

Scholarship winners were up next. This years winners were introduced to the gathering by committee chairperson Roger Martinez. Roger acknowledged the following recipients: Dale Engman - Cal Poly SLO, Donna Burris - American River College, Jason Green - Cal Poly SLO, Kevin Reguera - Cal Poly SLO, Stephan Leas - U.C. Davis, Trent Barr - Cal Poly Pomona, Zach Martin - Butte College, Valerie Ficken - Cal Poly SLO, Thomas March - Cal Poly SLO.

The meeting adjourned after a few final comments from Rich, who thanked the members of the board, with whom he worked during the last year. Rich also thanked all the candidates who made the effort to run for an office and encouraged future participation from the membership.

Superintendent of the Year Award



Pictured above: Randy Gai, CGCS, receives Superintendent of the Year from Leon Snethen.

Fifty Years of Membership

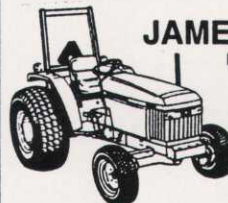


Pictured above: Richard Lavine, President, presents fifty year pin to Bert Graves

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Naumann's NorCal News

Dana Waldor has left hidden Valley Lake County Club in Middletown to become the superintendent at Creekside Golf Club in Modesto. Creekside is owned by the City of Modesto but managed by Environmental Golf. They also manage the other city golf courses.....Course Co has taken over the lease at Crystal

Springs Golf Course in Hillsborough. Ray Davies will soon be taking over as superintendent there as soon as he and his family can get moved over from Merced. He was the superintendent at Merced County Club prior to his move.

Reed Equipment Co. has divested themselves of their industrial equipment, so they may concentrate on the Turf Machinery market. John Deere's continuing growth in the turf

industry has resulted in the reorganization. Reed's corporate office will be at 1551 Stimson Road in Stockton, CA. Their phone and fax numbers will remain the same. Reed is currently acquiring a facility in Fresno. Carl Reed will be the C.E.O. and Steve Reed will be President. The four outside salesmen are Sal Sorbello, Bob Neal, Dick Howe and Denny Lehman.

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Bylaws Passage Sets State for GCSAA Affiliation

All Four groups of the bylaw revisions were passed at the annual meeting held at Peacock Gap Golf and Country Club on April 25th. The revisions pave the way for a renewed affiliation agreement to be signed with the GCSAA.

The most significant changes as a result of the bylaw amendments were the restructuring of the membership

classes, and the addition of a student member ship. The newly created Class C membership is designated for all assistant superintendents. Under the terms of the bylaws, Class C members are not eligible to vote. Associate classification has been modified to accommodate members who are employed at a golf course, without title. A and B membership status

is reserved for active golf course superintendents. Classification is based upon years of service.

The pending affiliation agreement with the GCSAA will require future GCSANC Class A and B members to become joint members with GCSAA. The joint membership requirement will become effective in July 1997.

R.V.



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1996 Scholarship winners: Jason Green - Cal Poly SLO, Zach Martin - Butte College, Kevin James Reguera - Cal Poly SLO, Valerie Fricken - Cal Poly SLO, Trent Barr - Cal Poly Pomona, Thomas March - Cal Poly SLO, Stephen Leas - U.C. Davis, Roger Martinez, Scholarship Committee Chair. Not pictures: Dale Engman - Cal Poly SLO and Donna Burris - American River College



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