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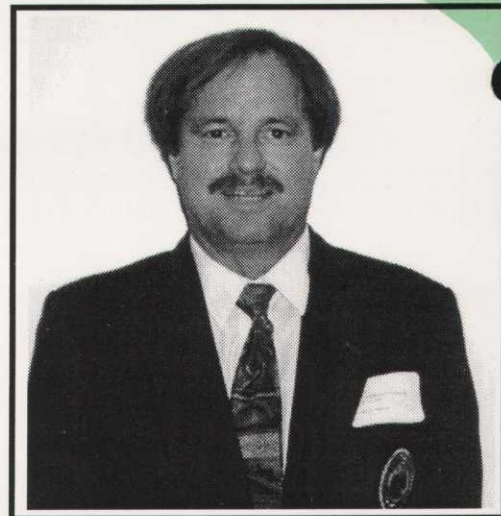
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Northern California

From The President

I enjoyed the well attended June meeting at Crow Canyon Country Club hosted by Ernie Martin. This time of year it's sometimes difficult to leave our courses for a day, especially on a Monday. As we enter the summer months we spend most of our time looking down at the turf. It is important that, at the same time, we keep our chin up and maintain a positive attitude. Being a member of our Association has allowed us all to meet other Superintendents who are just a phone call away from sharing knowledge, experience and support.

During the past few years the golfing public has gained a greater awareness of the challenges we, as Golf Course Superintendents, are faced with each season. That awareness won't improve our turf, but it should offer some support and open avenues of communication. Remember that, as tough as it gets, there's not too many better places to be at sunrise or sunset than on a golf course. This is a gift we truly deserve for our efforts.

The business of the Association continues to run smoothly, utilizing Barbara Mikel's years of



experience and a Board that meets regularly, the first 10 weeks of my term have been pleasant ones. I'm available for your comments, I'm only a phone call away. The August meeting at Fort Ord with it's 65th Anniversary theme and a look at the past will be a real treat.

Hope to see you there,

Blake Swint
President

Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

I hope all of you wishing to join GCSANC before July 1 have done so. Dual membership requirements with GCSAA are now effective. New Class A or Class B superintendents joining GCSANC must be or will become a member of GCSAA.

This membership requirement will be implemented through the office by sending two membership applications to those requesting membership and unable to provide a GCSAA membership number. I will have more information after my return from Lawrence, Kansas. This procedure is most likely subject to change and fine tuning as we begin working on the process.

The June meeting reservations for Crow Canyon of over 110 attendees went great. Reservations, checks & faxes were greatly appreciated. We are near completion of the 1997-1998 Directory. It was decided to change the directory background colors this year to avoid the confusion of having directories for different years printed in the same colors.

Area Code 530 is coming to Diamond Springs. The telephone company tells me the change for the office number will be dual for six months beginning November 1997.

65 Years — A Look Back

The reorganization of the Northern California Greenskeepers Association was held April 8, 1946 at the Green Hills Country Club. Mr. Lineer of the C.M. Volkman & Company called the meeting to order. The first business of the meeting was the election of officers. By unanimous vote Mr. Stanley Pitcher of the San Mateo Municipal Golf Course was elected President. Again by unanimous vote Mr. John Da Dalt of the Burlingame Country Club was elected Vice President. Joe Guisto was then elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The next procedure was the matter of dues which was voted and passed at \$5.00 per year.

Another subject to be brought up was the membership and associated member which was left for next meeting.

There was also mentioned to have a committee who will get speakers and a place to hold our meetings.

Mr. George Lineer promised to get speakers for next meeting.

Continued on Page 3

65 Years (Cont'd)

Mr. S. Pitcher at this point called for a round-robin and a get acquainted by asking each member to stand, call his name and the Golf Course he represented.

Mr. Stanley Pitcher called upon our first speaker of the meeting, Mr. Noble of the Pacific Guana Co.

Mr. Noble let us know of the future shortage of fertilizers caused by the great demand by Europe and Asia for food crops. He emphasized that about 6 to 8 million tons would be shipped to the South Pacific and that much or more to Europe. He told us to buy our fertilizer as soon as possible. As the supply is very short, to buy any kind we could get.

Question Out of the Box. Question: When and how often should you fertilize greens? Answer: Greens should be fertilized in spring and fall with a good organic fertilizer, and fed with a good commercial fertilizer in the summer. Ammonium Sulphate can be applied as needed to keep an even growth throughout the year. Too much Ammonium Sulphate is not so good as it causes a toxic condition in the soil. Also too much will

make the grass courser.

Mr. Pitcher brought out the point of having samples of turf sent to the U.C. Laboratory for analysis.

Next speaker, Mr. Davis of the California Pest Control Company.

There is not much change in the insecticide business. DDT is very limited in its use. They have not used it on greens as they are using it on flies, bugs and the such. Mr. Davis also told us that they are getting a little more pyrethrum and rotenone which are the basic material of our insecticide and fungicide sprays.

Mr. Farrell was the next speaker. He told us how he has been experiencing 2-4-D all over the country. A man by the name of Mr. Jones invented it in 1942. The government has used a good deal of it during the war. Mr. Farrell stresses the use of 2-4-D in the spring. The kill is not so good after July. The results are better when the grass is growing vigorously. Its the penetration that does the trick. Mr. Farrell's experience is that you can't use the same amount in all states due to the climatic conditions. Even the dew will dilute the ingredients. If

properly used, it will not even discolor your grass. "The use of uniform Products is more important that the proper label mixture." If mixed right it will kill Poison Oak in one application and Poison Ivy in two. The cost is about 6 to 8 dollars per acre on turf at this time.

It does not matter after an hour if you water the emulsifying product. Fertilizer does not enter the pitcher after applying 2-4-D. Clean sprayers with sal-soda and hot water. There will be no danger in the use for other material.

Mr. P. M. Jones of the California Toro Company was our next speaker. Mr. Jones told us that due to the lack of steel, our lawn mowing equipment will be very scarce and that he did not know how soon or what change in the new equipment will be. He also mentions he is limited as to the number of lawn mower parts his company gets.

Mr. G. F. Lineer of the C.M. Volkman Co. was our last speaker. Mr. Lineer let us all know the shortage of grass seed and that some are not available. If you need nay grass seed you had better get your order in as the situation is getting desperate. /

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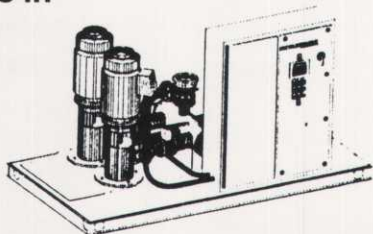


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GCSAA Membership Reaches All-Time High of 18,000

Unprecedented growth in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has pushed the Association's membership total to slightly more than 18,000 according to figures processed by the GCSAA chapter/member services department.

In just the three-month period from March 1 to May 31, GCSAA membership increased by 1,000 (or 5.9%) to the current total. Since January 1994, GCSAA membership has grown 38.5% (up from 13,000) representing all regions of the nation, and 50 foreign countries and all categories of membership.

"I believe this dramatic growth reflects positively on the value of the benefits and services provided by the Association," said GCSAA President Paul McGinnis, CGCS, Moon Valley Country Club, Phoenix, Arizona. "Just like the game of golf, the Superintendent Profession is confronted with constant change and advances. It is GCSAA's goal to provide the education, representation and information for these individuals to be successful."

Membership records indicate GCSAA has an annual retention rate of 92%. The average rate for associations is 86%.

Did You Know?

Amendments have been proposed for the controversial **ban on use of pesticides by the city and county of San Francisco**. Changes would include:

- Prohibiting use of Toxicity Category II pesticides in 1998, instead of reducing by 50% to volume of pesticides used during 1996 that were not banned in 1997.
- Changing exemption provisions to allow a one year exemption when no effective, economic alternatives exist, a limited use exemption for specific purposes during a short period if a compelling need exists, and an exemption for banned pesticides determined to be "commonly part of an IPM strategy"; and
- Allowing exemptions from notice requirements for public health emergencies, worker safety reasons and onetime pesticide uses.

The California GCSA is preparing to comment on the rules and propose additional amendments to cover golf courses on city land. The operation of the ban in San Francisco is being closely watched by city governments throughout California and the entire U.S.

Annual Turf & Landscape Research Field Day

University of California Cooperative Extension is offering the Annual Turf and Landscape Research Field Day for turf and landscape professionals. The program is free and no advance registration is required.

Date: Thursday, August 28, 1997

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Location: U.C. Bay Area Research and Extension Center, 90 N. Winchester Boulevard, Santa Clara, California.

3 DPR, and .35 Certified Golf Course Superintendent continuing education hours are pending. For more information please

contact: **Dr. Ali Harivandi (510)670-5215**

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— Jerry Garcia —



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Gary Carls, CGCS Receives Environmental Certification

Gary K. Carls, CGCS, of Santa Teresa Golf Club, San Jose, California has earned an Environmental Management Specialist Certificate from the GCSAA for completing a specialization program for Integrated Plant Management.

GCSAA is addressing the environmental impact of golf course maintenance and the increasingly complex training needs of golf course superintendents by offering specialized training through its Environmental Management Program.

The Integrated Plant Management specialization focuses on discovering effective methods of reducing reliance on pesticides and increasing the use of biological, mechanical and cultural pest control techniques.

Gary, by completing the required course work in the IPM category received a certificate and special recognition from GCSAA. Through his achievement, Gary has demonstrated a personal commitment to preserve and protect the environment.

“Seine” Method for Coots & Geese

For those who are continually harassed by Coots and Canadian Geese, here is another approach to getting these birds out of your ponds. Credit for this must be given to Ken Linvill, Superintendent at Ruby Hills Golf Club who reports that he has solved his bird problem by using the “Seine” method. This requires two people and a seine long enough to stretch across the problem pond. As the seine is moved towards the birds, they realize that trapping is eminent, and they leave the area. After a couple of these “treatments” the birds will not return. For additional information call Ken at 510-417-5888.

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You're Only As Good As Your Greens - Were Yesterday

By Bob Costa

One of the First things every successful Golf Course Superintendent learns in the importance of maintaining quality putting surfaces. Golfers expect it and, in many cases demand it. Superintendents try their very best to deliver it, sometimes meeting golfers' expectations and sometimes falling short. For the novice, it may appear that greens maintenance is merely a process of mowing the grass short with a special mower. For the Golf Course Superintendent, it's much more complex and poses the greatest agronomic challenge.

What makes putting green maintenance so difficult, and why is there such variability in greens conditioning from season to season and course to course? First and foremost, it much be recognized that putting greens are comprised of grass plants. Like all living things, their health is influenced by variables such as foot traffic, temperature, moisture and pests. Keep in mind that mowing to heights of less than 3/16ths of an inch limits root system development and places the plants under considerable stress. A superintendent's ability to minimize the negative influence of these variables generally translates into quality putting surfaces that are smooth and roll true.


Other factors, such as the size and contour of a green, play in important role in greens management, as does turf variety. Many Golf Course Superintendents are asked to manage greens that are

undersized, constructed on poorly drained native soils, while maintaining cutting heights that allow for a very narrow margin of error. The end result is greens that can be inconsistent and varying in quality based upon the management of the many factors affecting plant health.

The most important component of successful putting green management is drainage. If you have it, many potential problems can be avoided. Well drained soils produce smoother, firmer putting surfaces that are less likely to compact, easier to leach salts and tend to support less disease.

In addition, roots growing in aerated soils tend to be healthier, thereby reducing plant stress. Hence, the advent of the sand-based putting green.

It is a challenge superintendents understand and accept, yet I'm sure that there are times when they wish it was just as simple as a special grass, mowed with a special mower.

When a Golf Course Superintendent meets the challenge, the reward is to hear a golfer say, "These greens are the best that I have played in months." 

65 Year Celebration Program Set



Monday, August 11th will recognize the history and past accomplishments of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California. Host Superintendent, Leonard Theis and Tournament Coordinator, Amy Baker have put together an attractive tournament package that will make this special event the best value of '97.

This morning program will feature a photo and equipment display, past president recognition and a roundtable discussion featuring Dr. Jim Watson, who will entertain the audience with a discussion on the history of equipment used in turf maintenance.

A BBQ lunch and golf will follow on Fort Ord's demanding Bayonet Course. Included in the tournament format will be a special past president's flight. Make plans now to join in the celebration of GCSANC's proud past.

The GCSANC 65 Year Anniversary celebration continues to take shape as a result of a recent planning meeting conducted at Fort Ord. The 65 year commemorative event, scheduled for



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Boardroom Briefs

- Program Chairman, Gary Carls, CGCS, suggested the need for greater communication among allied Associations in the future planning of meetings. The comments were strongly supported by other board members. Securing monthly host sites a year in advance will help to alleviate some scheduling conflicts, Carls stated.

- As a show of appreciation, a plaque of recognition and GCSANC logoed apparel will be presented to all superintendents who host monthly meetings. Board members unanimously agreed that those members who host monthly events, along with all contributing staff should be duly recognized.

- A survey will be included in the August registration form soliciting the opinion of the membership on the use of single corporate sponsorship for special events.

- Dave Davies reports that the State Board will be convening in August to discuss the future direction of the State Association. Issues such as the Annual Meeting and funding of CGCSA research projects will be at the top of the agenda.

- Tournament Chair, Forrest Arthur, presented the Board with a proposal from the

Monterey Beach Hotel to serve as the host site for the December Christmas party. The proposal was approved pending some clarification of items pertaining to lodging.

- An agreement with Southern Links is pending that would provide GCSANC members with logoed apparel. The program would allow orders to be placed directly with Southern Links utilizing their vast product inventory. The proposal is currently under review. Meanwhile GCSANC logoed merchandise will continue to be available at selected monthly meetings.

- Dave Davies, Public Relations Chair requested funds to cover the costs of providing complimentary meeting registration to local members of the press. A budget of \$300.00 was established for this activity.

- Bob Costa, CGCS announced that a meeting was held recently at Ford Ord regarding the 65th Anniversary Celebration. Details of the program were outlined and approved (see related story).

- Barbara Mikel presented the Board with a draft of a new membership application. The application was developed to reflect the classification changes as a result of the affiliation agreement with the GCSAA.

Naumann's NorCal News

Pete Bowman has left Diablo Grande GC in Patterson to become the golf course representative for Sierra Pacific Turf Supply. Pete's being replaced by **Web Shaffer**. Web was with the project in another capacity prior to him accepting the Superintendent position **Mike Phillips** is the new Superintendent at Stockton CC replacing Phil Brown. Mike was the Superintendent at Almaden CC prior to his move to Stockton Sierra Pacific Turf Supply recently purchased the California operation of Farwest Turf Supply. SPTS will keep the Napa store and all their employees.

In Memorium **Randy Mulke** former Superintendent at Silverado CC in Napa passed away in late June in the Napa area. Randy was the Superintendent for 15 years prior to his retirement. Randy was 88 years old.

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