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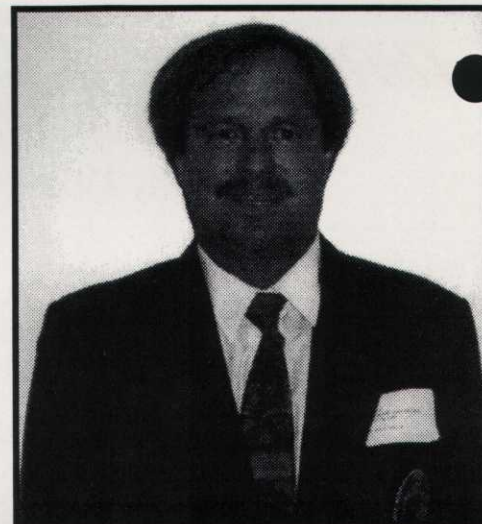
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From The President

The date of this writing is February 16th. The golf courses at Castlewood have been closed for more than two weeks. The heavy rains that arrived after my last writing as well as those that continue are painting a dismal picture for the spring. Above normal precipitation is the forecast for the next 20 days. Rainfall totals for 1997-1998 will most likely be the greatest of this century. I'm sure many of you are facing the same challenges as I. I have a concern for employees in other departments that the lack of business effects. I'm concerned about my operating budget. Will there be enough money available to care for the courses when the rain stops and the players will again have forgotten about the wet year that set us back?

Though it may be difficult, it's time to be patient. This may be the time to develop new computer skills and go on-line. Several months ago one of our seasoned and slightly well traveled superintendents told me that "any superintendent that is not on-line and computer literate in the next 5 years is going to be run out of the business," to which I agreed. This is a time to be safe and provide safe conditions for your patrons and employees.

Above all this may be the opportunity for



Blake Swint, President

some of us to spend more time with our families. The family of a golf course superintendent is often robbed of our time due to the nature of the profession. I am in awe of the great job many of you already do with your family life. Some of us could do better.

I enjoyed seeing so many of our members at last month's GCSAA conference in Anaheim. Again, talking turf and sharing ideas with other superintendents was the best part of my trip.

It will stop,
Blake

Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

This year's Annual Meeting Notice will include lots of material so please take the time to go through it before you get ready to make your meeting reservation. I will shortly be getting ready to prepare the 1998 Membership Directory. I would like to put email addresses in this year. Last year we attempted to include email but the response was very low (two). I think maybe we have more members "linked" now. I do understand your reluctance to give this out because it becomes another source for "junk mail." You can send you email addresses to me at barb@inforum.net.

There are some exciting moves underway with the California Golf Course Superintendents Association. The Web page for CGCSA should be up shortly according to Bob Tillema, CGCS. Bob also tells me this will be a "No Charge" item for the local chapters. GCSANC's budget recommenda-

tions this year included proposal for a Web page for GCSANC. Bob Tillema, CGCS has indicated space will be available to local chapters at no charge. This might be the way we will go. I would like to post meeting notices, calendars, and applications for members on these sites. More and more the communication will be moving this way and I believe our Association should make efforts to stay available to the membership. I don't know how many of you were able to use the GCSAA reservation on the internet this year but mine really worked great. I had all information available to me and was able to do all this at 12 midnight! I know not all of you work so late, but you can get it at 12 noon too!

Affiliate members should watch the mail for new advertising rates and information. These should be mailed with the Annual Meeting notices if not before. Also look for a letter from John Holmquist regarding the opportunity to become the next Affiliate representative to the Board of Directors.

Air Quality Regulations (Cont'd)

things with probably more expensive equipment, more hand labor, and yes, probably with more increased water usage. Increased water usage you may say? A little fun fact that you may not know is that the hand/backpack blower was invented as a response/need resulting from the 1977 California drought. People couldn't hose off their driveways or sidewalks anymore and a need to keep areas clean and free of debris were realized. Hence the invention of the backpack blower and a savings of water usage. It would be probably safe to say that with these items gone from the California marketplace our water usage at our facilities would increase. Either that or we would have to use more manpower to keep clubhouse areas neat and tidy.

These two-cycle engine products attribute to only less than 1% of all the total air emissions in the state of California, yet make up over 8% of the total U.S. market in sales; a huge figure that suppliers and manufacturers wish to keep improving on. These suppliers/manufacturers that are fighting this proposed regulation change belong to an organization called PPEMA or The Portable Power Equipment Manufacturers Association. Hopefully with allied industry help the PPEMA will be able to stall and keep the CARB regulations of 81% reduction from being implemented. The CGCSA is presently being advised by our lobbyist, George Steffes, on how to respond properly to this issue. More updates will be give as issues materialize.

CGCSA Cadre Of Volunteers Being Organized

This past year has been a good one for our profession on the government relations end. The CGCSA hired a lobbyist out of Sacramento and that lobbyist, George Steffes, and his firm succeeded in helping us introduce, sponsor and pass legislation that will eventually legalize the sterile grass carp throughout the state of California. That project was just the first of what we hope

Continued on page 5

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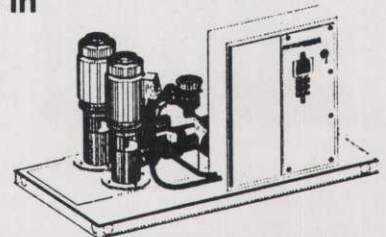
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USGA

Cantankerous Coots

By: Pat Gross, Southwest Director, USGA Green Section

This time of year, any golf course with a lake or pond is suffering through the mess and damage caused by our feathered friend — the coot. The Kanny brothers at River Ridge Golf Club compiled some excellent information on coot control that was published in *California Fairways* magazine (July/August 1993, pp. 6-8) that might be helpful this time of year. The following article summarizes some of this information along with an update on other methods being tried in the Southwest.

Coots, or mudhens (*Fulica americana*) are migratory birds that come to the Southwest in the fall when the first cold front hits Canada. The birds normally arrive in September, with the highest populations normally evident from October through January. Any coots left over by April are here to stay. They damage trees and greens and other closely cut turf areas with their voracious feeding habits, nibbling the plant down to the root. The copious amount of excrement left behind by the coots is messy, disrupts the playability of greens, and tends to burn the more sensitive grasses such as *Poa annua* and creeping bentgrass. Coots are covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711) which allows the control of migratory birds, but only with a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Coots are not covered by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16U.S.C. 1539). The National Audubon Society concedes that coots can be a pest, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has encouraged depreda-

tion using authorized methods.

Where does that put us today? Coots are damaging our golf courses, but it is not politically correct to control them. What are your options? The following is a list of control measures to minimize coot damage on your course:

- Shooting is the principle method of control, but is unpopular in urban settings due to noise, safety concerns, and public sentiment. Permits are normally required, and you should also contact the police or sheriff in your area before shooting.
- Trapping with nets has been tried, but is somewhat unsuccessful.
- Anesthetic bait has been used successfully to tranquilize the birds and remove them from the site for euthanization. This is a quiet operation and far less controversial than shooting the coots. Licensed pest control operators are available to perform this operation for you.
- Harassment, using trained dogs, is somewhat successful for coots but better for Canada geese. Shoreline Golf Links in Mountain View, California, purchased a trained border collie to chase the coots, and they are very satisfied with the results.
- Monofilament fishing line or barrier netting has been used around the edges of ponds with some success. The barrier is held by rebar stakes that are placed around the perimeter of the pond and angled back toward the water.
- Noisemakers, such as scare shells or cannon, are not recommended for golf courses. The random noise is distracting

to golfers and homeowners.

- In some instances, providing alternative food or habitat is effective. Jeff Stroup at Industry Hills Golf Courses has been able to keep coots away from the greens by piling grass clippings near the ponds (but away from play) for them to eat. It has also been suggested that providing a tall vegetative buffer at the edge of the lake helps keep the coots in the water and off the grass.

According to all the people I talked with, there are no totally effective methods to eliminate coots once and for all. The anesthetic baits are working the best at this time, but you should probably hire a licensed pest control operator in your area for this job to avoid hurting nontarget species. According to the Kanny's, it is necessary to use several methods to create a hostile environment for the coots including harassment, barrier fences or netting, and shooting. Unfortunately, I am not aware of any research regarding coot control. For the moment, all you can do is be persistent and keep them nervous.

USGA News Notes: Speaking of cantankerous coots . . . the Wester Region of the Green Section has been split, and Larry Gilhuly is now the Director of the Northwest Region. He will continue to cover the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Hawaii and British Columbia. Pat Gross was recently named the Director of the Southwest Region. As they have done for the past three years, Pat and Mike Huck will continue to serve the states of California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. ↗

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Kenneth D. Williams, CGCS Candidate for Director

I'm a relative newcomer to the Bay Area and serve as the Golf Course Superintendent at Stanford University Golf Course. Being new, I would like to give you some idea of how I arrived.

I was born and raised in San Diego and moved to Vail, CO after high school. My first opportunity in golf maintenance came at the Eagle-Vail Golf Club. I worked summers on the course and winters on the ski slopes. When that life-style became a little too wild, I moved back to California and went on to college at Cal Poly Pomona. I attained my Bachelor's degree in Ornamental Horticulture as well as an Associate's degree in Nursery and Landscape Technology.

After college, I moved to the Palm Springs area where I spent six years. The final three were as Superintendent at La Quinta Hotel Golf Club. With the collapse of Landmark Land Co., I sought refuge at Rancho Bernardo Golf Club in San Diego. I spend five years at RBGC until the opportunity arrived at Stanford.

I have served on the Boards of the Hi-Lo and The San Diego Chapters. In addition, I've spent two years on the GCSAA scholarship committee.

As a Superintendent, I feel one of my duties is to serve my organization. It's very important to keep the GCSANC vital and growing. Strengthening it strengthens us as individuals.

Affiliate Representative To The Board of Directors Opens

On April 6, 1998, the Annual Elections for the GCSANC Board of Directors will take place. At that time, I will have fulfilled my two-year duty as your Affiliate Representative. It truly has been a pleasure to serve you and this organization.

With my vacancy, a position is cleared to join James Karrick as co-affiliate representative to serve on the new board. Interested candidates, please contact me, John Holmquist. I assure you a rewarding and stimulating experience working with this fine group.

I would like to thank you for your support over the past two year.

Gary D. Sayre, CGCS Candidate for Director

Gary Sayre is a candidate for the GCSANC Board of Directors. Gary has been a golf course superintendent for the past 20 years, with most of that experience being in Washington state at two private clubs. Five years of Gary's experience were in Hong Kong and Singapore as the golf services manager for a Hong Kong based company where he was involved in the construction, start-up and management of 14 golf courses in the Pacific Rim. He has been the golf course superintendent at Hiddenbrooke CC for the past two years and has been a Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 1983.

If Gary is elected to the Board of the GCSANC, he will bring with him the experience and knowledge of leading organizations relating to the golf course maintenance profession. He has served as President of the Northwest Turfgrass Association and the Western Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association. He has also served on the Certification and Scholarship/Research Committees of the GCSAA.

Gary realizes the importance of membership involvement and communication, something that needs to be addressed in the GCSANC. Gary says, "Even though I have been unable to attend all of the meetings in the past, I know find that my schedule should allow me to do so. It appears that we have a fairly healthy Association, so let's continue to build on that by utilizing the GCSAA and other resources more, helping our members develop a more visible professional public image aimed first at our employer and then the general golfing public."

Anthony Steers Candidate for Director

While finishing my degree at Michigan State University, I was fortunate enough to do my internship here in the Bay Area and vowed to return one day to this wonderful location. After leaving school I became an assistant superintendent in New Jersey for several years. Then in 1991, I realized my goal and became the Superintendent at Contra Costa Country Club in Pleasant Hill, where I still reside. For the past seven years I have come to realize the complexities of our profession and the importance of continued education and communication.

By getting involved with our organization I will continue to efforts of others who have raised our image in the community as experts in golf course management. My focus as a Director will be to enhance our educational programs which will initiate discussions benefiting our courses and the environment. I am proud to be a part of a profession that preserves open space for people and wildlife to enjoy. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to become an active member of our organization.

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Candidate Statements

Dave Davies, CGCS **Candidate For President**

I am running for the office of President. Two years ago I offered my support to the Board and was elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer. I have had the opportunity to work with a small group of dedicated professionals each bringing to the Board their own perspective and expertise. I have been able to draw on my 5 years of Board Experience within the Sierra Nevada GCSA to assess problems and work toward positive solutions.

The immediate future for our Association presents problems that are neither new nor unsolvable. We must continue to find ways to involve the membership in productive ways. Increasing meeting attendance, improving educational programs and providing the opportunity to meet and interact with other professionals are my primary goals for the next year.

We also need to address the issue of long range direction. The funding for current programs continues to be evaluated. Program purpose and benefits will be analyzed and restructured if necessary to meet the needs of the membership. The dues structure will again be evaluated and a proposal will be made for a long range structure.

My primary goal is to generate more interest within the membership for the direction of this Association. We have a membership of over 600 with only a small percentage involved in the decision process and less than 40% attending meetings. As part of the dues structure revue, we will be investigating options for rebates on dues based on meeting attendance during the year. It is my hope that as our membership participation on committees, in fund raising efforts and in monthly meeting attendance.

Thank you for your support during the last two years. I continue to work on your behalf and look forward to the challenges of the coming year.

Forrest W. Arthur **Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer**

I currently serve as the Golf Course Superintendent at the Links at Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula. I will have held this position for three years in April of 1998. I have spent the last two terms serving the Association on the Board of Directors and have enjoyed the terms immensely. I would like to continue to serve this Association in the capacity of Secretary/Treasurer in the upcoming year. I would relish the opportunity to maintain and monitor the fiscal aspects of our Association to ensure our financial goals are and will be met. I feel I have gained enough insight into the complexities of our Association to properly serve in this position.

The GCSANC has a rich history of serving superintendents in a professional and ethical manner. In serving the Association as Secretary/Treasurer, I would vow to continue this philosophy and offer new insights to further promote our profession and industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary K. Carls, CGCS **Candidate for Vice-President**

It has been a pleasure to serve this Association for the past two years and I look forward to serving in the role of vice-president in the coming year with the support of the membership. I feel this Association has continued to progress over the last several years and would like to be a part of continuing our growth in the future. I would like to encourage all members to be an active voice in how this organization is run through participation in our activities and programs. GCSANC is now more than 600 members strong and we need the support of every member to remain strong. Once again, I thank you for the continued support.

Michael Nunemacher **Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer**

It is a privilege and honor to be nominated for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of GCSANC. During the past year while serving on the Board of Directors, I have learned the importance of what our Association stands for. One significant thing I have learned is that by serving on various committees, the decisions we make affect our future as members and superintendents. However, in order for me to represent all of you in an ideal manner, your ideas and input are a very important part of the communication process. This will allow me to represent your ideas in the necessary forms. As an officer of the Association, I pledge to continue my efforts to represent every member of GCSANC.

The responsibility of Secretary/Treasurer is to help manage the financial status of the Association. The new challenges we face as an Association must be met with strong management skills to insure our continuing improvement today and in the future. My commitment to our Association is a small way of giving something back to our great golf industry. I hope we can continue to improve as an Association that we can all be proud of.

Thank you for your support.

Terry Grasso **Candidate for Director**

Many of you know I'm a Bay Area native with over 30 years experience in the golf industry. (grew up next to a golf course!) Since 1990, I've worked as Golf Course Superintendent at Burlingame CC in Hillsborough, having acquired my work ethics at Claremont CC in Oakland, and the Olympic Club in San Francisco.

I've experienced many exceptional associations with people in our industry and believe it is important for us all to realize how much our business is a "relationship" business.

As a Director, it is my challenge to increase participation at all our events. So, let's get started!

Thank you!



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Volunteers Being Organized (Cont'd)

to be many forays into Sacramento as we try and get the message to our legislators on just who we are and what we do.

This coming year, George Steffes will help us plan for the future by helping our members organize into a tight cadre of volunteers who wish to enlist in a grass roots program. These volunteers will be trained in the grass roots basics of politics and will be asked for possible suggestions on possible grass roots events. From there we will find out who our friends are in the state legislature (golfers) and invite those legislators to attend our meetings and events to perhaps heighten their awareness of our profession. Right now George Steffes, Inc. is developing a computer file that would be able to match any particular golf facility with the legislator in that district. All we need now is the volunteers. Anyone interested? If so, please give me a call or drop me a line via email at: jchust@softcom.net.

I will be traveling a lot next year to each of the chapters with George Steffes hopefully, to explain this program and to enlist those individuals that want to help and make a difference. Why wait though . . . give me a call . . . drop me a line and volunteer. Better do it before I call and ask you! 

Did You Know?

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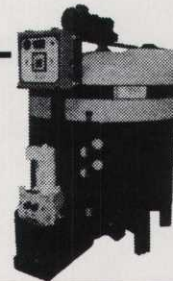
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GCSAA

GCSAA Survey Reveals Member Superintendent Responsibilities, Perceptions, Attitudes

A recently-completed Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) survey indicates members at all types of golf facilities are heavily involved in administrative and financial decisions executed by themselves and/or management.

In measuring decision-making responsibilities, respondents were asked to rank their influence in numerous areas on a scale of 1 (having no impact at all) to 5 (being the decision maker). Golf course superintendents had the greatest influence in the areas of chemical application (94.4 percent listed No. 5), mowing and maintenance schedules (93.7 percent listed No. 5) and chemical product purchase decisions (96.0 percent listed No. 4 or No. 5).

The survey also revealed superintendents are influential in expenditures of capital equipment (93.3 percent listed No. 3 through No. 5) and equipment (97.4 percent listed No. 3 through No. 5). In terms of golf car purchases, 46.9 percent are influential in categories No. 3 through 5.

Respondents also provided information as to the latest changes in the industry that have affected job performance. Results were divided by operating budget, with the lower end being less than \$250,000 annually and the upper end at more than \$700,000 annually. Regardless of budget level, one of the most frequent responses concerned providing conditions to meet the higher expectations of golfers while keeping within budgetary limits. Associated with that, facilities at all levels expressed a concern of finding and maintaining qualified labor to serve on golf course maintenance crews. A strong economy and non-traditional work schedule directly affect the available labor pool. Superintendents were virtually unanimous across the board in the positive impact alternative spikes have had in their work. Keeping abreast of the latest environmental issues was also a common response of all members.

Naumann's NorCal News

Kevin Hutchins is the new Superintendent at Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco. Kevin was from Eugene, Oregon. Kevin is replacing **Tom Brooks** who has moved to Northern Nevada . . . **Steve Carlton** is the new Superintendent at Mather AFB Golf Course. Steve has been the Superintendent at a golf course in Japan prior to his move back to the United States . . . **Mike Higuera** has moved from Mountain Shadows Golf Course in Rohnert Park to become the Superintendent at Seascapes Golf Course in Aptos. This is the same position that he had before he went to Mountain Shadows . . . **Jim McPhilomy** is the new Superintendent at Lions Gate Golf Course. Jim was the Superintendent at Saddle Creek CC prior to his move to the Bay Area.

Proposed Dues Increase To Appear On Ballot

The GCSANC Board of Directors unanimously approved a recommendation from the budget committee to place a dues increase before the membership on the April ballot. The budget committee's recommendation came after a thorough review of the GCSANC's current and projected financial status. Citing rising operational costs and the need to develop additional revenue for future programs Budget Committee Chairperson, Dave Davies, CGCS, proposed the following dues structure: Class A, B, C, and Associate - \$100.00. If approved, the budget committee proposed a similar increase for Affiliates of - \$145.00, Students - \$40.00, Retired - \$25.00, and Class A Life - no charge.

"The proposed fee schedule represents an approximate increase of 20% for Class A, B, C, and Associate members," Davies concluded. The voting member will have a chance to approve or disapprove the proposal at the Annual Meeting scheduled for April 6th at Castlewood Country Club.

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Boardroom Briefs

GCSANC Merchandise Program

Forrest Arthur previewed the Southern Merchandise for the Board of Directors. GCSANC logoed items can be selected and purchased by each member in color and styles to his taste.

Media Representative

Board consensus was to provide time at the Board of Directors Meeting April 6, 1998 for Gregg Crawford, Media Director for the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association to enlighten the members regarding his efforts with OTCSA, Western Washington GCSA & Northwest Turfgrass Association. Members are reminded all board of directors meetings are open to the general membership.

Budget 1998

The Board unanimously adopted the recommendation of the budget committee to support a dues increase. New proposed dues are ABC Associate \$100.00; Affiliate \$145.00; Student \$40.00; Retired Member \$25.00; Class A Life - no change.

Elections

The Board unanimously adopted the recommendation of the Election Committee for vacancies in Association Directors and officers. A letter seeking participation will be mailed with the Annual Meeting notice.

Education

On track for next year, requested GCSAA Regional Seminar for Jan. 6 & 7, "Golf Greens History," and May 19, "Maximizing Job Satisfaction," Turfgrass Stress Management." Superintendent's Institute is scheduled for Santa Cruz at the Coconut Grove, November 9 & 10.

Thru The Green

Board adopted recommendations of Editor Bob Costa for newsletter advertisers. All affiliate members will receive a letter explaining the new format, rates and schedules.

1. New affiliate advertisers within 6 months of joining one time insert \$250.00.
2. One year term limit for 2 X 3 ads.
3. Discount for multiple inserts within 12 month period. Two for \$400.00, each third one free.
4. Current Advertisers with ads expiring through July, 1998, will have the option to continue for one more year.
5. Current advertisers, whose term is due after August 1, will be dropped on their one year anniversary.
6. New 2 X 3 advertisers will be added based upon a waiting list at a new annual rate of \$425.00 per year.

Condolences

Condolences to the family and friends of Tony Ibarra, former Assistant Superintendent at Burlingame Country Club who succumbed to cancer. Superintendent Tony Grasso said, "Tony was a 20 year employee at Burlingame Country Club and a member of GCSANC for over ten years."

NCGA/USGA

Green Section Regional Conference

Tuesday, March 17, 1998
Castlewood Country Club
707 Country Club Circle
Pleasanton, CA 94566
510-846-2871

Registration Deadline, Friday, March 6, 1998

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