

**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**

BLAKE SWINT  
Castlewood Country Club

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

DAVE DAVIES, CGCS  
Palo Alto Muni Golf Course

**SEC'Y/TREASURER**

GARY CARLS, CGCS  
San Jose Municipal Golf Course

**PAST PRESIDENT**

JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ, CGCS  
Rossmoor Golf Course

**DIRECTORS**

FORREST ARTHUR  
The Links At Spanish Bay

ROBERT COSTA, CGCS  
Laguna Seca Golf Course

MIKE NUNEMACHER  
Oakhurst Country Club

WAYNE LINDELOF, CGCS  
Lone Tree Golf Course

**AFFILIATE ADVISORS**

JAMES W. KARRIK, JR.  
Naiad Company, Inc.

JOHN HOLMQUIST  
Automatic Rain Co..

**PUBLISHER**

Jo Harlow  
Key Publications  
Phone: 510-827-9676  
Ph/Fax: (510) 674-1688

**THRU THE GREEN**

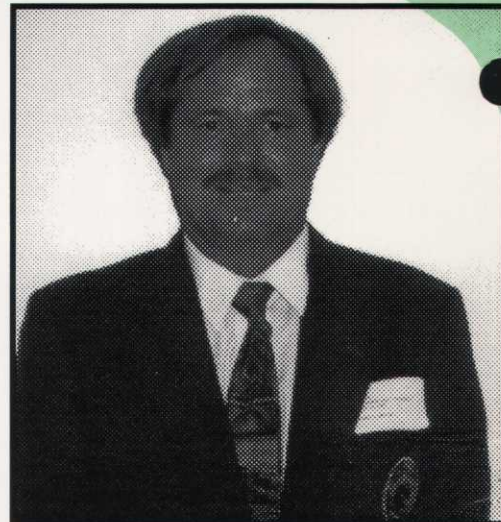
Published monthly by the  
Golf Course Superintendent's  
Association of  
Northern California

## From The President

The Scholarship, Research and Education Tournament held in September at Mira Vista was outstanding. Likewise, the October meeting held at Oakhurst was enjoyed by all that attended. If past history repeats, the Institute will again offer valuable information for Superintendents to take back to those they work for to help improve their operation. Most of the program is focused on long range planning or developing a master plan.

Long range planning is essential in providing a smooth transition when improvements are made to an existing operation. Our Association is in need of a long range plan. With the growth that our Association has experienced the past several years and the potential for continued growth we may have to alter our path. Our Association is run by volunteers with a part-time contracted office service to coordinate our efforts. Our databases are getting larger as we make subtle improvements to our functions. Our affiliation with the GCSAA adds to our work load. We have gained much from both. Developing a long range plan will be discussed at future Board meetings with the goal of improving our operation.

It's renewal time. This year's renewal notice will include a salary survey. A survey is only as good as the accuracy of the information provided. Please take the time necessary to provide accurate information. If you are a regional superintendent or multi-facility manager fill out only what applies to



**Blake Swint, President**

your position. If you vote at the national level either independently or with another Association, you will be given the opportunity to vote our Association. Please consider voting with our Association as our voting delegate will have ample time to meet with the candidates at the convention time and discuss the issues that may enhance and promote our profession. An Association with a strong voting block like ours allows our voice to be heard.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Blake

## Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

October hopefully brought a slower pace for all of you out there. It certainly brought rain, snow, hail and beautiful rainbows to the Sierra foothills. I know the joint meeting at Oakhurst Country Club was a welcome fall beginning. The Sierra Nevada chapter is growing and according to President Jim Husting, CGCS is the third largest in California these days! Congratulations!

Speaking of growing, our membership has grown. We have 546 members in the Association. We exchange or send newsletters to other chapters and golf related industry groups as well as golf media representatives bringing our newsletter mailing to 586 each month. Our student membership has grown to 14 members and we have over 200 Class A and B superintendents with our assistants numbering 73 as of our July membership acceptances. Our retired Class A Life members

represent another 23 who have been members for a minimum of twenty five years or served a GCSANC board member or officer. We have an additional 23 retired members half of whom were Class A or Class B members. Our Affiliate members number 176 industry representatives. Supplying the balance is the Associate classification, and certainly we don't want to miss our 6 Honorary members..

I know since my move to the "high country", I have witnessed the development in El Dorado County of three new courses in four years. Seems like every time I pick up a golf related trade or industry publication I hear about a new course.

November also brings about the annual dues renewal notices and occupation description updates. This year it is doubly important to return

*Continued on page 3*



## Office Notes (Cont'd)

completed questionnaires. GCSAA and all affiliated chapters have dual membership requirements for Class A and B superintendents joining either Association after July 1997. You need to provide your GCSAA number in order to validate your membership in GCSAA and GCSANC. Your membership card carries a member since date and this should be verified upon receipt. We have notification requirements and you will mostly likely get a questionnaire from GCSAA if you are not a member and were not "grandfathered" into the affiliation process and do not provide a GCSAA number if you joined after July 1997. If you have a GCSAA number please provide it and all other requested information when you receive your dues renewal bill and questionnaire. If you have questions regarding your membership requirement for GCSAA and GCSANC, I suggest you contact membership Chairman, Mike Nunemacher or call the office. You cannot continue membership in GCSANC if you joined as a Class

A or Class B member after July 1997 without a valid GCSAA membership. The Bylaws section of your 1997-98 Directory will describe the time in service for each classification. This is a good time to review those sections and see if you might qualify for a classification upgrade.

This year in your renewal questionnaire mailing is included a "financial" survey for Class A and Class B superintendents. This information is gathered by the Association and provided to our superintendents to augment the GCSAA California survey completed several years ago. This survey is regional and specific to our chapter. We are asking for county and club information to make it more useful to you. This survey is circulated to Class A and Class B superintendents for your use and information. As it goes without saying the "more the better". More responses mean better data, therefore more useful to you.

Please make sure to return the survey in a separately provided envelope to maintain anonymity for this survey. /

## New Seminar Added

In conjunction with GCSAA and Etonic, the GCSANC Education Department is excited to announce plans for a business management seminar slated for January 15, 1998. The seminar entitled, "Bringing Out The Best," will be presented by one of GCSAA's most dynamic speakers, Gerry Sweda.

Mr. Sweda's presentation introduces attendees to the benefits of getting employees to be efficient and effective because they choose to perform that way. In addition, you'll learn a system of seven management activities to get employees involved, motivated and contributing to the goals of the organization.

Part of the new Etonic Superintendent Leadership series, the four hour seminar will kick off the GCSANC General Meeting scheduled at Silvercreek Country Club, in San Jose. Plan now to attend this top notch seminar. You won't be disappointed!

## 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. 209-833-1223

### 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
- Construction Management

Quality design combined with practical experience.  
Douglas Ford Nickels 415-884-0626 Fax 415-884-0668

Life is short.

# SOD IT!

## WEST COAST TURF

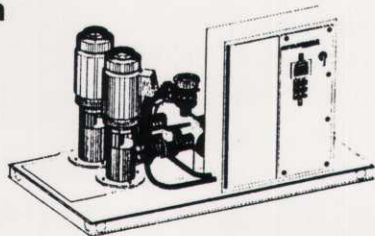
Wade Alexander 510/219-0398  
Danielle Marman 800/447-1840

GROWERS AND  
INSTALLERS OF  
PREMIUM QUALITY  
SOD AND STOLONS

## FLOWTRONEX PSI

### Pumping Systems

Industry Leaders in  
Quality, Service  
and Innovation



Wes Hall  
619-747-1662



## Five Keys To Successful Overseeding

By Pat Gross, Western Region Agronomist

**F**all is the time of year when many courses in the southwest are overseeding their bermudagrass tees and fairways or sweetening their existing stands of perennial ryegrass. In either case, successful overseeding establishment requires attention to the following five elements:

1. **Timing** — Fall is the ideal time to establish cool season grasses because of the extended period of ideal temperatures for germination and establishment. Temperature has the greatest influence on perennial ryegrass germination and growth, with optimal temperatures ranging between 68 to 86 degrees. The specific timing around the southwest differs from area to area:

Palm Springs/Phoenix	- mid-October
Southern California	- late October
Northern Calif./Utah	- late September
Las Vegas	- early October

Many courses try to seed earlier or later in an effort to beat the competition or schedule around a big tournament. Sometimes you get lucky, and sometimes you fail. Remember that you are working with Mother Nature here, and you are better off sticking with the time of year when temperatures are historically in the optimum range.

2. **Preparation and Seeding Rate** — You've year it over a thousand times — you need a good seed to soil contact for successful seed establishment. When seeding into an existing stand of cool


season grasses, this is definitely true. It's best to schedule core aeration prior to seeding to prepare a good seed bed and relieve soil compaction. For courses in Northern California and Utah, a good seeding rate for sweetening is between 250 to 400 lbs. per acre. Drill seeding is still the most popular method to apply the seed. You should seed in at least two diagonal directions to avoid the corn-row effect. For bermudagrass overseeding, broadcast application works fine. It is also interesting to note the trends in renovation and seeding rates in the desert areas. Many courses now avoid heavy renovation in the fall in order to reduce problems with spring transition on bermudagrass. Courses in Palm Springs, Las Vegas, and Phoenix have also steadily increased fairway seeding rates to 700 to 800 lbs. per acre and sometimes more. To reduce turf competition during seed establishment, most courses are now using a treatment of *Primo* growth regulator prior to seeding.

3. **Irrigation system** — You need some basic tools for good seed establishment, and a good irrigation system is the most important. The system must provide excellent coverage and have the capability of scheduling multiple start times for frequent irrigation throughout the day. If you don't have a good irrigation system, don't attempt overseeding - you will just be wasting your money.

4. **Equipment** — Young seedling grass requires a sharp mower to avoid pulling the new turf out of the ground. Make sure

the reels are freshly sharpened before the first cut is made. The lightweight mowing units are generally easier on the turf and enhance establishment by reducing abrasion and wear, especially in the turning areas.

5. **Traffic control** — Seedling turf is especially susceptible to abrasion and wear damage. If possible, keep the carts on the paths for the first six weeks. If your course doesn't shut down for overseeding or if cart traffic is unavoidable, please adjust your expectations accordingly. There is no way to establish healthy seeding turf while you are constantly beating it down with golf carts.

These are just the top five factors we find to have the greatest influence on successful overseeding. I am sure there are many more details to add to the list. For those courses overseeding this year, we hope the weather is kind to you and that your overseeding operation is a complete success. 

### Did You Know?

The average golf course superintendent works over four hours more a week than a family practice physician. In the summertime superintendents work an average of 57 hours per week while a family practice physician works 53. The rest of the time they're out playing golf.



Tom Jackson  
Don Naumann  
Ron Seibel

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

### Quick Quote

"Sometimes it's hard to tell if something is actually a memory, or you just dreamed it. So I asked my boss if I called him a lying, stinking thief, or I just dreamed it, and he said I just dreamed it. Whew, that was close."

— Jack Handley —



**10%**  
**DISCOUNT**

As a member of the GCSANC we are pleased to offer you this special discount on your next purchase. Please include this coupon or mention it when ordering. This offer expires 3/1/98 and may not be combined with any other special promotion.

**WATER UTILITIES SERVICES INC.**

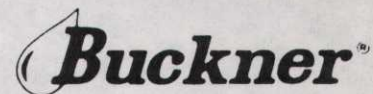
***The Irrigation Rebuilding Specialist***

(714) 632-7777 fax 714-666-9234 (800) 492-8378

Hello, I am Barry Jones. As a new affiliate member of the GCSANC, I wish to introduce myself and Water Utilities Services. I am pleased to say, Water Utilities Services is one of the oldest and most respected companies of our type in the irrigation industry. Also, for your assurance, we are approved by most major manufacturers.

I look forward to serving you, as you may require. Here's what we offer:

- ◆ **Rebuild your sprinklers**, valves and equipment on an "exchange" basis, thus maintaining your investment.
- ◆ **Purchase rebuilt sprinklers**, valves and equipment on a "non-exchange" basis. Assorted brands and models, to match your equipment for a fraction of the cost of new.
- ◆ **BEAR** new replacement heads and conversion gear drives are fully compatible with most Toro and Rainbird golf sprinklers. Bear provides extraordinary uniformity, guaranteed longevity and are value priced.
- ◆ We service and/or offer most brands including:



**Thompson**



If you will, **please attach this sticker** to your directory. Our GCSANC membership directory had already gone to print prior to my membership acceptance.

**100% guaranteed**  
**We are a toll free call away**  
**1-800-492-8378**









## Rain Helps Nitrogen and Makes Grass Green

By: Ed Perry, Stanislaus County Farm Advisor

I came across the following interesting article entitled "Does Rain Green Up Grass?", in the Spring 1996 issue of a newsletter entitled *The Curious Gardener*. I thought you might enjoy reading about this source of "natural" lawn fertilizer.

Grass seems greener after a rain, but is it just the addition of water in the soil?

Actually, it is nitrogen that causes the grass to look greener. There is about 80 percent nitrogen as a gas in our atmosphere, but this is a form that plants cannot readily use. When it rains, oxides of nitrogen are dissolved in the rainwater, which then goes into the soil. Here the nitrogen is "fixed" or made into an ammonia or nitrate form usable by plants, usually by bacteria that live in the soil. Bacteria involved in this process are Azotobacter, Clostridium and Rhizobium, as well as blue-green algae.

The bacteria change the atmospheric nitrogen into nitrate, ammonia or ammonium.

The ammonia and ammonium are also converted to nitrate in the soil by still other bacteria, such as Nitrosomonas and Nitrobacter. Thus these complicated biological processes change atmospheric nitrogen into a form that plants can take up with the soil water and use in Chlorophyll production, which causes an increase in the green color that you see in the grass.

This natural process is simulated when you apply fertilizer to turf to make it greener. To make fertilizers, manufacturers take atmospheric gas and use industrial processes to make it into forms that are available to plants, such as urea or ammonium nitrate.

Some of these nitrogen forms are readily available for use by the plant, while others are converted into nitrate forms for plant use by soil bacteria.

## Research Update

By: Wayne Lindelof, CGCS

As reported in last month's "Thru The Green," an experimental green has been developed at Crystal Springs Golf Course, in cooperation with the USGA, GCSAA, NTEP and University of California Cooperative Extension. The site at Crystal Springs represents one of thirty across the USA. The USGA spec green was planted in mid-September with 18 bentgrass varieties.

Weather permitting, the practice green is scheduled to open for

*Continued on page 6*

## POLYON<sup>®</sup>

PROVEN ON NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF COURSES!

- ◆ Durable 100% Polymer Coating
- ◆ Predictable Nitrogen Release by Osmosis
- ◆ Spoon Feeds Turf Consistently for 3-4 Months
- ◆ Release Unaffected by Excessive Rainfall or Irrigation
- ◆ Available from Your Favorite BEST<sup>®</sup> Distributor

*The Final Word In Turf Nutrition* **BEST.**

J. R. Simplot Company • (800) 992-6066 • Fax (209) 858-2519



**Pacific Sod**  
Family Farming Since . . . 1886

featuring  
**Medallion™ Varieties**

Ray Freitas

1-800-692-8690



**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

## 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)287-7982

DUBLIN  
(510)551-8383

CONCORD  
(916)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)884-7272

HEAVY TURF  
(800)376-5600

## Craig Linquist

Service Line Manager

ISA Certified Arborist No. 1510

**ARBOR CARE**

825 Mabury Road, San Jose, California 95133

590 B Taylor Way, Belmont, California 94002

Tel: 1-800-410-0066



Fax: (408) 437-1817

a division of ENVIRONMENTAL CARE, INC.



## Davies Report (Cont'd)

and golf course superintendents. It is called Investing in the Beauty of Golf'

- Discussion on dual membership and the paperwork issues it has brought on (verification, cash handling, applications).
- Fiscal plans and long term implementation of dues increase policy. Margin is currently budgeted for \$300,000. 22% of budget from dues (up from 17% prior to dues increase).
- Regional seminar rebates will probably be discontinued. Attendance varies greatly with topic and the program is not achieving its original goal of promoting the program. Volunteer efforts will still be acknowledged through comp registrations.
- GCSAA Committee volunteers will be screened for Chapter involvement. GCSAA is placing a premium on those that have served the local chapter first. Verification by the Chapter will be required on all applications. Currently half of those seeking committees are turned away. Deadline to GCSAA for verified applications is 10/31/97. Applications will be available at the joint meeting.
- Discussion on the Etonic Speakers program. Deadline for sign-up is September 30.
- GCSAA/Audubon for schools program has seen less than desirable results. Only 80 schools nationwide. Incentive program will pay the \$100 initiation fee for the next 25 involvements.
- Brainstorming on the needs of the Chapters. That information is being printed for distribution. My comment was find ways to reduce the paperwork requirement for the chapters (online forms, etc.).

## Grass Carp Bill Signed By Governor Wilson

By: *Jim Husting, CGCS*

On September 29, 1997, Senate Bill 472 was signed by Governor Pete Wilson. This bill will allow the use of triploid (sterile) grass carp in approved golf course ponds throughout California, subject to a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) permit. The CGCSA in conjunction with their lobbyist George Steffes worked hard and long to get this bill passed this year. After countless meetings and political compromises between the CGCSA and the DFG a bill has come through that I feel we can live with — SB 472.

1. Permits the expansion of the use of the sterile grass carp, subject to the DFG finding that their use may be expanded, as follows:

- (a) beginning January 1, 1999, to the counties of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Kern, Ventura and Santa Barbara
  - (b) beginning January 1, 2000 statewide.
2. Requires that if the DFG determines that the use of sterile grass carp should not be expanded in either year, that it shall reconsider the question the following year.
  3. Requires that the DFG's findings be based on documented and verifiable evidence.
  4. Allows the DFG to limit the number of permits issued annually to 150. The intent of

this provision is to keep the administrative costs of the program, and consequently the fees, at current levels.

5. Allows the DFG to suspend the permits, either locally or state wide, if there is evidence that the sterile grass carp have escaped from authorized waters or are threatening other native fish and wildlife.

Sterile grass carp provide a non-herbicide, non-mechanical means to control unwanted aquatic weeds and vegetation. The USDA has found California's current program authorizing the use of over 70,000 sterile grass carp in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys since 1985 to be an effective, cost efficient and environmentally sound solution to the problem of unwanted aquatic vegetation, particularly hydrilla.

The California Golf Course Superintendents Association has long understood the need for non-chemical alternative methods of pest control on California golf courses. The Association's Integrated Pest Management program, which aggressively seeks to incorporate alternative methods to chemical usage on California's golf courses, is a national industry standard. SB 472 will make it a better program.

## Research Update (Cont'd)

public use sometime after the first of the year. Research Coordinator, Dr. Ali Harivandi, stated the experiment will run for 3 to 5 years and he hopes to conduct field days at the site in the future.

Also under way is research which will evaluate the use of hard fescue from sod. Hard fescue is an excellent turfgrass selection for non-mowed areas, however establishment from sod can be a challenge, often resulting in significant competition from weeds.

The research project, coordinated by Dr. Ali Harivandi, will look at the use of sod as a means of establishment. Hard fescue sod which was grown at The Sod Farm in Morgan Hill, was harvested in late September and planted at the Research Field Station in Santa Clara. The ability of the sod to take root will be carefully evaluated.

**ROYAL**  
Turf Services, Inc.  
Get The Royal Treatment  
Custom Turf Care

*Timothy L. King*

(800) 505-TURF

Aerification • Fertilizing • Spray Apps.



Fully Insured  Free Estimates

A Cut Above

**G R A H A M**  
**REE SERVICE**

Tree Surgeons and Consultants  
(510) 843-1789

2735 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702  
State License #689022





## Boardroom Briefs

- ◆ **Forrest Arthur**, submitted to the board a draft of the proposed salary survey. Minor additions were made and the document was approved for distribution in conjunction with the renewal notice, due to be mailed in October.
- ◆ **Dave Davies, CGCS**, was assigned the task of drafting an article for print in "Thru The Green," summarizing the duties and responsibilities of Association Executive Secretary, **Barbara Mikel**. The intent of the article is to better inform the membership of the role and function of the office.
- ◆ In a related move, committee chairpersons names and phone numbers will be listed in "Thru The Green," beginning with the December issue. Members are urged to contact committee chairpersons with questions and or comments related to functions or activities which they administer
- ◆ Plans for the January, General Meeting were announced by program chairman, **Gary Carls, CGCS** and Education chairperson, **Bob Costa, CGCS**. This year's meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 15th at Silvercreek Country Club, will feature a four hour management seminar entitled, "Bringing Out The Best," presented by **Gerry Sweda**. The seminar, co-sponsored by GCSAA & Etonic will be followed by a general meeting, reception and dinner. Final arrangements will be announced soon.
- ◆ The Board received numerous suggestions by its members intended to reduce the workload of Association Executive Secretary, **Barbara Mikel**. **Bob Costa, CGCS**, will be compiling the suggestions for final review at the upcoming board meeting on October 28th.
- ◆ Scholarship Chairman, **Wayne Lindeloff, CGCS**, announces that Scholarship applications have been mailed. Completed applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee and scholarships will be awarded at the annual meeting in April.
- ◆ **Dave Davies, CGCS**, announced that the State Board is scheduled to meet in November.

### GCSAA Board Announces Seminar Dress Code

At their summer meeting, the GCSAA Board of Directors approved an Education Committee recommendation regarding a dress code for all GCSAA seminars, including conferences, seminars and chapter-hosted regional seminars, a dress code already exists for several conference events. The new seminar dress code is intended to help promote the professional image of golf course superintendents through professional attire.

Accordingly, the new dress code for conference and chapter-hosted seminars is:

**Casual business attire (slacks and collared shirts for men, similar attire for women); jackets are recommended.**

For your reference the dress code for other conference events follows:

**Trade show and educational sessions:** Golf casual attire.

**Opening Session and Government and Environmental General Session:** Sport coat and similar dress for women.

**Gala Reception and Dinner:** Coat and tie, and similar dress for women.

**Golf Tournament: Golfing Events:** Golf causal attire, such as golf shirt or sweater and casual slacks, no jeans.

**Welcoming Reception:** Semi-business attire, such as an open-collared shirt with sport coat for men, and similar attire for women.

**Victory Reception and Banquet:** Business attire, such as a suit with coat and tie for men, and similar attire for women.

### 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