

EDITOR

ROBERT J. COSTA, CGCS
408-373-3701

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

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THRU THE GREEN

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

From The President Office Notes

For those of us who were fortunate enough to have made the cut and were able to attend the meeting at San Juan Oaks Golf Club, it was truly a privilege and a treat. Brad Langley, Golf Course Superintendent and Scott Fuller, Vice President have much to be proud of. It was a pleasure and a rare opportunity for us to play a brand new golf course unmarred by divots. Personally, I was in awe of the maintenance facility. So, thanks again to the management and staff at San Juan Oaks for the opportunity to preview a first class golfing facility.

I have just finished reading "Thru The Green" our monthly newsletter. I passed it on to a couple of our club members to read and comment on. They were very impressed with the content and quality and I certainly agree with them. I think the person most responsible for the newsletter should be commended and thanked for all of his efforts. So, next time you see Robert Costa, CGCS, let him know his endeavors are appreciated. Bob is also our Program Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Education Committee which is responsible for the Golf Course Superintendents Institute.

In another area, I have appointed Wayne Lindelof, CGCS to chair a committee composed of Blake Swint, Chuck Weatheron Sr. and myself. This committee will look into the fee structure for Class A Life and other retired members in regard to monthly meetings. I feel very positive about the outcome and I would heartily recommend a policy change to eliminate and in some instances lower costs to those who have served and been a part of this Association for so many years. See you at the next meeting.

Joseph Rodriguez, CGCS
President

I am sorry to hear of the passing of Lou Poulson. This man was truly an asset to the Golf Industry. I would not be where I am today if I didn't have Lou to lean on. He was my neighbor and mentor at my first job as Superintendent in Redding, too many years ago. At a call he would come over and give me the advice I needed to keep grass alive or equipment running. Always in good humor, it would be very rare not to see a smile on his face. His passing is a loss to our Industry. God bless Lou and Betty Poulson.

Corey Eastwood, CGCS

By: Barbara Mikel

I hope by the time you read this article you have at least received your 1997 Dues renewal questionnaire and invoice. Maybe you have forwarded that invoice to your accounting department. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you the Association needs your questionnaire returned to keep our information current. Information on the right side is regarding your current employment, position and address. Below is alternate information. Your home address if you receive your Association mail at work. Your business address if your Association mail is received at home. Please read this carefully. The blanks at the bottom of the page are for correcting information. Use as needed.

Please explain to your accounting department to include this questionnaire with your payment. We cannot review your membership without the questionnaire. It helps me and saves your Association dollars if I do not have to make follow up calls or mailings for the questionnaire. If you want, mail it directly to the office with a note, "the check will follow." Don't delay, review the information, fill in the questionnaire and forward for payment promptly.

Dues are payable upon receipt and are delinquent when received after December 31, 1996. A late charge of \$20.00 will be assessed January, 1997. "Any members whose dues shall remain unpaid at the end of January shall be dropped from the membership roll of this Association without further notice." (Association Bylaws, page 85)

Classifications printed reflect changes which were made necessary by the Bylaws adopted in April 1996. If you have questions, call the office of the Association Membership Chairman, Wayne Lindelof.

Did You Know?

Employers can be found liable for failing to perform sufficient background checks on employees. In cases involving violent behavior in the work place, employers have incurred liability if it has been demonstrated that the employer should have been aware of an employee's violent past. To protect yourself and your business, information obtained as part of a reference check should be documented. If an employee's past employer(s) are reluctant to provide reference information, make a note of this as well. Demonstrating a desire to obtain information, even if none was provided, is a viable defense.



Research Report (Cont'd)

apply to some of the questions we have locally. In cooperation with the Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course, Dr. Harivandi has established bentgrass varieties. Under the direction of Curtis Black and Chris Gose, the staff at Sunnyvale has maintained the plots for mowing height, fertility and moisture levels. All of the cultural work is performed by the Sunnyvale staff as part of their regular maintenance program. In addition to their volunteer efforts, vendors in the local area have helped with donations and discounts for supplies and materials.

The results of the Bentgrass trials were published in 1995. The completion of the Trials has allowed Dr. Harivandi to use the plots for new research. Current research on the plots involves the use of reclaimed water. Data will be analyzed comparing salt, sodium and chloride levels in the soil with those found in the water source. In addition monitoring will be done monthly for Quality, Color and Density as well as Poa Infestation. These tests are expected to last three years.

Dr. Harivandi also has a number of turf related tests underway at the Santa Clara Field Station. Testing currently being performed includes:

- Characteristics and herbicide tolerance of hard fescue varieties
- Nitrogen and Iron effects on tall fescue
- Zoysiagrass cultivar comparison
- Buffalograss cultivar comparison which includes tolerances to post emergent

Web Sites:

GCSAA Home Page - <http://www.GCSAA.ORG>

Michigan State University. - <http://www.LIB.MSU.EDU/TGIF>

www.GCSAA.ORG. The USGA has a listing of completed research topics published in the 1995 Turfgrass & Environmental Research Summary. Call Golf House at (908) 234-2300 for information on receiving a copy. Michigan State University has an informational network that can be utilized for a fee. Information on that service can be found at (517) 353-7209. They also have information available on their Home Page, <http://www.LIB.MSU.EDU/TGIF>.

The USGA also has site visits available by staff Agronomists. This service

pesticides

- Crabgrass management study

National research can also be accessed through a number of sources. GCSAA has information available through both the Research Department and Information Services. There is work being done currently to update the GCSAA database and information should be available in the coming months on the GCSAA Home Page. Check out their Home Page at <http://>

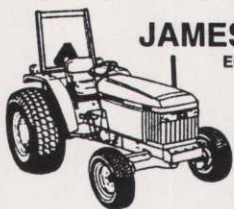
is provided for a fee and can be very valuable when trying to document problems for presentations to your membership or Board of Directors. The Western Region Office for USGA can be reached at (714) 457-9464. Last and certainly not least, we all have a professional network that allows us to pick up the phone, call another superintendent and ask for their help, confirm a recommendation or just look for some moral support.

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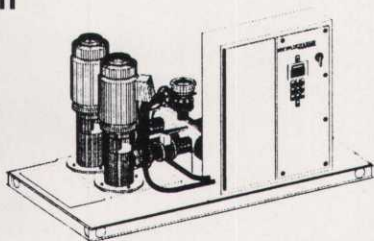
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It's Been A Tough Year

By: Pat Gross, Agronomist, Western Region

Years like this are bound to happen. After a few relatively wet winters and mild summers, the cycle always seems to swing around and we get a hot humid summer that really tests the environmental limits of the turf. The summer of 1996 was just such a season for superintendents throughout the southwest-ern United States. Many courses experienced turf loss on greens and fairways. It was unfortunate to see the angry gaze of course officials and worried look on many superintendent's faces, many of whom believed they were the only ones with dead grass. While many superintendents predicted and anticipated the problems, the cures were not always completely effective. As a reference, the following trends were observed throughout the Southwest this past summer. If you experienced these problems, take heart and know that you were not alone.

Turf Diseases

Beginning in late July, many courses experienced severe problems with anthracnose and summer patch. Higher than normal temperatures with prolonged heat and humidity starting earlier in the year were just too much for most putting greens. While many of the turf pathology books describe anthracnose as a weak secondary pathogen, I strongly disagree with this assessment in the southwest - it is a devastating disease on *Poa annua*/creeping bentgrass greens. Both anthracnose and summer patch are stress related diseases that appear to be more severe as soil salinity increases during the summer.

Courses with the most success followed a religious aerification and leaching program starting in late spring, and carefully monitored irrigation applications — some to the point of exclusively handwatering the greens and turning off the automatic irrigation system. This also seemed to be an unusually heavy year for Southern Blight on greens and fairways. This could be the result of some superintendents shying away from the use of *Bayleton* in the spring.

Salinity and Water Management

Salinity accumulation continues to be a major problem in western soils, especially on greens. Layered greens presented the biggest challenge. It was very difficult for some superintendents to find an acceptable balance between controlling salinity through leaching and trying to avoid anaerobic black layer. The best approach seemed to be aerifying the greens with 3/8" hollow tines prior to leaching, and then allowing the greens to gradually dry while hand watering dry spots as necessary.

Another interesting thing happened while reviewing water tests for a particular golf course that uses effluent water. The effluent is used from January through October and then the supply changes to Colorado River water. The salinity graph showed moderate levels from January to October, and then salt levels jumped off the chart in October. Many of us assume that effluent water is higher in salinity and that our problems would be solved by using potable water. This is not always the case. Some potable sources are as high or higher in salinity. The moral of the story is

to investigate the source of your water and monitor water quality throughout the year. Many courses have been experiencing salinity problems in early winter, possibly as a result of using Colorado River water.

Black Turfgrass Ataenius Beetle

The Black Turfgrass Ataenius Beetle continues to cause problems on greens, especially in the Palm Springs area. While the new insecticide *Merit* showed good control earlier in the year, multiple life cycles of this pest caused serious damage later in the year. The small grubs can be difficult to locate and identify, and the damage is often mistaken for localized dry spots. More and more courses are reporting damage from BTA, and superintendents should start their monitoring programs earlier in the spring to identify adult flights and anticipate egg laying.

Looking at a bad year in a good light.

Sometimes, difficult years are a good learning experience that allow superintendents and course officials to evaluate their programs and make necessary changes. Problems that result in devastating turf loss can often lead to course officials finally taking the necessary steps to solve the problem (e.g. replace the irrigation system, remove some trees, rebuild the greens, etc.) Most of the problems did not occur over night. Many greens are predisposed to turf damage from excessive shade, solid layering, or lack of drainage. While many golfers don't understand the problem until they see the damage, this was a good year to demonstrate what can happen in a tough year. ♦



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Information Services Committee Report

Richard Lavine, CGCS

The Information Services Committee (ISC) met in Lawrence on October 5 & 6. The ISC, now in its second year as a standing committee, is charged with providing guidance and direction to the Information Services Department at GCSAA. I will attempt to provide you with a brief overview of the topics that we discussed.

• **GCSAA Bookstore** -There was discussion of the books and videos available for sale, as well as the possibility of producing some videos in-house. Suggestions for new material are always welcome.

• **Audiovisual Loan Program** -This discussion focused on the underutilization of this program. The program was only used by 198 members and 28 nonmembers all last year. Unless the usage goes up, this library is in a *use it or lose it* mode. This library is a great resource for many purposes, and at only \$5

per tape, it's a great bargain. Please take advantage of this service.

• **Historical Preservation / Archives Program / Environmental Resources Library**

-These programs are all being handled by our librarian and her new assistant. They are sorting and archiving all past historical documents for the future, including the Payne Collection of equipment at Michigan State and Cal Poly Universities. The librarian is expecting a donation of about 250,000 slides very soon. The librarian is also charged with GCSAA records retention. The Environmental Resources Library is working with a \$40,000 grant from Lebanon Turf Products to collect and catalog information on golf course environmental issues. The committee approved an agreement in principle to develop a joint working arrangement with Kansas University Environmental Studies Program.

• **Information Services** -There are over 30 subjects available as information packets. They distributed over 1,500 packets last year.

• **GCSAA World Wide Web** -(<http://www.gcsaa.org/gcsaa>) To date, there have been over 1/4 million "hits" by the general public and our members in the first four months of operation. New information is added daily. A second employee is being added to the Web. SOP's were agree upon for the Web Site operation. There was discussion of adding a chat line to the Web Site.

This report is a very brief overview of our very fast paced committee meeting. If you would like any additional information on our committee's activities, feel free to contact me. The full listing of all the services offered by the Information Services Department is listed in the Professional Development Catalog or on-line at the above address.

GCSAA Certification Celebrates Its 25th Year

September marked the Silver Anniversary of the GCSAA Certification Program. The original certification committee members sought to develop a program that would promote professionalism of golf course superintendents and create a designation worldwide. Their success is apparent with over 1,600 members currently certified.

The significance of the Certified Golf Course Superintendent designation is evident from the process and accomplishments required to achieve it. To attain certified status individuals must be currently employed as a golf course superintendent, meet the prescribed education and experience requirements, pass a six hour exam and an on site golf course evaluation.

As of this writing the GCSANC boast s forty-five certified superintendents. In celebration of the 25th anniversary GC-SANC recognizes the following for their achievement:

Edwin Don Bale, CGCS

Peter Bowman, CGCS

Brigid Braun, CGCS

Gary K. Carls, CGCS

Stephen L. Carlton, CGCS

Michael R. Clark, CGCS

Robert J. Costa, CGCS

David R. Davies, CGCS

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Richard M. Lange, CGCS

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Brian W. Morris, CGCS

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Joseph A. Rodriguez, CGCS



Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of GCSAA's Certification Program

David Lee Rosenstrauch, CGCS

Kenneth A. Sakai, CGCS

Gary Sayre, CGCS

Allan Schlothauer, CGCS

Tim J. Sedgley, CGCS

David A. Sexton, CGCS

Michael Simpson, CGCS

Santokh Sam Singh, CGCS

Sohan Singh, CGCS

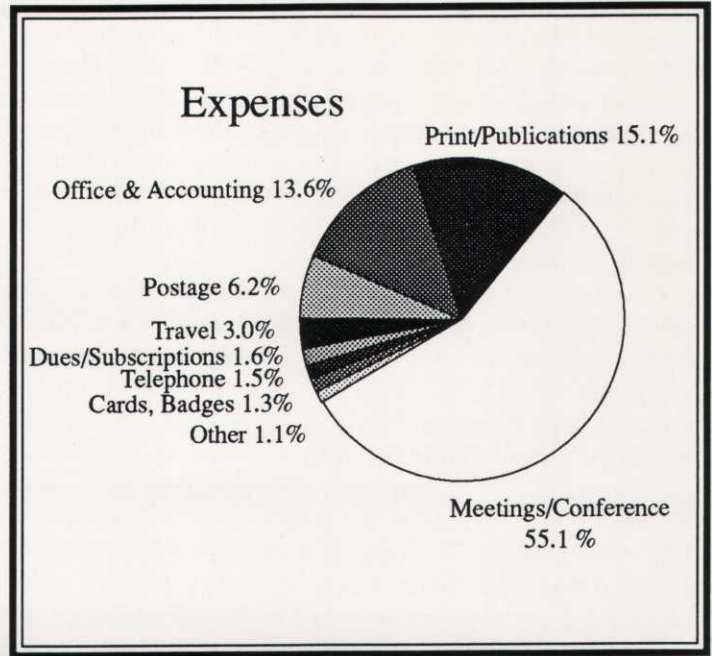
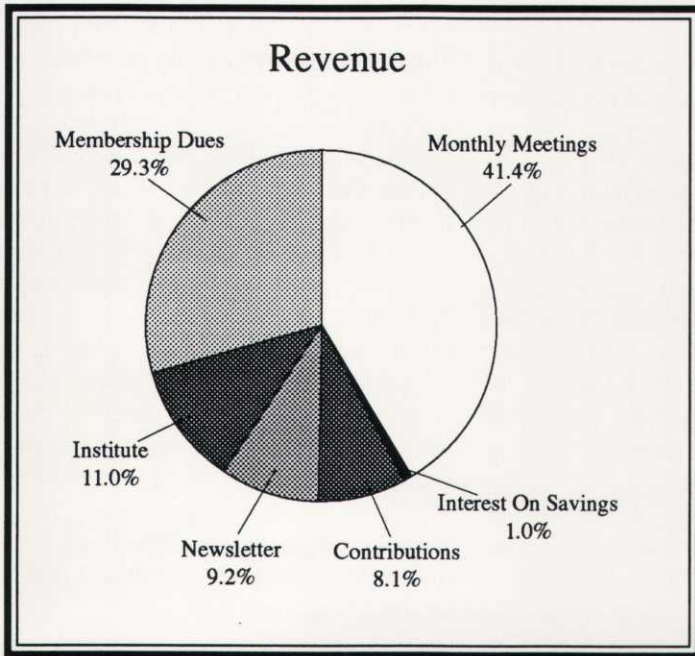
Scott Szydloski, CGCS

Timothy Thilo, CGCS

Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS

Ken Williams, CGCS

The Budget — A Closer Look



At the annual meeting at Peacock Gap, I heard a question repeated that comes up twice each year, "Where does my dues money go?" I say twice because we all ask when our renewal notice comes each fall and someone asks when the annual Treasurers report is read. Since I am now in the position to be able to address the question, perhaps I can shed some light on the subject.

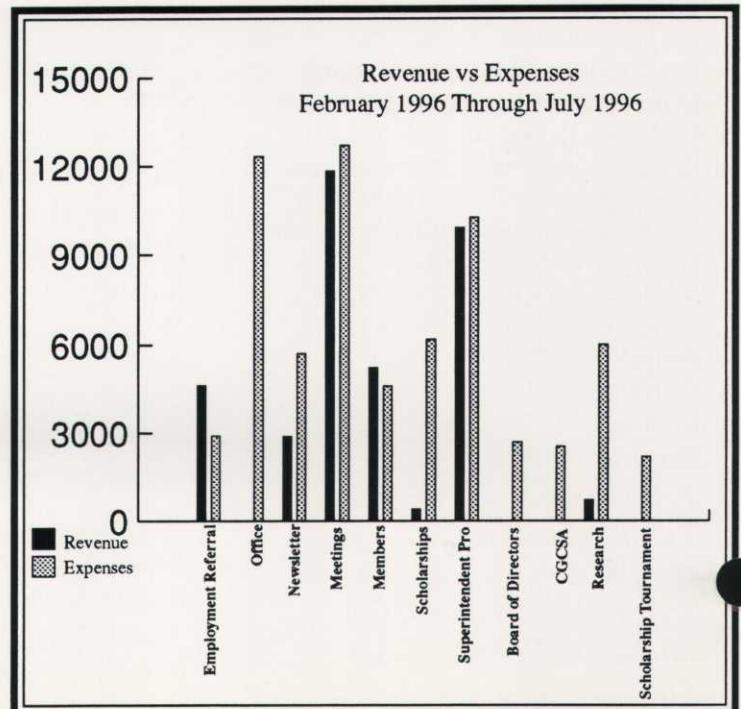
I am sure you are all aware of the fact that our Association pays Barbara Mikel to do the work she does. Barb takes very good care of our interests as well as keeps our day to day organization in proper running order. In addition to these administrative costs there are items that require payments such as annual Directors insurance, monthly Board meetings, telephones and tax preparation. All of these items are included in the Administrative costs for the Association. We conduct a number of operations and functions throughout the course of the year that the Association takes a loss on. Our monthly newsletter, State dues, scholarships and our monthly meetings are subsidized by the Association treasury. In addition, we have special functions such as the Christmas Party and Superintendent/Pro Tournament that do not pay for themselves.

The question of the annual Treasurer's Report is easy to answer. We take a reading of current balances in our operating accounts and compare it to last year's report. Unfortunately there is no consideration given to the time of year we get the data. Our report comes out a few months after receipt of all membership dues for the 450-500 members we have, without benefit of the expenses we will incur during the course of the year. This will naturally give us a glowing report, however it is less than realistic.

I have included a few simple charts that may make this easier to understand. The bar graph is somewhat inconclusive, reflecting only six months of financial activity. The pie charts illustrate revenue and expenses for the fiscal year, 1995. Our percentages follow very

closely to those listed by GCSAA for similar income and expense ledgers. The questions of which items are subsidized are discussed and approved by the Board as a matter of policy. Information on any policy decisions is always available to our members. Hopefully the answers have make the questions more clear. If not you are always welcome to call any of the Board members or me specifically to try and make things more understandable.

Revenue & Expense Chart



Drainage, Waste Management To Be Featured At Institute

With an established goal of "Providing Information for Responsible Turfgrass Management" the program for the 1996 Golf Course Superintendents' Institute appears to be right on the mark. Drainage, an important topic to many Northern California superintendents will be featured in the morning session. The program provides a comprehensive look at drainage that will include a discussion on the factors that effect water movement in the soils, the conditions that contribute to poor drainage, how to design, layout and construct drainage systems and the options that are available to solve drainage problems. The featured speaker, Scott Kuhn is a partner in a Pacific Northwest engineering firm specializing in sports turf drainage. Scott is familiar with problems associated with golf course drainage and will be able to provide some practical information on design, layout and drainage solutions.

After a break for lunch and a walk through the trade show, the program resumes with a discussion on a very important topic facing superintendents nationally, waste management. Attendees will receive information on how to legally and responsibly manage wastes that are generated as part of a golf course operation, as well as how waste management programs can be promoted throughout the community. The session will highlight the model program developed by the Pebble Beach Company and will feature several of their staff members.

The program concludes in the afternoon with the always informative Superintendents Forum, again covering the topic of drainage. Dean Gump, Tony Steers and Dave Sexton will discuss their personal experiences with a variety of drainage solutions including sand channel installation and sand topdressing.

Although intended to be a sidelight of the Institute, this year's golf program offers plenty of excitement as well. One of legendary golf course architect Alister MacKenzie's finest, Pasatiempo Golf Club is this year's host course and it guarantees to be a memorable experience for those who play.

For social relief a cocktail party is scheduled at the conclusion of golf on Monday evening. The party will be held at the Coconut Grove and will occur simultaneously with the opening session of the trade show.



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Quick Quotes

*"I've tried relaxing, but . . . I don't know —
I feel more comfortable tense."*

— Unknown —



GCSAA Public Relations Committee Sets Agenda for 1997

By Bob Costa

The Public Relations Committee, comprised of ten superintendents from across the U.S. and Canada, along with Director Scott Woodhead and GCSAA staff, met on October 4th & 5th to evaluate current GCSAA public relations efforts and to review and prioritize future activities. The committee was unanimous in its praise of GCSAA's Communications Department for their efforts in promoting the Golf Course Superintendents profession. Committee members noted the success of programs such as, *Par For The Course* as examples of how the identity of the golf course superintendent has increased within the golfing community.

To measure the success of the GCSAA public relations campaign the group identified three areas of focus; increased respect among employers and the community, financial status, and an increased role as a member of the management team. In each case, the committee felt the programs instituted by GCSAA had led to significant improvements.

Although the programs developed by GCSAA have done much to improve the superintendent's image, Scott Woodhead emphasized the need for a grass roots effort. "There is only so much the GCSAA can do," Woodhead said, "At some point it's up to the individual members to take an interest in public relations."

During the two day meeting, it was noted that an educational campaign needs to be developed to help superintendents improve their understanding of public relations and identify how superintendents stand to benefit from an improved image. "Public relations is a part of everything you do," said GCSAA's Public Relations manager, Jeff Bollig. "It's reflected in your attitude, the manner in which you communicate, act, and dress. Superintendents need to be aware of this." To increase superintendents awareness of public relations, P/R tips and articles will be featured in *Newsline* and *Golf Course Management*.

In a summary of 1996 public relations programs, Scott Smith, Director of Media Relations reported that *Par For The Course* enjoyed another successful season and will be back on ESPN in 1997. Smith emphasized that the purpose of the show is not to provide information for superintendents, but rather to promote the GCSAA and the Golf Course Superintendents profession throughout the golfing and non-golfing communities. Other 1996 highlights

included, syndicated news articles, public services announcements, media exposure at major golf events, the creation of a web site, a members media relations guidebook, informational posters and participation in the development of environmental principles.

With regard to projects for 1997, GCSAA will continue to focus on projects that enhance the superintendents value to their employer, as well as their value to the game of golf. ♦

Sonar Makes Splash in California Market

By: Bob Costa

This past spring California Superintendents were greeted with more than just the challenges of another busy summer, it marked the registration of Sonar*, a new generation aquatic herbicide. Originally developed by Eli Lilly and currently marketed by SePRO, Sonar first arrived on the California market in 1989 under a special use permit to treat Hydrilla. In 1994, Hydrilla was discovered in Clear Lake. The problem was potentially severe enough that it threatened the state's water supply. This threat, coupled with Sonar's proven efficacy on Hydrilla paved the way for its current California registration.

What makes Sonar unique? Its chemistry, similar to a pharmaceutical compound inhibits selected aquatic weeds ability to manufacture carbohydrates by interrupting the process of photosynthesis. The result is a gradual degradation of the plant. Symptoms, which appear as bleaching of terminal growth points usually occur within 7 to 10 days. Within 30 to 90 days, control is usually achieved. Because weed kill occurs over an extended period of time, plants are controlled without oxygen deprivation, or subsequent fish kill.

Applications of Sonar are easily made along lake banks. Within 24 hours the compound Fluridone is uniformly dispersed and absorption through the leaves, shoots and roots of susceptible plants begins. Maintaining adequate concentrations of the product for 30 days is vital to its success. This can be accomplished through the use of exciting new technology referred to as the FastEST. The process involves submitting a water sample to SePRO, where it is then analyzed for the purpose of determining

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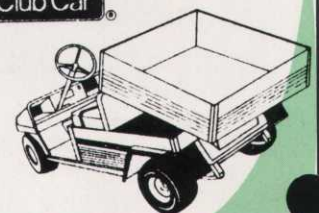
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Sonar Splash (Cont'd)

the concentration of active Ingredient. Levels minute as a part per billion can be detected and sequential applications, if needed, can be scheduled. The ability to monitor concentrations of fluridone can be particularly important in large bodies of water and in conditions when irrigation is considered. Irrigation of turfgrass according to label instruction should be delayed for 30 days.

Chemical treatments to lakes usually implies frequent repeat treatments. Under most conditions a single application of Sonar can provide acceptable levels of control for one to two years. An obvious benefit to the environment, and to a labor conscious superintendent.

By no means is Sonar a panacea to aquatic weed control. Its range of control is limited, (see label for weeds controlled) however it does provide an exiting new alternative for aquatic weed management. Like all chemicals, it should be used as a component of a comprehensive weed management program. ♦

Naumann's NorCal News

Carl King is the new superintendent at Merced Country Club in Merced. He is replacing Ray Davies who moved on to Crystal Springs GC in Burlingame. Carl most recently was with Western Golf driving the accessory truck. Prior to that he was the Supt. at Delta View Golf Course in Pittsburg... Two new golf courses just opened up in Northern California in October, San Juan Oaks Golf Club in Hollister is a Fred Couples/Gene Bates design, Brand Langley is the Supt. In Livermore, Poppy Ridge Golf Course owned by the NCGA, is a 27 hole course designed by Rees Jones. Todd Cook is the Supt. . . . On Tuesday, October 8, the thermometer reached 108° F hitting an all time all season record. The next day the temperature hit 68° F. Who says its easy to grow grass on the coast.

Boardroom Briefs

- ♦ Barbara Mikel noted that she will be ordering new membership cards for 1997 renewals. The cards will reflect classification changes for some members, a result of the bylaw changes approved by the membership at the April annual meeting.
- ♦ The Board approved a motion to pay 50% (not to exceed \$500.00) of the costs associated with the education program for the joint meeting with Sierra Nevada.
- ♦ Bob Costa requested that he be relieved of his duties as Program Chairman at the conclusion of the January general meeting. Bob's request was made due to his increased responsibilities as Education Committee Chairman, and Newsletter Editor. Gary Carls will likely assume the Program Chairmanship.
- ♦ Gary Carls reported that one scholarship application has been received to date, however he anticipates several more to arrive as the November 15th deadline approaches.
- ♦ Blake Swint unveiled a new format for the Christmas party, which will include an expedited scoring system. Results of the tournament will be announced shortly after golf allowing winners to utilize their gift certificates. This change, along with an earlier start for cocktails and dinner will provide less interruption during the party.
- ♦ The Board, always eager for membership input, will periodically be using the monthly meeting registration forms to solicit comments from members on various subject matter.
- ♦ Board members have requested data on monthly meeting costs, and a breakdown of attendance by member classification. The information will be reviewed at a future meeting and recommendations will be forthcoming.
- ♦ Bob Costa announced a proposed deal, to provide logoed merchandise to the membership. The Board requested that sample items be displayed at the Institute for the purpose of obtaining membership feedback. The arrangement would allow members to order NorCal logoed merchandise direct from the Manufacturer..
- ♦ The 65th anniversary of the GCSANC will be highlighted at the general meeting in January.
- ♦ The Board has authorized Barbara Mikel to submit an application to GCSAA for a computer training program scheduled for next spring. If selected Barbara would fly to Lawrence where she would receive free Microsoft software and be trained in its use for chapter activities.

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