

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

I have just returned from Las Vegas and the annual Golf Conference and Trade Show. It's almost a relief to get out of there. It just seems like everything there is at an accelerated pace. Myself, I like to slow down and take things a little easier. The Trade Show was the highlight for me, but I also enjoyed and maybe even learned something from the Educational Sessions. Overall, it was five days well spent and I would heartily encourage all of our members who have never attended, to go and to participate. It will benefit you professionally and also your golf course.

One of the themes stressed throughout the conference was the philosophy of utilizing environmental principles in all phases of golf course construction and renovation, whether it be new or old. This is all very important and relevant right now, but I would venture to say that many of our Superintendents have been adhering to and addressing environmental concern for many years. So, now is the time to come forward and let people know that we do care about the world around us. There has been too much negative publicity about all the damage that golf courses have done to the environment. Now it is up to us as stewards of the land to counter that negativity and turn it into a plus. This can be done by letting the golfer know what you are applying. Explain its purpose and intent. Stress the fact that you only use what is necessary to do the job. Write or give a report to your Greens Committee about your pest control program. Above all, be up front and show that you do care about the golf course and the environment.

See you
Joseph Rodriguez, CGCS



Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

I hope your GCSAA Las Vegas Trip wasn't a complete "bust". I can safely say I came back with my pockets full. Not necessarily with money but shared ideas, problems, solutions from fellow chapter liaisons from across the country. Upcoming dual membership requirements will present a very challenging fall.

You should have received your 1997 membership card. If not, please let me know. Also check the "Member since" date and if you remember it differently, speak up. One membership benefit you receive as a Class A, B, C, Associate or Student member is job referral notices. The Association processed over 50 job notices last year. This service is not available to non members. If you refer someone to the office for job notices they should be prepared to join the Association.

All those pesticides use reports you filed have been compiled for 1995 and are available in full and abbreviated form according to GCSAA "Briefax" at a Department of Pesticide Regulations Web page. The address is <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>. The summary information (about 15 pages) details the history of pesticide report in California and briefly discusses the future possibility of direct electronic reporting.

Actually the entire "Web World" for better or worse will be a greater part of our lives. I see various members on the GCSAA home page in the discussion forums. I wonder how much interest there is in a GCSANC Internet member service. I currently underutilize my allocated business time. It might be productive to have a member service of this kind. Forward your feedback to a board member.

NCGA/USGA Conference Program Unveiled

The 1997 NCGA/USGA Green Section Conference returns to Castlewood Country Club on Wednesday, April 2nd. This year's program offers the usual wide range of topics with presentation made by several USGA Green Section Agronomists and other highly respected turfgrass researchers. Detailed registration information will be available in March

Crenshaw (Cont'd)

not a fan.

GCSAA past president Bruce Williams, CGCS, who together with Tommy Witt, CGCS flanked Crenshaw at the podium spoke, in his closing remarks, about the vital role the USGA has played in agronomic research. While acknowledging Crenshaw's personal involvement in turfgrass research Williams wondered if there was any collective effort planned by the PGA Tour to fund research projects. "None," Crenshaw responded, although he seemed to clearly agree with Williams that it was important for allied associations to work collectively to manage the future of the game.

Crenshaw spoke repeatedly of his admiration for old Tom Morris and how honored he was to receive this award on behalf of the GCSAA. Although wanting to save many of his remarks for his acceptance speech later that evening, Crenshaw praised golf course superintendents, noting that their efforts and contributions to the game are often understated.

Santa Clara Host Site For State Meeting

The Santa Clara Westin Hotel has been selected as the site for California Golf Course Superintendents Annual Meeting, hosted by the GCSANC. This year's conference and golf tournament are scheduled for Sunday and Monday May 18th and 19th.

"Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges" is the theme for the educational program which will feature a discussion on the unique maintenance challenges at Santa Clara Golf and Tennis, the host course for Monday's tournament.

Sunday's schedule will be highlighted with a BBQ dinner at the Savannah Channel Vineyards located in the Saratoga foothills. The dinner will feature Santa Maria tri-tip, chicken, salads and more! To encourage family participation, special meal rates will be available for children and there is more — pony rides. Details of the two day event and registration forms should be available by late March.

Naumann's NorCal News

Tom Brooks is the new superintendent at the Presidio of San Francisco Golf Course in San Francisco. Tom was superintendent at the Kildare Hotel & Country Club in Straffan, Ireland, prior to his move. He is returning to the U.S. after four years in Ireland. He was the assistant at Dayton Valley CC before leaving. The Presidio Golf Course is an Arnold Palmer managed golf facility. Tom is replacing **Terry McGuire** who is the regional superintendent for Palmer Golf . . . **Ed Thiele** is alive and well and is the golf course manager for the Singapore Island Country Club in Singapore

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

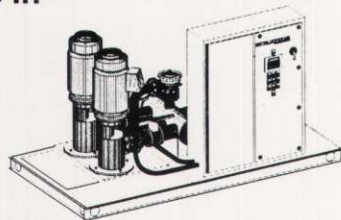


FLOWTRONEX PSI

Industry Leaders in Quality, Service and Innovation

Wes Hall
619-747-1662

Pumping Systems



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, undistrubed green core sampling

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

USGA

Poa annua Seed Head Suppression

By: Patrick J. Gross, Agronomist, USGA Green Section

Spring is in the air — the flowers are starting to bloom, the birds are singing in the trees and yes, *Poa annua* seed heads are covering your greens. Managing or suppressing *Poa annua* seed heads on greens has been a challenge for superintendents for decades. The seed heads cause bumpy surface conditions and turn the greens a white color. Before you can go about controlling *Poa annua* seed heads, you must first know your enemy.

Research on the physiology of *Poa annua* has produced many interesting facts. *Poa annua* can produce seed under a wide range of temperature and light conditions. Dr. Vic Youngner noted that seed production can occur between 50 to 80 degrees F, with most rapid seed production occurring at 80 degrees F. The photo period requirement for seed induction can range from six hours per day up to twenty-four hours. Youngner noted that floral induction is not governed by day length, however, shade can reduce seed populations. Although seed production appears to be heaviest in the spring, the *Poa annua* plant can produce seed throughout the year. Studies in British Columbia indicate that a single *Poa Annua* plant can produce 360 seeds in a period of four months. The researchers estimated that this equates to more than 30 million seeds per acre. Seed production does not appear to be heavily influenced by soil pH or fertility, however, higher levels of phosphorus and potassium along with a moderate to high pH are reported to increase seed production. Research by Dr. Vic Gibeault indicates

that the most important factor for seed production appears to be the morphological variability within the annual bluegrass plant, with many annual and perennial biotypes found throughout the United States. With such an adaptive plant, it is easy to see why *Poa annua* is so prolific throughout the world.

Since we can't manipulate the climate or day length, what are the options of managing *Poa annua* seed heads? The best place to start is by taking a look at your mowing and grooming practices. Most superintendents feel that this is the safest and most dependable method to suppress seed head formation. You may wish to consider incorporating some of the following grooming practices into your program.

Vertical mowing - Aggressive vertical mowing is normally required during peak seed head production. Vertical mowing should be performed one or two times per week in two directions. This should be followed by regular mowing to remove any dislodged seed heads.

Brushing or grooming - The use of steel or nylon brushes in front of the putting green mower is helpful in dislodging seed heads and standing up the leaf blades. Light brushing can be performed on a daily basis without damaging the turf. It may take two to three days of brushing to get a tight, uniform cut on the greens. The use of groomer attachments on putting green mowers is another popular method to manage *Poa annua* seed heads. The grooming reels should be set just below the

effective cutting height. Grooming can be performed on a daily basis during maximum seed head production if the groomers are not set too deep into the turf canopy.

Double cutting - Double cutting the greens one or two times per week will also help to remove additional *Poa Annua* seed heads. For improved labor efficiency, you may wish to consider making the initial cut with a triplex mower and follow-up with walk-behind putting green mowers.

Light topdressing - Monthly applications of light sand topdressing can aid in smoothing the surface of the green. Generally, an application of 1/3 cubic yard or sand per 5,000 square feet provides enough material to filter into the turf canopy without leaving excessive sand on the surface.

Does fertility influence seed production? I am sure it does, but there does not seem to be a magic fertilization program at this point to eliminate *Poa annua* seed head production. If you are managing primarily *Poa annua* greens, be sure to provide proper nutrition for healthy turf growth. Many superintendents found out the hard way that eliminating phosphorus from the program does not eliminate seed heads. Light applications of phosphorus should be included in your fertility program along with adequate amounts of potassium based on the results of soil tests. Many would agree that it is better to manage *Poa annua* with seed heads than trying to manage dirt.

What about wetting agents and turf growth regulators? Many have used products such as *Aquagrow-L*, *Embark*, and



Tom Jackson
Don Naumann
Ron Seibel

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

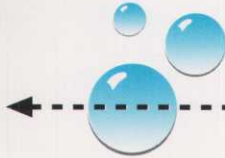
AUTOMATIC RAIN COMPANY
Irrigation and Landscape Supplies

Serving The Golf Turf Professional

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

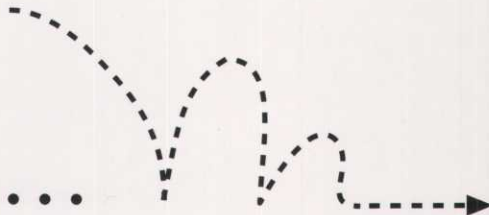
MENLO PARK (415) 323-5161	SAN JOSE (408) 287-7882	DUBLIN (510) 551-8383	CONCORD (510) 825-3344	LOOMIS (916) 652-1020
SAN RAFAEL (415) 454-4313	MERCED (209) 383-3330	FRESNO (209) 431-8007	NAPA (707) 255-7575	VACAVILLE (707) 447-7773
SACRAMENTO (916) 492-1000	SANTA ROSA (707) 584-7272	HEAVY TURF (800)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

Using one of these . . . ----->



-----> you can wash a few balls . . .

fill a few divots . . .



-----> even wave a flag or two . . .

all without breaking this! ----->



At Southern Links, we know it takes a wide variety of products and services to keep your course on par. To keep things running smooth, you want access to equipment and supplies when it matters the most to you. To help you keep your course in shape we are offering these specials:

1-800-405-4657
SOUTHERN LINKS, INC.

- Bayco 5 Pint Ball Washer \$119.⁹⁵, available in a variety of colors.
- Divot Buckets \$75.⁰⁰*, available in redwood, forest green and driftwood.
- Set of 9 Plain Tubelock Flags \$36.⁰⁰

*Limited to stock on hand. Offer ends June 30, 1997



Primo with success, however, there is always a potential for disaster! Turf discoloration and damage can occur especially if stress factors are introduced such as heavy frost, increased salinity, or turf desiccation. The key to using these products effectively appears to be proper timing. Applications are usually recommended when the seed head is forming in the crown of the plant and before full seed emergence. Before using any of these products, it is strongly recommended to conduct experiments on the turn nursery at various rates so you are very comfortable with the program.

Dealing with *Poa annua* seed heads is frustrating for golfers and superintendents alike. The key to getting through the heavy *Poa annua* seed head period is to stay on a good mowing and grooming program to keep the greens as smooth as possible. /

Turf Day Set For April

Plans for the **1997 Turf Day** have been announced by the events sponsor, Automatic Rain. The fifth annual event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16th at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Turf Day is an opportunity for professionals to attend seminars, receive hands on product demonstrations and find out about the latest innovations in the turfgrass industry. Over 17 seminars will be offered this year, many of them providing CDFA credit.

The program runs from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$15.00 by March 22nd or, \$20.00 at the door. The registration fee includes lunch. To receive more information and a registration packet call (415) 328-2700.

Quick Quotes

"Success has many fathers but failure is an Orphan."



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

**TURF & INDUSTRIAL
EQUIPMENT**
SINCE 1968

SALES • PARTS • SERVICE

JAMES SHERMAN JR.
EQUIPMENT ADVISOR



JOHN DEERE
CUSHMAN
CLUB CAR
LAND PRIDE
HOWARD PRICE
DAIHATSU

1 (800) 655-8873

2715 LAFAYETTE STREET • SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

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

Boardroom Briefs

- With an increase in inquiries for student membership, the Board has recommended that future applicants submit verification of student status. A student membership is available to individuals who are currently enrolled as full time students and continues for one year after graduation.
- Education chairman, **Bob Costa**, reported that the 1997 Institute will be held at the Santa Rosa Hilton (formerly the Doubletree) on Monday and Tuesday, November 10th and 11th. Windsor Golf Club will host the golf tournament.
- Scholarship Chairman, **Gary Carls**, informed the Board that the scholarship checks have been mailed. Each of the winners have been invited to attend the Annual Meeting on April 14, 1997.
- Research Chairman, **Dave Davies**, reported the sites for the USGA, NTEP GCSAA joint research project will be announced in early March.
- State representative, **Blake Swint**, who attended the recent state meeting in Las Vegas, reported that the State Association intends to adopt the GCSAA affiliate logo.
- Tournament Cochairmen, **Blake Swint** and **Forrest Arthur**, announced Poppy Hills as a tentative site for 1997 Christmas tournament.
- The long awaited GCSANC promotional brochure is finally off to the printers. **Bob Costa** presented a final proof which was approved by the Board. The brochures will be available at the Annual Meeting in April.
- **Forrest Arthur** who is coordinating the sale of logoed merchandise presented the board with samples of shirts and hats. The Board approved the purchase of a limited quantity. These items, as well as sweatshirts and windbreakers will be available for purchase at the Annual meeting.
- **Wayne Lindeloff** presented a final draft of a proposal to modify the fee structure for retired members attending "regular monthly meetings." The proposal was approved and will take effective at the April meeting. The Superintendent/Pro, Scholarship/Research/Education, Joint Sierra Nevada meeting and the Superintendents Institute are considered special events and are exempt from the special rates.
- **Blake Swint** recommended we explore temporary name badges to help identify members at monthly meetings. The proposal was strongly supported and costs will be examined.
- **Barbara Mikel** recommended that the cost for advertising space in the newsletter be reviewed. Barbara reported that the rate has not been changed in seven years. A formal recommendation will be made to the Board at the next meeting.

Dues Hike Receives Unanimous Support

Approval of a 20% across the board dues hike highlighted the election at last months GCSAA Conference and Show in Las Vegas. Seventy eight percent of the voters said yes to an increase that is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 1997. Revenues from the dues hike will be used to maintain the current GCSAA services and progress with new programs and services in the future. Membership rates for the following classifications will be as follows: Class A, B - \$250.00, Class C - \$125.00, Associates - \$250.00, Retired - \$70.00, Students and Educators - \$55.00.

Included on the ballot were four bylaw amendments, three of which received the required 2/3 voter approval. Bylaw amendments which successfully passed include: Waiving membership dues for Class AA Life members. Adding a second option to the retired membership classification and the fine tuning of the wording of the dual requirement bylaw.

Failing to receive approval by the membership was the bylaw amendment which would have created a new membership classification, Class C-V. If approved, the voluntary C-V classification would have allowed Assistant Superintendents with more than three years experience the right to vote. In exchange, the dues would have been reflective of those for Class A and B members and the dual membership requirement would have applied. Although supported by 51% of the voters, the amendment failed to attain the required two thirds support required for amendment passage.

The election of officers saw Paul McGinnis, CGCS, assume the position of President. George Renault III, CGCS, was named Vice President, Dave Fearis, CGCS, takes over as Secretary Treasurer. The three Directors positions were filled by Michael Wallace, CGCS, Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, and Samuel R. Snyder VII, CGCS, Scott Woodhead, CGCS, and Ken Mangum, CGCS, return to the board as incumbents.

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

Cliff Wagoner Receives GCSAA Recognition

Former CGSANC past president and current retired member Cliff Wagoner was recognized at the recently concluded GCSAA Conference in Las Vegas. Fifteen GCSAA members, including Cliff, celebrated their 25th Anniversary of Certification and were honored at the Certification Luncheon. Cliff was among the inaugural group of 47 superintendents who achieved certification in 1972.

Communicating Better At Work

By: Frank Grazian and Don Bagin

Employees often show concern about the quality and quantity of communication at work.

Some claim that management gives only lip service to open communication, but does little to really communicate with them.

Others contend their organizations believe that posting notices on bulletin boards and sending out memos provide adequate communication.

Still others say they receive vague instructions that are difficult to follow. Ineffective communication often results in poor cooperation and coordination, lower productivity, and undercurrents of tension, gossip and rumors, and increased turnover and absenteeism.

Experience shows there are many ways managers can improve internal communication. Here are some things they should do:

- **Understand** that communication is a two-way street. It involves giving information and getting feedback from employees. It isn't finished when information is given.
- **Put more** emphasis on fact-to-face communication with employees. Don't rely mainly on bulletin boards, memos and other written communication.
- **Ask themselves**, each time they give an instruction, if the message is clear. Most

vagueness is caused by failing to be specific.

Example: Don't just tell an employee to "show more interest" in his or her work. If an employee spends too much time chatting with others, be specific about it.

- **View information** as "service to" employees and not "power over" them.
- **Listen** to employees; show respect for them when they speak. They'll feel part of the team and

will tend to be more dedicated and productive. *One way:* Ask questions to show interest and clarify points.

- **Don't just** talk open-door policy. Practice it by walking around and talking to employees.

Don't fail to create a
climate of trust

Allow people to disagree and to come up with new ideas.

- **Conduct one-on-one** meetings. Ask each employee to tell the manager how the manager can help the employee to do a better job. Then share those things employees can do to help the manager do a better job.
- **Prepare publications** frequently. Emphasize current issues that employees care about; don't substitute quarterly "prettier" publications for substantive, up-to-date ones.
- **Concentrate** on building credibility with employees. Managers who lack credibility and fail to create a climate of trust and openness aren't believed — no matter how hard they try to communicate. ↗

Did You Know?

GCSAA and others successfully lobbied to restore National Turfgrass Evaluation Funding (NTEP) that had been cut from President Clinton's fiscal year 1997 budget. Efforts resulted in \$55,000 being allocated to the program, a ten percent increase over the previous budget.

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