

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

PRESIDENT

JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ, CGCS
Rossmoor Golf Course

VICE-PRESIDENT

BLAKE SWINT
Castlewood Country Club

SEC'Y/TREASURER

DAVE DAVIES, CGCS
Palo Alto Muni Golf Course

PAST PRESIDENT

RICHARD LAVINE, CGCS
Peacock Gap Golf & CC

DIRECTORS

GARY CARLS, CGCS
San Jose Municipal Golf Course

ROBERT COSTA, CGCS
Laguna Seca Golf Course

WAYNE LINDELOF, CGCS
Lone Tree Golf Course

FORREST ARTHUR
The Links At Spanish Bay

AFFILIATE ADVISORS

MIKE LIGON
H. V. Carter Co.

JOHN HOLMQUIST
Automatic Rain Co..

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

This past year has been a busy and fulfilling experience. As I head for completion of my last month as President of our Association, I just want to say that it has been an honor to serve our membership and I also appreciate the support I have received.

Most of you probably appreciate the fact that you will not have to be bored by my monthly messages anymore.

My tenure as President of this great Association this past year is proof that any one of our members can serve our group. All you need is an exceptional group of individuals in place as officers and directors. Their concern and dedication to do the right thing for our membership made my job easy. I thank each one of them for their time and hard work.

I am trying to keep this message brief, but it's difficult because there are individuals which I feels must be recognized for their contributions to our Association. Barbara Mikel, our Executive Secretary is one of them. Thanks Barbara, for doing an outstanding job and keep us on our toes. Bob Costa, our Newsletter Editor has also transformed our Newsletter into a very professional publication. If you take the time to read it you will know exactly what is going on. I think the addition of the Boardroom Briefs section was a great idea and we thank you.

Another person who deserves credit is Mr. Richard Lavine, CGCS. Rich did a wonderful job as Affiliation agreement with the National Association and his concern and hard work deserves to be recognized.

Recognition is also due our affiliate members who have been so supportive all year. Their generosity and support for many of our special events has contributed to the success of these ventures and I thank you. One of these supporters is Mike Ligon from H.V. Carter, who will be leaving the Board this year. Thanks Mike for your diligence and abilities.

See you,
Joseph Rodriguez, CGCS



Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

Springtime brings flowers, sunshine, and the Association Directory. Each year we try to respond to member suggestions for the Directory and this year I have had requests for E-mail (barb@inforum.net) before April 30.

If you have a new job, new home or new phone/fax number be sure to forward that information to the office as soon as you can.

Those of you receiving your NCGA handicapping through the Association and have yet to receive your 1997 cards and you have moved please call the office.

I hope all of you have taken the opportunity to visit the "California Fairways" web page sponsored by J.R. Simplot. They did a great job.

Naumann's NorCal News

Dave Skinner, Superintendent at Lake Chabot Golf Course in Oakland recently had an accident on the golf course. Dave was severely injured and was out of work for over 1.5 months. He is now able to get around and should be back to work soon . . . **Resham Singh** has recently left Buchanan Fields Golf Course to pursue other interests. His replacement has yet to be named . . . **Nick Alvarez** has been named Golf Course Superintendent at Blackberry Farm Golf Course in Cupertino replacing the retiring **Ernie Alvarez**. Ernie is Nick's father.

Golf's Big Show Just Got **Bigger**

A record 22,227 golf course management industry representatives attended the GCSAA Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas, surpassing the previous record set in Orlando last year. Other records for the week included: 5,300 seminar registrants breaking the previous mark of 4,978. Total exhibit space at the Trade Show was 221,400 square feet occupied by 685 exhibiting companies, 12,500 square feet more than the 1996 record.

GCSAA President Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS offered these comments on the Conference; "With a record of more than 22,000 attending the 1997 Show in Las Vegas, we're pleased with the results and look forward to achieving new levels of excellence as we plan for 1998."

Is **Bigger** Really Better?

By Bob Costa

I don't know, maybe it's just me. What were your impressions of the GCSAA Conference Trade Show in Las Vegas? It seems everyone I have spoken to since I have returned was less than inspired. That has been my impression for the last several years. This year I thought I'd try a different strategy, split my show experience into two days. Well, unfortunately the results were much the same. I still found myself at times wandering almost dazed through endless isles of merchandise. My personal feeling is that the Trade Show, for purely economic reasons, has grown to a size that has become counter productive.

The numbers from Lawrence were impressive, 695 vendors, an increase in Trade Show square footage by 12,000 feet. If the yardstick for measuring the show's success only measures in feet, then by all means the shows organizers should be proud. I for one am not convinced that it's appropriate. Do bigger numbers necessarily

translate into increased value for golf course superintendents?

It appears quite clear to me that revenue generated from selling floor space has taken over the Trade Show drivers seat while educational value occupies a spot in the back. Equally disturbing is the fact that because of the physical size of the show, attractive conference sites such as San Francisco will no longer host golf course management's "big show."

I'd like to think that I'm not so naive to realize that the revenue generated from the Trade Show is necessary to subsidize other show costs and services. It's role at the conference is in part to do just that, raise money. I can accept that. But where does it end? Or maybe the question is, will it ever end? The reality of a bigger show next year with new records for square footage may be more than I can take, but then, maybe it's just me.

Bentgrass, Blue-Rye and Hybrid Bermuda Sod Washed, Sand-Based and Installation Available Now **LOCALLY** grown

DANIELLE MARMAN
800/447-1840
WADE ALEXANDER
510/501-4628

WEST COAST
TURF

Supporter Listing

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**

RUSSELL D. MITCHELL & ASSOC., INC.

Providing quality irrigation design and consultation services including bid document development, hydraulic analysis, and field staking.
510-939-3985 FAX 510-932-5671

DELTA BLUEGRASS CO.

We now have Penncross and Dominant bent grass sod, available washed or on sand. Also this year we have 100% ryegrass without netting as well as blue and blye-rye blends. Installation available.
C-27 553999.
Alan E. Heath 800-637-8873 916-768-0132

NICKELS GOLF GROUP

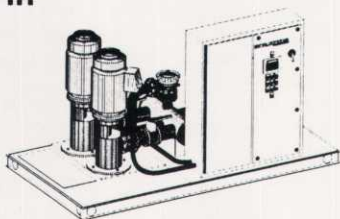
- *Golf Course Architecture* - master planning, restoration, new design
- *Construction* - general contracting, shaping, laser leveling
- *Consulting* - project management, undisturbed green core sampling

Douglas Nickels 415-492-9858 Fax 415-492-9856

FLOWTRONEX PSI

Pumping Systems

Industry Leaders in
Quality, Service
and Innovation



Wes Hall
619-747-1662



USGA

What's Up Doc?

By: Mike Huck - USGA Green Section, Western Region

During the fall and winter season, many universities throughout the country host annual turf conferences. In their regions the Green Section staff members attend the majority of these conferences and we share the information through conference notes. This month I would like to share with you some of the information from the 1996 fall turf conferences that you may find of interest here in the western region.

Greens Construction

Dr. Norm Hummel, on quality control measures during new greens construction, suggests that every 500 - 1,000 tons of mix needs to be tested. (For the record, an average 6,000 square foot green will require about 330 tons of mix once compacted.) Norm suggested that the mix be stockpiled, laboratory tested and approved before delivery. Personally, I would still recommend collecting a one gallon sample from each green prior to planting and store it in the maintenance shop as a further precaution.

Growth Regulators

Dr. Fran Rossi of Cornell University, reported that there is evidence of improved carbohydrate translocation to the root system during the fall when *Primo* is used on cool season grasses. Dr. Rossi hopes this work will determine whether or not growth regulators may have a niche use for improving winter hardiness. The rate of *Primo* during the initial trial was reduced from the labeled amount of 0.25 - 0.33 oz/1,000 to 0.01 oz/1,000 (Yes, . . .0.01 oz!)

When normal rates were applied, severe injury and death of the plants resulted, Dr. Rossi commented that "growth regulators are just one step away from being a herbicide" and the adverse reaction of the normal label rates in the fall is due to reduced metabolism and other physiological changes in the plant. Also, *primo*-treated putting green plots at the University of Rhode Island showed a significant reduction of Dollar Spot, even when compared to fungicide treated plots!

Insects

Dr. Potter of the University of Kentucky reported on a new insecticide that will soon be released to the market as MACH 2. The name (MACH) stands for "Molt Accelerating Compound - Halofenozide." This product provides good cutworm control and of even more interest was the better than normal efficacy found on large, more mature grubs, a limitation of many currently available products. The real question is if California will see this compound before the turn of the century.

Chris Williamson, also of the U of K, noted that pre-dawn green mowing can remove a significant number of cutworms. Chris also advocates treating putting green surrounds as opposed to the greens themselves because most cutworm activity occurs following nocturnal migration from the banks onto the putting surfaces. In other words, according to Chris, these little guys are residing in the apron and rough and go "out to dinner" to the greens every evening!

Turf Varieties and Disease

Moving on to the new bentgrasses, Dr. Peter Landschoot of Penn State reports that G-6 and Crenshaw get "hammered by gray snow mold" and a similar response with G-2 was reported in the NTEP plots at Rutgers. At the same time, the Penn State plots showed L-93 and A-1 were at the top of the list regarding Gray Snow Mold resistance. (Good for you folks in the Sierras and Rockies to know!) Dollar Spot tolerance has been poor with Crenshaw, while L-93, A-1 and Providence show improved tolerance. Another interesting factoid comes from Dr. Melodee Fraser of Pure Seed Testing. Both the A & G series grasses have three times the shoot density as Penncross and two times that of grasses like Crenshaw and Providence.

Conventional Disease Control

Several researchers across the country have favorable reports regarding the activity of the fungicide *Heritage* on a number of pathogens including: Summer Patch, Anthracnose (both crown rot and foliar), and Take All Patch. *Heritage* is a new chemistry that is as close to a "biological control" as can be synthesized by man. The original chemical structure was found in a mushroom extract, but it is not practical to naturally produce large quantities of this product for commercial use so man synthetically reproduces the same product. Truly, better living through chemistry!

With this in mind there have been some other interesting reports concerning *Heritage*. Improved seed germination was noted



Tom Jackson
Don Naumann
Ron Seibel

510 Salmar Avenue • Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 374-4700 • (800) 827-TURF • Fax (408) 374-4773

AUTOMATIC RAIN COMPANY

Irrigation and Landscape Supplies

Serving The Golf Turf Professional

- ◆ Sprinklers ◆ Seed & Sod ◆ Controllers & Valves
- ◆ Fertilizer ◆ Drainage ◆ PVC Pipe & Fittings
- ◆ Chemicals ◆ Tools ◆ Landscape Lighting

MENLO PARK (415) 323-5161	SAN JOSE (408) 287-7882	DUBLIN (510) 551-8383	CONCORD (510) 825-3344	LOOMIS (916) 652-1020
SAN RAFAEL (415) 454-4313	MERCED (209) 383-3330	FRESNO (209) 431-8007	NAPA (707) 255-7575	VACAVILLE (707) 447-7773
SACRAMENTO (916) 492-1000	SANTA ROSA (707) 584-7272	HEAVY TURF (800) 376-5600		



*We are proud to announce the newest member
to the West Coast Turf family...
the new Stevinson Farm
in Northern California.*

Date of Birth: March 1, 1997

Weight: 20,000 tons

Size: 230 Acres



P.O. Box 188 • Stevinson, CA 95374 • 209/669-5252 • 510/501-4628

THRU THE GREEN

in treated plots several months (Thirteen to be exact) following treatment, as well as Gray Snow Mold activity twelve months after treatment. All this, in light of the fact that the half life of this product is reported to be only one to four weeks! This will be an interesting product to watch as more research is reported.

Biologicals

A great amount of work continues to be put forth on biologicals. The greatest barrier appears to be a dependable system that can deliver live organisms to the field consistently. This was a great point of discussion at the University of Maryland Field Days and was also looked into quite closely in the St. Louis area.

Aside from delivery equipment, water quality appears to be a huge factor in the success or failure of these systems. Potable and well water work best while effluent, river and stream water appear to defeat the system. Great strides are being made in this area with many discoveries related to why the control agents look promising in the laboratory but, often fail in the field. Unfortunately, the solution to these problems appears to be a difficult one. However, with a better understanding of the big picture, success may eventually be achieved. Dr. Eric Nelson also voiced an opinion at the Rhode Island Turf Conference that there may be good reason not to use sugars to feed turfgrasses. Dr. Nelson feels you can actually be the process of feeding turf pathogens ("Fueling the fire," so to speak!)

One final thought on biological agents — if a plant pathogen can mutate and develop resistance to the overuse of a man-made chemical control agent, why then wouldn't the same thing happen from a daily application of a biological? Will biological varieties need to be rotated much like chemical controls? I don't have these answers but feel it is good food for thought.

Hope everything is growing well for you all, and don't forget our upcoming regional conference. ✍

Quick Quotes

"Strangely enough, this is the past that somebody in the future is longing to go back to"

— Ashleigh Brilliant

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



FARWEST

Golf Course Accessories,
Parts & Supplies

Count on Service.

Dave Scattergood
Leon Snethen
Randy Finken

FARWEST SUPPLY • Napa, CA
(800) 646-8873 or
(707) 259-9490
(707) 259-9493 (Fax)

Customizing Fertilizers for ^{Your} Greens, Tees and Fairways

Call Toll FREE:

Frank Hicks
Turf Specialist
(888) TURF DUDE

Tim Ahrens, Ph.D.
Turf Specialist
Cert. Agronomist, PCA
(800) TURF DOC



Prescription
TURF & ORNAMENTAL

Division of Associated-Tagline, Inc.
P.O. Box 1330, Salinas, CA 93902



Pacific OpenSpace, 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

BEST

NPK
HOMOGENEOUS
PELLETS

PURSELL'S
TriKote
TECHNOLOGY

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



Candidates Statements

Blake Swint for President

I have been a member of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Northern California since 1985. I have been the Golf Course Superintendent at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton since 1991. Previously, I was the Superintendent at Sequoyah Country Club located in Oakland for a period of seven years.

I have served on the Board of Directors of our Association during the past two years, last year as Vice-President. It's my wish that you will support me as I work with the other dedicated Board members to continue providing you with excellent services. Strong educational programs like the Superintendent's Institute in the fall, Scholarship and Research programs, golf tournaments and monthly meetings that allow superintendents to share ideas.

This past year the Affiliation process with the GCSAA has gone well. We will continue to progress as an Affiliated Chapter of the GCSAA. I hope you support me this year as I plan to strengthen our relationship with the Northern California Golf Association. One of my goals is that we continue to promote our important role in the increasingly popular and growing golf industry.

I wish to serve you well.

Dave Davies, CGCS for Vice President

I have spend the last year working with a group of professionals dedicated to the growth and improvement of our Association. It is my hope to continue working to serve this Association as Vice President. I will be working to improve the existing relationships between our Association, the Northern California Professional Golfers Association and the Northern California Golf Association. In addition I will work to enhance the fund-raising efforts of our Association. The continued growth of the Scholarship/Research and Education Tournament will ensure a positive impact on the educational content of our meetings and financial support to local and regional research as well as students who are entering our industry.

My term as Secretary/Treasurer has been a wonderful experience. It has been a pleasure representing our Association on numerous occasions. Thank you for your continuing support.

Gary K. Carls, CGCS for Secretary - Treasurer

It is an honor to be nominated to run for Secretary - Treasurer of the GCSANC. My past year on the board has been a rewarding experience and I look forward to serving in a new role in the year to come. I have served on

the Scholarship Committees for both the GCSANC and GCSAA this past year and hope to also continue in those roles this year. If elected, I will do my best to continue to make our Association as strong and respected as possible. Thank you for your support.

Bob Costa, CGCS for Director

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as a member of the Board of Directors the past two years. Prior to being elected in 1995, my interest in serving on the board was to enhance the educational opportunities available to the membership and to promote the golf course management profession, specifically our Northern California chapter. I feel that through my involvement with the monthly programs, Superintendents Institute, chapter newsletter and other projects that I have perhaps in a small way achieved those goals. After two years of service, I still posses the energy and commitment to carry on and if reelected will look forward to working together with the Board in the hopes of realizing our future goals.

Mike Nunemacher for Director

Originally from La Crosse, Wisconsin, I came to California in 1985 to serve in the US Air Force. After serving four years at Travis Air Force Base as an electrician, I started my own landscape business in the Fairfield/Vacaville area and continued that until 1992.

In 1990, in an effort to learn more about the

ROYAL Turf Services, Inc.

Get The Royal Treatment
Custom Turf Care

Timothy L. King

(800) 505-TURF

Aerification

Fertilizing

Spray Apps.



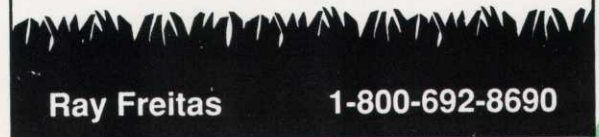
Pacific Sod

Family Farming Since . . . 1886

featuring
Medallion™ Varieties

Ray Freitas

1-800-692-8690



Candidates Statements

golfing industry, I started working at Rancho Solano Golf Course in Fairfield, California. I spent three years learning the ins and outs of golf course maintenance and in 1993 I was promoted to 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 - the position 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 with the Golf Course Superintendents board of directors, I hope to enhance the image of our profession and help in communication among other Golf Course Superintendents.

Forrest W. Arthur for Director

I currently serve as Golf Course Superintendent at The Links at Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula. I will have held this position for two full years in April of 1997. I have spent the last year serving on the board of directors and have enjoyed the term immensely. I would like to continue to serve this Association in the upcoming year to further aid the board to achieve their goals. This past year, I was involved with the tournament committee under Blake Swint's tutelage. I would relish the opportunity to chair this committee in 1997 and raise the productivity of all our tournaments and meetings. Our tournaments are great fun and provide us with an opportunity to socialize and see other superintendents techniques. I would like to enhance these opportunities while encouraging more participation from all of our members.

The GCSANC has a past history of serving superintendents in a professional and ethical manner. In serving a second term 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.

Don Paul for Director

I have had a passion and respect for the game of golf since I was a boy. I have always loved nature and feel very fortunate to be working as a golf course superintendent. I understand the difficult challenges that today's superintendents must face and I accept those challenges with a commitment to excellence.

Having been a member of the GCSANC and GCSAA since 1989, I feel the time is right to try and give something in return to my local Association. As a member of the GCSANC, I have established many great relationships, learned from fellow members and guest speakers, and managed to break pretty close to even playing skins in all the golf matches! It's been a fun experience and I look forward to the following years with anticipation and excitement. I have decided to try and serve the members of this Association by running for a Director position on the GCSANC Board of Directors for the year 1997. In so doing, I hope to provide the membership with leadership, direction and motivation in meeting our common goals for the future. I am thankful to all of those who have served on past boards as well as to those who are presently serving, and appreciate the time and effort they've given to further enhance our cause.

If elected as a Director on the board, I will try to exploit an increase in comradery among all the Superintendents in the Association. I feel that because all of us are working toward a common goal, it is critical that we continue to communicate our ideas, discuss our successes and failures, and support one another professionally. The Association, our professional image and the quality of our courses will all benefit from improving and expanding relations with one another.

I look forward to meeting with all of you at future meetings and thanks for your consideration as a candidate for the board.

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

