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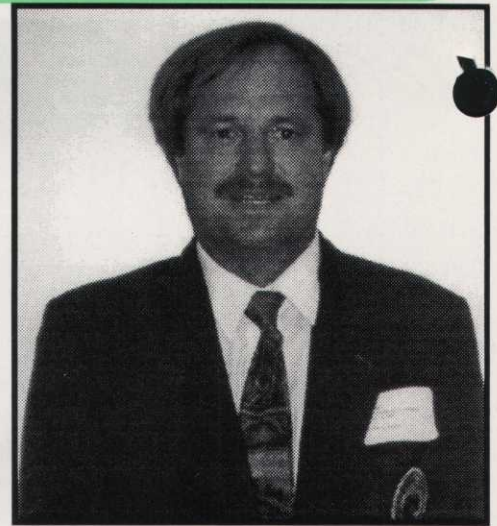
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From The President

Serving as president of our Association this past year has been an honor and privilege. I thank you for that opportunity. Whether you consider your job title to be Golf Course Superintendent, Head Greenkeeper, Director of Golf Course Management or Golf Turf Manager, you have my respect for the challenge you face daily as you carry out your duties. You are a remarkable person. I say this because of the many hats that you must wear to be successful at what you do. A growing number of people are realizing how difficult our job is and the importance of doing it well. Because of this, we each have the opportunity to humbly promote ourselves as remarkable individuals. We must realize that our success may only be achieved with the support of those we work for and a strong staff that will follow our direction. Having gained the support of others, the greatest factor that will lead to a golf course's success continues to be how well we do our job. Now is a good time for each of us to promote ourselves with those we work for.

Your Board of Directors this past year consisted of dedicated individuals that put in a great deal of time and effort to serve you. I thank them for doing a great job as they did most of the work. Barbara Mikel our Executive Secretary had to help me probably more than any previous President. I



Blake Swint, President

thank Barbara for her patience. I would like to thank our Affiliate Members that continue to financially support many of our events. In return, I hope we recognize that support and utilize their services.

I think good things are ahead for our Association. Better things may be ahead if more members become involved in determining how this Association may best serve its members. Next year's President, Mr. Dave Davies, CGCS, has told me that at each meeting next year there will be time for an open forum that will allow that to happen.

Thanks,
Blake

Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

Well here we are again with another Annual Meeting behind us. With the changing of the guard comes a new directory so this is my final call for new clubs, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail and faxes, etc. Boy, if that list doesn't tell you we are living in a communication age, I don't know what will.

One communication function and information source for your Association is, *Thru The Green*. You have an excellent "volunteer editor" making sure you all "stay in the loop" and sometimes keeping you so well informed you think you can pass up those monthly meetings. You'll get more out of your Association if you can make these functions.

There have been some interesting forums on the GCSAA Web site lately. If you get a

chance and are online, go take a view. Speaking of items found online. I hope all members of GCSAA have taken a good look at the "Golf Links" Credit Union. They have been offering some real bargains!

We have just presented our 1997 Awards. The GCSANC application for 1998 should be available in August. GCSANC has been fortunate for the last four years to have one of our members on the GCSAA Scholarship Committee. It has brought invaluable experience to both organizations. I hope we can keep this going yet another year. Anyone out there interested? Just received a notice of Scholarship Competition for 1998 from GCSAA. I have applications in the office if you know of some deserving individuals. If you want them to call direct the Foundation number is 800-472-7878 (ext. 622).

GCSAA Offers New Member Service

As a GCSAA Member, you can now take advantage of the many financial benefits of a membership in GolfLinks Credit Union (GLCU). The service, announced in August, is administered by Community America Credit Union.

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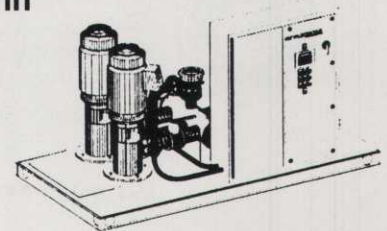
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Establishing A Long Range Improvement Plan

By *Damian Pascuzzo, ASGCA*
Managing Partner Graves & Pascuzzo
Golf Course Design & Development
Walnut Creek, California

Golf courses are complex facilities consisting of natural systems and man-made elements. Together, when working properly, they're wonderful place to spend time with our friends play the game we all love. But without continued vigilance and planning, they can slowly erode to the point where they're no longer fun to play, and worse yet, for an owner or a member, become unprofitable. Preparing a long range improvement plan is the best way to get, or keep, your course on the path of excellence.

The best place to start is to select a qualified golf course architect to guide you through the process. The architect is important for a number of reasons. First, he or she brings an unbiased viewpoint to the project. No matter how hard we may try, we all have very strong opinions about our own golf course. These are usually based upon our individual style of play and experience. These opinions are bound to influence our decisions as to what is wrong with our golf course and taint any objectivity we may have. The architect should listen to input from all of the pertinent parties, but focus only upon what is best for the long term good of the golf course.

Second, the golf course architect acts as sort of a lightning rod throughout the entire process. This is especially true at private clubs where controversial changes are sometimes necessary.

Third, and certainly the most important reason to work with a golf course architect,

is the experience and expertise that he brings to the project. Interview several competent golf course architects. Ask them to explain their design process, how must interaction there will be with you as the client, and what their final work product will be. Lists of golf course architects are available from both the National Golf Foundation and the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Working together, the golf course architect and golf course representatives should establish the needs and goals of the golf course. Many times a long range plan is suggested by the need to accommodate increased play, the addition of a new building, or the expansion of the facility. Although the idea for a plan may be triggered by a single issue, any long range plan should include a complete review of the golf course. The obvious place to start is with the major golf course components: tees, greens, bunkers, and lakes. It is important that the aesthetic value and playability of the course also be reviewed. With the swift changes in equipment and the ever increasing sophistication of today's golfers, this is a good opportunity to be sure that the course is still challenging and appealing to the golfer. Less glamorous, but, just as important to a successful golf course, are issues such as drainage, irrigation, cart paths, trees, and safety. Although a comprehensive review of the golf course is suggested, not all long range plans involve extensive changes to the golf course. In many instances, the problem areas may amount to only a few specific items such as cart paths, bunkers, or tees.

There are three major components to a

quality long range plan.

1. A graphic plan illustrating all of the changes proposed for the golf course. This can be prepared on a hole-by-hole basis or by illustrating the entire golf course on one plan.

2. A priority list of all the proposed projects. This list requires careful consideration so that the projects are completed in the proper order without having to repeat previous work. A good priority list will group the projects together in an efficient and logical fashion.

3. An estimate of construction costs of each of the projects. This is the key piece of information upon which the club can base its planning. At private clubs, we always suggest that the completed long range plan be incorporated into the club's bylaws. This virtually assures that all future boards, club presidents, and green committees follow the plan and precludes changes based on personal whims.

The implementation of the long range plan is something that should be given careful consideration. Player needs, tournaments, membership sales (in the case of private clubs), and local competition from other courses will all influence the time frame for implementation. Financial circumstances may dictate that the plan be phased in over as many as ten years. The downside to this approach is that the course can gain a reputation for always being under construction. Where extensive remodeling of the course is mandated, it's almost always to the golf course's benefit to complete the work in one or two years. Disruption to the course is minimized, which is particularly

Continued on next page

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important if the course hosts a large number of outside events. Moreover, the construction costs are likely to be more favorable, since there is economy in scale. In some cases parts of the plan can be implemented by the maintenance crew. This usually involves minor drainage repairs, tree removal or planting, or minor renovations to bunkers and tees. However, extensive remodeling, such as the reconstruction of all the greens or installation of a new irrigation system, will require an experienced golf course contractor.

The undertaking of a long range improvement plan requires a strong commitment from the golf course leadership if it's to succeed. In addition, the construction work as a result of the long range plan is not painless, causing disruption to the normal business routine. But these are the necessary things that must occur if the golf course is to realize its full potential over the ensuing years.

Bluegrass Control (Cont'd)

Multiple Application Sequences

"Prograss is a product that should be used in multiple application sequences for best effectiveness," explains Mahady. "Because Poa germinates in different flushes, the product should be used several times to assure control. So we looked at the number of applications that were most efficient in controlling annual bluegrass. The two prime periods of germination here are November through January and then March through May."

Using a rough area on the 14th hole, Mahady studied various rates and timing for two years, replicating all field trials four times to be statistically sound. Mahady sprayed only the left hand sides of the 10-foot-wide, 15-foot-long plots, so that each treatment plot contained an in-plot check. "We could always tell the true level of control with the multiples applications," he notes. "There were dynamic differences between treated and untreated areas."

Mahady's research results revealed that the one-gallon-per-acre rate of Prograss applied five times per year at specific intervals provided the best year-round control of annual bluegrass. Specific application timing was mid-October, late November, early March, mid-April and late May. Before his Prograss research began, the rough area contained about 23% annual bluegrass cover. Using the rates and sequence described, applications of Prograss resulted in 95% control of annual bluegrass.

Prograss Offers Valuable Features

"Prograss offers a number of features that are very valuable to golf course superintendents and other turf managers," Mahady

Bluegrass Control concludes on page 6

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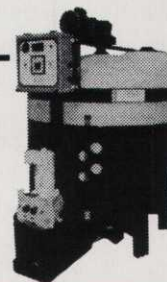
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No More El Niño Please!

By: Mike Huck, Agronomist, Western Region - USGA Green Section

I need to tell no one the El Niño has been affecting much of the country's weather this winter. The Southwest has had lots of rain, floods and mud slides, particularly throughout California. Even normally "sunshiny" Arizona has gotten more than their share of winter rain this season. On a brighter note, northern regions, such as Denver and Salt Lake City, have actually been blessed with unusually warm weather that golfers are enjoying greatly! Many people's lives have been affected by this unusual weather pattern - both positively and negatively. Countless dollars worth of damage and loss have occurred in the hardest hit areas. Those of us unaffected by the floods should all count our blessings.

Those golf courses that flooded will be cleaning up and repairing damage for a long period of time to follow. Direct kill of turf due to submersion is possible, but the outcome of this depends primarily upon six factors:

- (1) Turfgrass species
- (2) Total amount of time submerged
- (3) Depth of the water
- (4) Light intensity
- (5) Physiological condition of the turf
- (6) Temperature

There is also a real potential for problems to develop from silt and soil deposits that may not become noticeable until the stress of summer arrives. Fine soil particles deposited over sand rootzones of putting greens or tees can seal these surfaces and plug vital pore space of not adequately cleaned. Large silt and soil deposits should first be removed by shovel on greens and tees, then washed thoroughly to remove

remainder before play is resumed.

Soil deposits left behind on fairways and roughs will require a lot of time and labor to remove. A tractor with a grading box is the best method to begin the process of removing the bulk of this material. Power bunker rakes equipped with plow blades are excellent for finishing the job without causing too much damage to the turf. Hosing fairways clean after the bulk of the material is removed is not practical, however, remember that at the very least, enough soil must be removed so that a majority of the grass blades are exposed to sunlight.

Silt and soil particles can cause problems in fairways where a layer is left behind in the thatch. Irrigation may become difficult with localized dry spots surfacing that were not formerly a problem. About all that can be done in these cases would be to aerate the fairways often and pulverize the cores. This will blend native soil with the silt deposits and homogenize the layers over time. Slicing fairways is a quick way to open up problem dry spots as they develop. During the coming summer slicing may become a nonstop program in worst case scenarios.

Replanting may be required of some areas and at this time of year you may be forced to use some grass varieties you would normally not consider. Perennial ryegrass will make a relatively quick, playable fairway, but if your desire is to return to bermudagrass, the transition may be painful and slow. You may want to consider using a fine fescue or redtop as a nurse crop and then begin overseeding

common Bermuda back into the stand when soil temperatures begin to reach the mid-sixties. These two grasses will not provide the quality of fairway in the short term that ryegrass will, but over the long run, the bermudagrass will reestablish more rapidly within either of these turfs.

Finally, communicate to your golfers what they can expect this coming season. It would be a great idea to begin this process now. If you feel posting this article where golfers can read it would be beneficial, please feel free to do so.

Good luck to all of you in your golf course recovery efforts. /

Salary Survey Released

The results of the salary survey were recently released to all Class A and B Members, with the Annual Meeting notice. A total of over one hundred members responded to the survey, representing every major facet of golf course operations. "The numbers were fairly consistent with what we saw in the previous survey," reported Forrest Arthur who compiled the results. Additional copies may be obtained by request to the GCSANC office.

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Success with honor is like an unseasoned dish; it will satisfy your hunger but it won't taste very good.

- Joe Paterno -

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Boardroom Briefs

• Dave Sexton, CGCS, performed the annual review of the GC-SANC books and accounting procedures. Dave reported that he was satisfied with the manner in which the Board, and Association Secretary, Barbara Mikel had managed the finances of the Association.

• Jeff Ball, a recent arrival to northern California from Florida, made a brief presentation to the Board suggesting that they consider funding an economic survey to determine the impact of golf in California. In addition, Jeff recommended the development of a 60 second promo video related to golf and the environment.

• Secretary/Treasurer, Gary Carls, CGCS, announced that a portion of the scholarship reserve account had been transferred to Golf Links Credit Union. Golf Links Credit Union access is available to GCSAA members.

• Affiliate representative John Holmquist presented to the Board a draft of the long awaited sponsorship program. John has been working in conjunction with Bob Costa in the development of this program. John reports the plan is to introduce the program to the affiliates at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Sponsorship opportunities would be available beginning in January, 1999.

• Mike Nunemacher announced plans to arrange a joint family day

venture with members from the Sierra Nevada chapter. The family gathering would be centered upon attending an A's game on Sunday, sometime during late May. Stay tuned for details.

• Program Chairman, Gary Carls, CGCS, reported that the dates and location for the Superintendent/Pro Tournament have been changed. The new tentative date and site is July 21st at the soon to open Wentz Golf Course in Livermore.

• The Board of Directors unanimously voted against making a five year commitment to support the GCSAA Foundation through a joint state contribution. The Board is exploring making some form of a contribution to the Foundation, directly to GCSAA.

• Wayne Lindelof, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee announced his selection committee has chosen five students as recipients of CGCSANC Scholarships. Presentations were made on April 6th at the Annual Meeting.

• Bob Costa, CGCS, reported to the Board that a letter informing the affiliates of the new advertising program, is in the draft state. A plan to include limited advertising in the Membership Directory was also proposed and approved by the Board. Costa also announced that GCSANC member superintendent, Brian Bagley, will be featured in the next issue of California Fairways.

Bluegrass Control (Conclusion)

reports. "First of all, the product provides both a preemergence and postemergence of control of annual bluegrass with multiple applications. Prograss had been looked at as a preemergence product with some level of postemergence activity. We found that if we didn't irrigate immediately following a Prograss application, we enhanced postemergence activity. This led us to believe that in our control area, Prograss provides more of a defined postemergence effect that previously observed.

"Secondly, observations in this field and in field trials in Southern California indicate that Prograss does not affect the germination or normal development of perennial ryegrass. This is doubly important because more and more golf course superintendents are using

perennial ryegrass as the selected turf type for roughs and fairways. In essence, superintendents don't have to worry about timing Prograss applications around overseeding programs."

Superintendents throughout the Pacific Northwest may be able to extrapolate certain aspects of these results to their own conditions. Annual bluegrass is a specific annual weed problem in those locations, as well as in central California. Outside coastal areas, the Prograss program should perform even better because extreme summer heat reduces *Poa annua* infestations during summer months.

"Prograss is a very effective product for treating annual bluegrass in solid stands of perennial ryegrass," says Mahady. "There's no doubt about it, it works very well."

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