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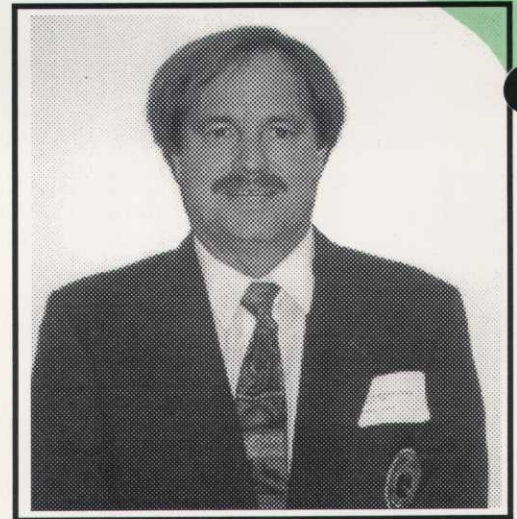
THRU THE GREEN

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

From The President

All of those in attendance at last month's meeting were treated to a look at how our Association has served its members over the years. The Association has held meetings that have provided strong education programs, have offered Golf Course Superintendents the opportunity to share ideas and interact socially during a round of golf. During the past 65 years the main goal of Golf Course Superintendents has been and continues to be providing quality turf with the best available resources. We still use many of the maintenance practices that were used when our Association was formed. We have a rich history that we should be eager to build on.

One thing that has changed recently is the difficulty of holding monthly meetings at the low costs of those held during the past decades. Crowded golf courses and the need for courses to generate revenue are driving the costs of our meetings beyond what we have paid in the past. Rather than simply raise meeting fees as I offered as one alternative, the Board that you have elected has taken a proactive approach towards dealing with this problem. A subcommittee has been formed that will improve and standardize the planning and communication with the host facility. Our purpose will be identified with the meeting site management officials and we will offer increased publicity for the site through our improved media relations campaign. Additionally the events of the next calendar year are being reviewed. Your input



Blake Swint, President

is important as it is possible that some of the more costly events may be eliminated if necessary.

Now is the time to stress the importance of being a member of this Association to your employer. We all should place a little more money in the proper place and budget time to cover the costs of meetings that we may not be able to lower. We should cultivate the relationships with those that make the decisions on whether we can host a meeting at our course.

Enjoy an early Fall,

Blake

Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

I hope you have all received your 1997-1998 directory. Seems like every year we get later and later with this project. I hope next year we can get it out more timely, May?? .

I included a new association brochure in the directory mailing. The telephone numbers printed will be the new area code beginning November 1997. If you want more, please let me know.

I have been spending some time on the Internet this month on various golf related sites. I discovered you can access your NCGA handicapping and indexing information online! Why should that surprise me? The NCGA and the USGA has always been in the forefront of the industry and Internet access is no exception. In case you don't have it already the address is: <http://www.ncgs.org>. Access the handicap section listing and provide the necessary member information for your last 20 postings and current index.

Please note the toll free telephone number for hotel reservations for December listed as well as the local dialing number. Sorry we left it off last month!

I will be on vacation September 15 through September 25, 1997. I will most certainly return in time for the joint meeting with the Sierra Nevada Superintendents Association in October. If you have an urgent need to contact the Association during this time, contact a member of the board of directors listed in your directory.

Quick Quote

"Ride the horse in the direction that it is going"

— Werner Erhard —

Crystal Springs Chosen For Bentgrass Research

Crystal Springs Golf Course, located in Burlingame has been selected as one of sixteen sites nation wide for a joint bentgrass/bermudagrass study. The research program sponsored by the USGA, GCSAA and NTEP will evaluate varieties in actual golf course settings.

Practice Putting greens built to USGA specifications will be monitored to provide data for golf course personnel in the building and maintenance of golf facilities.

The USGA/GCSAA/NTEP project will combine the efforts of superintendents, university researchers and USGA Green Section staff for monitoring and evaluation. "The greatest gains in turfgrass research have and will continue to come from universities," said GCSAA Director of Research, Jeff Nus, PhD. "But this project allows us to do 'real world' testing and replicate actual conditions in order to provide the best data to those in the golf

course maintenance profession. Golfer expectations and golf course conditions have changed so much in the last three decades that we need to study cultivar performance based on the conditions demanded by today's golfers."

Because traffic is an important factor in cultivar performance, all of the putting greens constructed for the project will be used as actual practice greens at the respective facilities.

Crystal Springs Superintendent, Ray Davies, CGCS, and U.C. Extension Agronomist, Dr. Ali Harivandi, will be managing the only Northern California site.

Manny Sousa's Daughter Selected For Legacy Award

Manny Sousa, Superintendent at Poppy Hills Golf Course, was proud to learn that his daughter, Shelly Sousa Albert, was recently selected as a Legacy Award winner by the GCSAA.

The program, which awards a \$1,500 scholarship to ten sons or daughters of GCSAA members was created in 1990 and has been administered by the GCSAA foundation in partnership with Novartis Turf and Ornamental Products.

Winners were selected by an independent panel of judges on the basis of academic excellence, extracurricular activities and an assigned essay describing their parents' or grandparents' involvement with the golf course management profession. Shelly Sousa Albert is currently majoring in Pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco. Congratulations to both father and daughter!

Did You Know?

The California bill to authorize statewide use of the triploid grass carp continues to work its way through the State Assembly. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Appropriations Committee on August 20th. Superintendents and other supporters remain confident the measure will become law.

Life is short.

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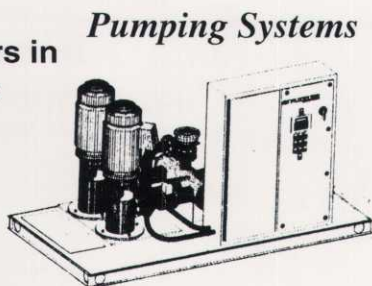
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USGA

Equipment: Speaking The Same Language

By Pat Gross, Western Region Agronomist

Nothing can be more frustrating than having to make due with old, run-down equipment. Frequent breakdowns destroy efficiency and increase expenditures for parts and repairs. The lack of dependable equipment also causes the appearance and playing quality of golf course to suffer. It is easy for superintendents to see the need for new equipment, but green committees or boards of directors often find it difficult to justify such large expenditures for a "lawn mower." Maybe the problem is you're not speaking the same language.

Most members of the green committee or board of directors are businessmen, not turf managers. They may have trouble relating to your triplex putting green mower that is 10 years old and has 5,000 hours on it. But if you were to compare turf equipment to an automobile, you may get a more favorable response. Consider the following statistics offered by Bud White from a 1986 article in

the Green Section Record:

- In general, the average operating condition and engine RPM's for turf equipment is the equivalent of traveling 60 miles per hour in a car.
- Take the example of a triplex putting green mower that is used two hours a day, six days a week, 52 weeks a year for a total of 624 hours. Using the 60 miles per hour figure, that equates to 37,440 miles per year. Five years of operation would total 187,200 miles and in ten years the mower will have traveled the equivalent of 374,400 miles!
- As another example, a large fairway mower typically runs seven hours a day, five days a week, 52 weeks a year for a total of 1,820 hours per year. Again using the 60 miles per hour figure, that equates to 109,200 miles in a year and 546,000 miles in five years.

As you can see the impact of comparing the turf equipment to an automobile can be quite dramatic. It is also an important first step in demonstrating the need for a regular equipment replacement program. A well-planned program improves maintenance efficiency, enhances course conditions, and reduces the cost for parts and repairs. An annual expenditure of 10% of the maintenance budget is a good starting point for yearly equipment purchases. Deferring such purchases doesn't make the need go away. You can expect prices to gradually rise and the cost of repairs to increase while you are waiting to purchase new equipment.

It is frustrating to have requests for new equipment turned down by those who hold the purse strings. Hopefully, using these examples to justify new equipment purchases will meet with nods of agreement instead of a look of bewilderment. ✍

Superintendent/Pro Results

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2nd	Gary Young	70
3rd	Tyler Jones	71

Low Supt. Gross

1st	Scott Lewis	72
2nd	Jeff Roberts	73
3rd	David Hayes	74

Low Supt. Net

1st	Roger Robarge	61
2nd	Jeff Hardy	65
3rd	Jess Pifferini	66

Low Affiliate Net

1st	G. Beck	73
2nd	Don Naumann	74
3rd	Paul Thiltgen	76

Low Supt/Pro Team

1st	Robarge/Doss	55
2nd	Gibson/Hansen	60
3rd	Pifferini/Bruno	62

Oops!

Correction on the Scott Szydoski story in Naumann's NorCal News . . . Scott is Superintendent/Director of Grounds for Westin Resorts (not Western Resorts), American Golf runs the Westin Mission Hills resort courses — north and south. Mission Hills CC is owned and operated by Club Corp. of America. They have 3 courses — the Arnold Palmer, Pete Dye, and the Dinah Shore.



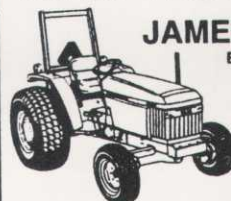
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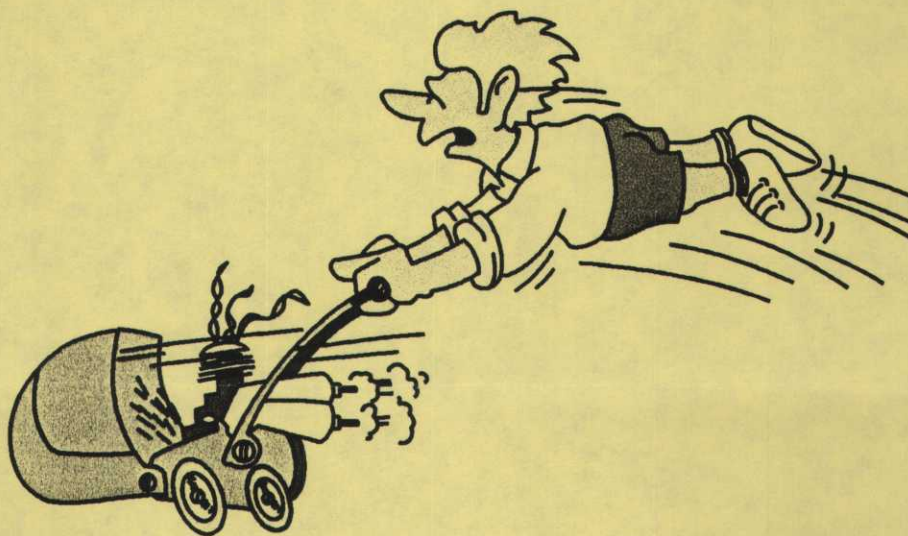


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- **Naturalizing Non-Play Areas**
Dave Kaplow, Owner Pacific Open Space
- **Designing For The Environment**
Damian Pascuzzo - Golf Course Architect
- **Audobon Sanctuary Program, A Case Study**
Ray Festa, Superintendent County of San Luis Obispo

Santa Rosa Set To Play Host To Institute

The increasingly popular Golf Course Superintendents Institute returns again this fall with a program that may prove to be one of the most educational in the events history. Scheduled for November 10th and 11th at the Santa Rosa Hilton (formerly the Doubletree) the two day event opens with a shotgun golf tournament at Windsor Golf Club. The day's activities conclude with an evening reception at the Hilton. The conference, which follows on the 11th will focus on the renovation and master plan process and will feature presentations from golf course architects John Harbottle and Damian Pascuzzo. The afternoon session will focus on renovation from an environmental perspective and will include discussion on designing for the environment and naturalizing non-play areas. Registration and lodging information will be available in early October.

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65 Years - A Final Look Back

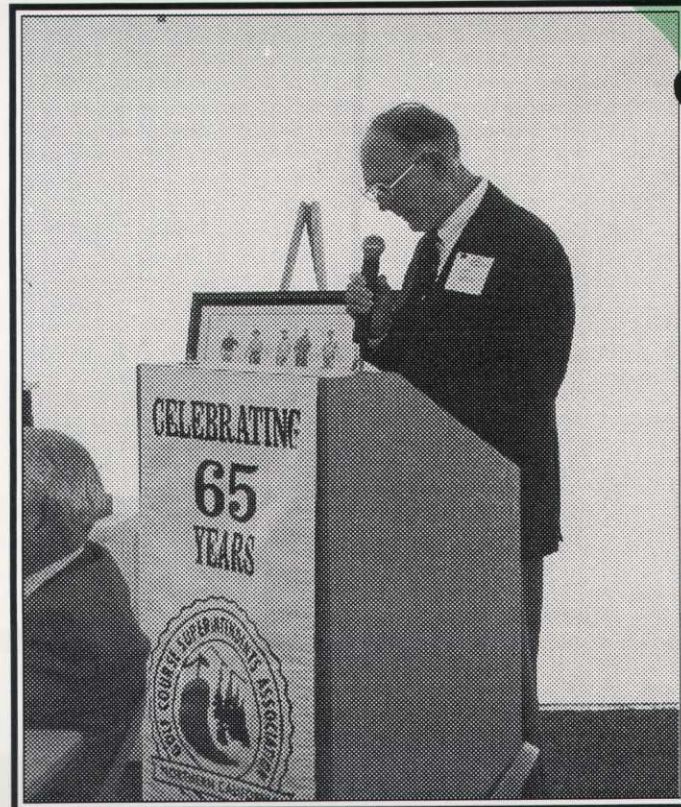
By Bob Costa

The first 65 years are in the books, climaxed by the recent celebration at Fort Ord on August 11th. It was a day of recognition and remembrance, a chance to look back at individuals, events and the tools of the trade that have shaped this Association and our profession. Where the next 65 years will lead us is uncertain, but be sure it will be a journey worthy of celebration.

Monday's gathering was all it was hoped to be. The blending of old faces and new, a spirited discussion covering events and people from the past, a chance to recognize individuals for their service, and an enjoyable afternoon of golf. It was a day that brought Cliff and Myrtle Wagoner back on center stage and demonstrated once again why they are such an important part of our history.

With the 65 year celebration now too, a part of history, it's time once again to look forward, though not so far that we can never occasionally steal a glance back. History can be a great teacher, and a source of inspiration, it can remind us of where we came from and where we need to go.

As we begin to look ahead, we must ask the questions, *Who are the ones that will provide the leadership for the future? What issues are we likely to face? Will we continue to see our Association strengthen and grow?* History, as it has since the beginning of time, will no doubt provide the answers.



Past Presidents, Bob Hanna (pictured above) Richard Lavine, CGCS (pictured at left) and Cliff Wagoner, CGCS (not pictured) gave members an historical perspective at the 65 year celebration at Fort Ord.



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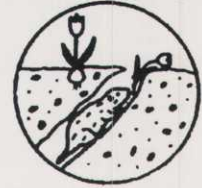


Dr. James Watson highlights the 65 Anniversary Meeting Program with an historical look at Golf Course Maintenance and Maintenance Equipment.

Boardroom Briefs

- A new arrangement for NorCal logoed merchandise has been approved by the Board. The agreement was reached with Southern Golf of Peachtree City Georgia. The new program will allow members to place orders directly with Southern Golf, taking advantage of their vast inventory. As an added bonus the GCSANC will receive quarterly royalty check totalling 20% of all sales.
- A new membership application was approved. The new application was created primarily to accommodate the requirement for A and B members to be joint members of GCSAA.
- The 65 year program was reviewed by Committee Cochair Bob Costa, CGCS. Costa reported that at a meeting held at Ford Ord prior to the days board meeting it was announced that a tent would be utilized to accommodate the event. Unfortunately, plans to complete the renovation of the clubhouse in time for the meeting were delayed.
- A subcommittee chaired by Dave Davies, CGCS, was formed to review the procedure for monthly meetings. It was the general feeling of the Board that a SOP for monthly meetings needs to be developed, as well as a long range plan. The primary focus of the plan would be to examine meeting costs and develop strategies to address this issue.
- Tournament Chair, John Holmquist, reported that all is in order for the upcoming Scholarship, Research and Education Tournament scheduled for September 8th at Mira Vista Country Club. John and his committee have been working hard to ensure a successful event.
- Mike Nunemacher presented the Board with alternatives to the infamous green jackets worn by GCSANC board members. Mike proposed a blue blazer with a standard sweater and golf shirt as an alternative for casual attire. The board was unanimous in their approval.
- State representative Dave Davies, CGCS, reported that a survey was included in the August newsletter requesting comment on the recent state meeting. The information will be used at the State Board Meeting now scheduled for September.
- Newsletter Editor Bob Costa, CGCS, announced that a check for \$50.00 was awarded to Ken Schwark for an article submitted for print in the newsletter.

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