

EDITOR

Kenneth D. Williams, CGCS
650-323-0937

OFFICE

Barbara Mikel - Executive Secretary
550 Main St., Suite G
P.O. Box 3360
Diamond Springs, CA
95619
Phone: (530) 626-0931
Fax: (530) 626-5132

MEDIA DIRECTOR

GREG CRAWFORD
Phone (503) 234-1670
email GMCGOLF@compuserve.com

PRESIDENT

DAVID R. DAVIES, CGCS
Palo Alto Muni Golf Course

VICE-PRESIDENT

GARY K. CARLS, CGCS
Santa Teresa Golf Course

SECRETARY/TREASURER

MIKE NUNEMACHER
Blackhawk Country Club

PAST PRESIDENT

BLAKE SWINT
Castlewood Country Club

DIRECTORS

ROBERT COSTA, CGCS
Laguna Seca Golf Course

GARY SAYRE, CGCS
Oakhurst Country Club

KENNETH D. WILLIAMS, CGCS
Stanford University Golf Course

TERRY GRASSO
Burlingame Country Club

AFFILIATE ADVISORS

STEVE FRANZEN
J. R. Simplot/Best

CRAIG KILCOYNE
H. V. Carter Company, Inc.

PUBLISHER

Jo Harlow - Key Publications
Phone: (925) 827-9676
Fax: (925) 674-1688
email - keypub@ncal.verio.com

THRU THE GREEN

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

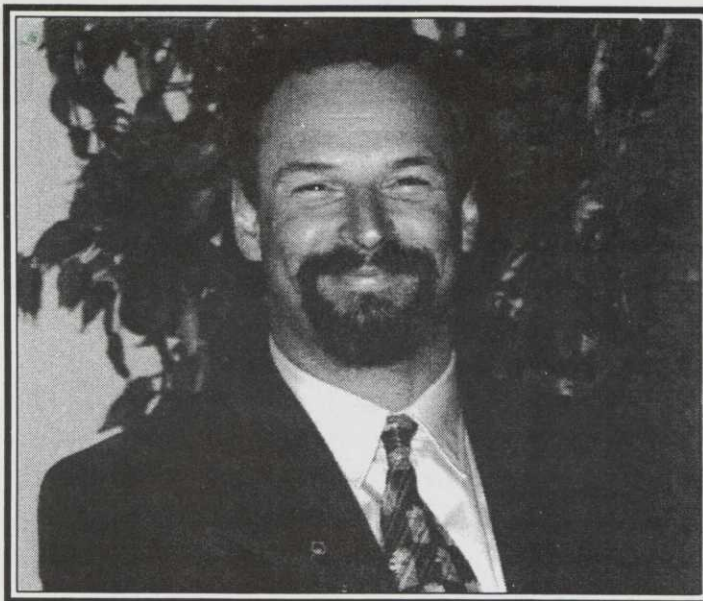
THRU THE GREEN

From The President

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. If you've been to the mall, the stores been ready since Halloween. The spirit of giving and thanks are on people's mind and this industry is no exception. Remember there will be a collection of usable golf equipment at Del Monte in December at the holiday event and in Palo Alto for the annual meeting. The donations will be sent to the Junior Program in Alameda. It will be a great gesture on our part and a great benefit to the kids.

The State Association is still moving forward with the economic impact study. All golf related organizations are currently represented or have been contacted to participate. It really has been great to be involved in an effort so well supported by the entire industry. We hope to have sample questionnaires out in early February for evaluation. You will see more information on the survey as we move forward. Please plan on participating. The more information we make available the better the end result.

Now going back to the season of thanks, this column has presented me with a forum to express my opinions on any subject. I've written about safety, participation, passed along current information and even begged a little. My favorite subject though is thanking people. This industry in general, and each chapter in particular, has so much to be proud of. In time of need, we call on our friends and neighbors to help. We've all seen articles on courses dealing with natural disasters. We have a segment of our membership that is constantly asked to donate and although we sometimes hear a grumble or two they are always there to help. Think about where this association would be without the financial support of our affiliate members. Their



Dave Davies, CGCS

generosity funds most of what we do beyond regular monthly meetings. The Board of Directors, whom are all volunteers, sacrifice their own time away from family and work to provide guidance to our industry. They don't always do the popular thing, but they work on your behalf and rarely get the recognition they deserve for their efforts. I have the greatest respect for all the people I have served with. They are true professionals.

We all have staff members we depend on for continued success. Golf course workers, warehouse people, secretaries and people working behind the counter all help us perform the tasks that our reputations are built on. My staff has allowed me to spend time away from the course to do something I feel is important and my boss has continuously supported my participation. They perform to my level of expectation and make my visions a reality. I have been able to grow as a professional because of their hard work and dedication. If you ever wondered how much of a pain I really can be, ask one of them. We sometimes have our moments but I have never worked with a better group of people.

I have developed some wonderful

Continued on page 3

President's Message (Cont'd)

friendships over the years in this industry. I've had former neighbors like Jim Husting who was always there to loan me whatever I needed and Mike Blume who never had a problem stopping by to answer a question. People like Tim Smith and Dave Wilbur who listened during the troubled times and Mike Garvale and our very own Santa who lead by example, expressing opinions and asking questions. We all have relationships like this....I hope. I wouldn't have it any other way.

The final thank you has to go to my family. They deal with the early mornings and late nights, construction projects, council meetings and weekend "trips" to the golf course that pretend to be breakfast out and end up as a 6 hour work day. They are my emotional stability; they keep me focused and remind me there are things more important than a fairway mower that cuts perfectly. Thank you Beth, Melissa, Jessica, Mathew and Cassidy. And to the rest of you thanks for keeping that sense of humor.... It's critical.

Best wishes for the Holidays /

Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

A new look is coming this year to your membership card and plaques. In an effort to save time (mine) and money (yours), the Board has decided to adopt a membership card with no imprinted annual expiration date. We are ordering replacement card this year without the date. Future replacement cards will be charged at cost.

We will be providing numbered expiration "stickers" for the back of your cards each year. Numerous industries related organizations use this method of updating membership cards. These can be peeled off and replaced next year.

Another change undertaken is the current year plates for your membership plaque have been discontinued. New members wishing to purchase membership plaques will be offered that opportunity at time of application. These membership plaques have the inscription "Member Since" as the previous plaques. The consensus at the Board level was the plate was unnecessary.

Gift certificates issued by the Association in the last few years have been replaced with the policy of purchasing Tournament Gift certificates for the meetings at the Host Club Pro Shop. What that means for all of you out there is December is the last month for redemption of your gift certificates! Since it is the Holiday time of the year, why not bring them to Del Monte and redeem them for a long awaited item.

Remember the last certificates were issued more than six months ago. They are valid for six months. Redemption will close Jan 1, 2000! /

Chapter Delegates Meet in Lawrence

By David Davies, CGCS

The GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting was held September 10-12. I attended as the representative for the GCSANC. Although the Professional Development Initiative was a primary focus, there were other topics of discussion. The PDI will be presented at our Annual Meeting in January. GCSAA continues to be the national voice for our industry. They are participating in national level discussions with the EPA on pesticide use and registration. There was a review of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and the possible effects we will see within the marketplace. GCSAA continues to stress the need for scientific facts in evaluating pesticides for use. They are supporting legislation in Congress to meet that goal and stressed the need for individuals to contact their own legislators on the subject.

Volunteerism was discussed from both the national and local perspective. The last few years have seen a drop in participation for GCSAA Committees and many of the delegates expressed a similar experience within their chapters. Ideas were presented that have been successful in increasing member participation. The primary success story involves direct contact and personal invitations. Phone calls to members by other members who already participate was by far the most positive method described.

GCSAA staff was challenged to increase the representation nationwide. Currently only 50% of all the courses in the country are represented by a GCSAA member. The Board has been working to identify courses not represented and feels many are in a category being labeled "Limited Budget Courses". These courses might be described as small operations, nine hole facilities or courses operating on small budgets. The issue being discussed by the Board involves allocating resources for these facilities to enhance education and communication lines between non member and member facilities. Local Chapters would assist GCSAA in identifying facilities. GCSAA would provide technical support and the possibility of a mentoring program is being examined.

A brief review of the current GCSAA media program was made. A national print campaign will take the place of the previous campaign highlighted by "Par for the Course". A prime time television add was aired during this years John Deere Classic and video news releases were made during the Ryder Cup telecast. GCSAA continues to stress the importance of action on the local level for increased media exposure.

With the continued growth of the association, the Board has

Continued on Page 6, See "Chapter Delegates"

Old Del Monte (Cont'd)

professional score Pete has seen is a 66.

There has been a lot of history developed over the years. Back when the course was attached to Hotel Del Monte, the course would often see notables such as the Rockefellers and Howard Hughes. Probably the most amazing incident was when Ken Venturi went AWOL from Fort Ord, played Del Monte, and set the course record of 62 that still stands today.

Del Monte is owned and operated by the Pebble Beach Company. It still hosts the tour players at the Pebble Beach Invitational in November each year. The California State Amateur, which originated at Del Monte many years ago, is also still being contested over the storied links.

Superintendent Pete Bibber is nearly as legendary. Born in and raised in Harpswell Maine, Pete worked as an offset pressman in the US Army before turning toward golf. Pete was first hired by Roger Larson as a mechanic/greenskeeper at Spyglass Hill. After about eight years, he was made assistant to Bill Spence. In 1976, he was transferred to Del Monte as Superintendent. He has honorably filled that role for 23 years.

Pete enjoys fishing, hunting, the outdoors, and the environment. He and his significant other Brenda, have two mean dogs used for bear hunting (maybe I can get them admitted to the next Cal game!) He does a lot of volunteer work which includes serving on the board of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, he is the Parks Commissioner for District 4 of Monterey County Parks, Treasurer for the Parks Foundation of Monterey County, and serves on the board of the Marina Coast Water District. He's also a past president of the GCSANC and served on the GCSAA Conference and Show committee in Anaheim.

Pete was very gracious in hosting the GCSANC for the last event of 1999. Seeing Pete again and all the history he's nurtured at Old Del Monte will be a fitting end to the century. /

Quick Quote

The difference between a genius and a lunatic is that the genius has proof.

—Dominique Bouchard—

In Memory of Al Deschene

By Ken Schwark

The GCSANC and I lost a dear friend on October 4, 1999. Al Deschene and I go back close to 21 years. Al was my neighbor in Richmond up off Hilltop Drive. We spent many afternoons playing golf together after work. He had always mentioned that he would love to get into the golf business, but an entry level position just wouldn't make ends meet for him and his family.

One day I was working at the Tony Lema Golf Course and the pro approached me with the idea of running the whole facility with him. I gladly jumped at the idea and I immediately called Al to see if he would like to be my assistant. He was a manager where he was working and had very good people skills. He was very interested in the position, but knew nothing about agronomy. I told him the deal to take over the course, if it were to happen, would be over a year away. During this time he could come down on weekends and learn how to cut greens, tees, fairways, cups, etc. He could schedule time off when we aerified greens to learn how that procedure was done. I had him take correspondence courses with Purdue University, and read all of the agronomy books I had. The rest of his training would be acquired on the job.

Al faithfully came down to the course to learn on his weekends. He was genuinely inspired to get into the business. He studied everything I could give him. After a year and a half, I learned the pro and I weren't going to get the contract at Tony Lema. I told Al and he was extremely disappointed. Just a few weeks after that, Al suffered a major heart attack. He was laid up for a year recovering. Once he returned to work, he was let go. I helped him find a job with the Envirojet Company. He started injecting greens. Through that job he was put in contact with Mike Farnen from Farmload Distributors, who was the Floratine distributor. Mike hired Al and sent him back to Tennessee where he was given extensive training on all of the Floratine products. Al came back and started from scratch with his own business. His wife was working full time and he worked as much as he could when he felt good.

Al was a warrior. Half of his heart was dead. The muscle on the left side of his heart didn't receive blood

See "Al Deschene" on Page 7

Availability of Dursban In Jeopardy

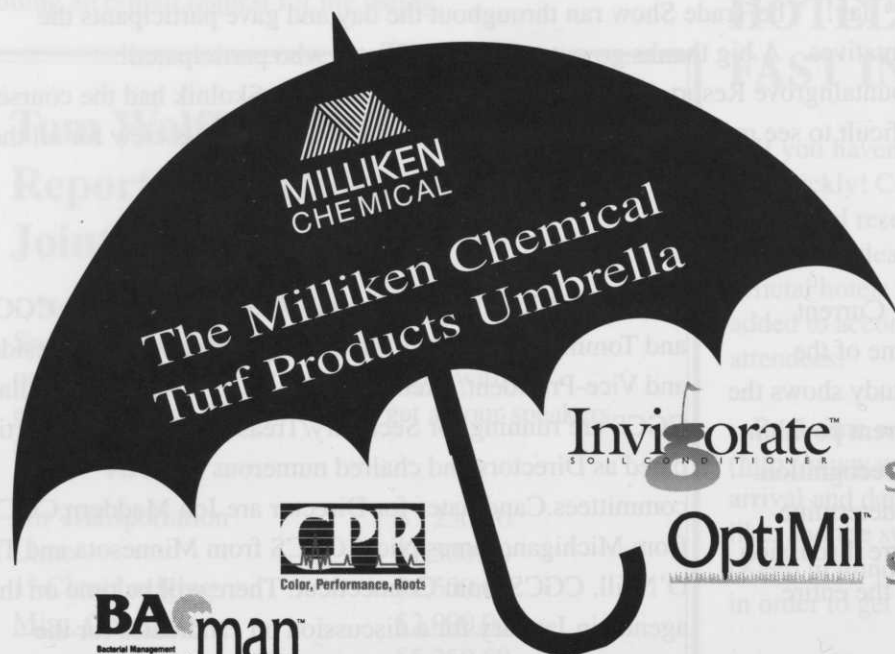
Your Action Needed! The EPA has completed their risk assessment on Chlorpyrifos (Dursban) and it is clear that the agency does not understand how this product is used. GCSAA has joined in the efforts of Dow AgroSciences to make it easy for you to **contact the EPA and tell them how you use Dursban** at your golf course.

Use the web site link below to contact officials at the EPA and tell them how important Dursban is to you as a golf course superintendent. The deadline for comments is December 27, 1999. Act Quickly — the deadline is fast approaching.

Follow these simple steps and act now!

- ◆ Click here to go directly to the **Dursban web site**. Chloropyrifos.com
- ◆ Once there, click on the red "Write EPA Today" button in the top leftmost corner of your screen.
- ◆ Scroll Down until you see the words, "I support the continued availability of Dursban insecticide!"
- ◆ Follow directions on the page to submit your letter directly to the EPA.

For help, contact **Carrie Riordan**, government relations manager, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 610



Milliken Chemical M-402
Division of Milliken & Co.
P. O. Box 1927
Spartanburg, SC 29304
Phone: 1-800-845-8502
www.millikenturf.com

BACman™
Bacterial Management
To Reduce Excess Nutrients

CPR
Color, Performance, Roots

**THATCH
X**

**Pana-Sea
Plus**

Blazon
SPRAY PATTERN INDICATOR

SeaQuential™
Liquid Chelated Iron Supplement for Turf
SeaQuential™
Liquid Chelated Iron with
MICRONUTRIENTS

MIRAGE™
LAKE AND POND COLOR

SAND-AID
Granular Sea Plant Meal

GroWin
Granular Progermination Biostimulant

1999 Institute a Success



Sierra Pacific Booth - "The guys from Sunnyvale having fun again at the Institute Trade Show."



Delta Bluegrass Booth - "Bob Miller, John Holmquist, and Alan Heath talk shop at the Institute."

The 1999 Institute and Trade Show at the Santa Rosa Hilton was a success. Co-Chairmen Ali Harivandi and Gary Carls, CGCS set up a great program. The educational seminars featured Dr. Eric Nelson of Cornell University and Dr. Larry Stowell of Pace Consulting. Dr. Nelson dispelled some of the myths of the biological and organic products. He noted that we are really in the infancy of research that needs to be done in this area. Dr. Stowell gave numerous practical tips in the management of *Poa annua* greens. A panel discussion featuring local superintendents followed. Each described the management of the particular bentgrass variety used at his course. The management strategy used at Cinnabar Hills on A-4 was particularly interesting. They were only watering every 12th day! The Trade Show ran throughout the day and gave participants the chance to talk one on one with industry representatives. A big thanks go out to all the affiliates who participated!

Golf followed the next day at the beautiful Fountaingrove Resort & CC. We were pretty sure Gary Skolnik had the course in great shape again, but the dense fog made it difficult to see much of anything. Thanks go out to Gary and his crew for all their efforts!

Chapter Delegates (Cont'd)

set a goal of 30,000 members by the year 2005. Current membership stands at just over 20,000. The name of the Association was also discussed. A consulting study shows the current name may not accurately reflect the current position and may be a stumbling block for better public recognition. All attendees participated in a brief exercise to determine possible name for the future. There will be more discussion on this issue as it has a wide ranging impact on the entire industry from a marketing standpoint.

A leadership institute is also being explored to advance the skills of future association participants and officers.

The last major component was presentations by the candi-

dates for Officers and Directors. R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS and Tommy Witt, CGCS are running unopposed for President and Vice-President. Ken Mangum, CGCS and Mike Wallace, CGCS are running for Secretary/Treasurer. Both have participated as Directors and chaired numerous GCSAA committees. Candidates for Director are Jon Maddern, CGCS from Michigan, James Nicol, CGCS from Minnesota and Tim O'Neill, CGCS from Connecticut. There will be time on the agenda in January for a discussion on candidates for the purpose of placing votes at the GCSAA Annual Meeting. /

Alameda Junior Golf Equipment Donation

You can make this holiday season even more enjoyable by donating your extra or used golf equipment to the "Alameda Junior Golf Shop." Simply bring it with you to Del Monte Golf Course December 10th or Palo Alto Municipal on January 18th. GCSANC Board Members will be available to gather the equipment for this worthwhile program.

Revised Membership List Available From the ASGCA

Where do you find the golf course architect best suited to design or remodel your golf course? Start with the American Society of Golf Course Architects' Membership List.

The updated and free listing of the Society's 139 member architects provides a valuable, easy to read reference of addresses, telephone and fax numbers. The list contains e-mail and web site addresses as well.

To obtain a copy, send a self-addressed stamped business-sized envelope to: ASGCA, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601. Or e-mail the ASGCA at asgca@selz.com. Please provide your name, company and mailing address when sending an e-mail request for the listing.

Tom Wolff Submits Expense Report from Hiddenbrooke Joint Meeting

Not only was Tom Wolff from the TPC at Snoqualamie Ridge an entertaining speaker, he provided the board with a few laughs with his expense report. Now if we can get all our speakers to think this way!

Air Transportation	\$ 250.50
Limo	\$1,500.00
1 st Class Lodging	\$1,500.00
Misc. Company	\$2,000.00
	\$5,250.50
Donation to GCSANC	
Research Program	\$5,000.00
Total Due	\$ 250.50

New Rules Relate to Course Conditions

The USGA and the R&A have announced several rules changes for 2000 that relate to golf course conditions. One of the most significant changes is that the Rules of Golf now permit a **local** rule regarding stones in bunkers.

With a goal of improving player safety, a new rule in Appendix I allows stones in bunkers to be labeled as moveable obstructions. "It is important to note that moving a stone in a bunker will still be a Rules violation unless a local committee elects to adopt the recommended language," said USGA Rules Committee Chairman Reed Mackenzie.

In addition, the definition of ground under repair has been amended to state that a ball off the ground but in a bush or tree rooted in ground under repair is in ground under repair.

Other changes of interest include a new definition of abnormal ground conditions and clarification that a Committee has authority to define a body of water that meets the definition of Lateral Water Hazard as a Water Hazard.

For a press release on other changes that will take effect Jan. 1, 2000, visit http://www.usga.org/press/1999_77.html

HOTEL ROOMS SELLING OUT FAST IN NEW ORLEANS

If you haven't yet made a hotel reservation, you need to act quickly! Call GCSAA Travel at 1-800-442-7220 to make your hotel reservations and other travel arrangements for the New Orleans Conference and Show. Although all of the official hotels are sold out, additional hotels are being added to accommodate all GCSAA conference and show attendees.

Real-time reservations are also available at GCSAA Travel (<http://www.worldtek.com/gcsaaconv>). Simply enter your arrival and departure dates, and the type of room you'd like, and the system will return all available options. (Keep in mind you may need to be flexible with your options in order to get the hotel of your choice.)

You can find detailed information on each of the hotels by visiting the show web site at: <http://www.gcsaa.org/2000confer/travel/hotels/newmap.html>

One Superintendent's Xmas Wish List

By Terry Grasso

All my tee shots were downwind
 All my putts were uphill, straight in, and 10ft. or less
 All four pars were less than 350 yards
 I had a scramble pairing with Mike Garvale, Scott Lewis, and Mike Ligon
 I wouldn't have to trash so many incomplete GCSANC scorecards
 The Eucalyptus beetle would take residency at Hillsborough
 My GM would go on a LONG vacation
 My Green Committee Chairman would go with him
 My commute was 10 minutes or less
 Toll takers might actually smile
 My crew would be awake at 6:00am
 There were no houses around my golf course
 Drainage, drainage, and more drainage
 I had John Grant's stress
 More vendors would make appointments
 More superintendents would come to monthly meetings
 Everyone in the GCSANC has happy holidays and a prosperous New Year

Al Deschene (Cont'd)

for 10 days. He felt ill often due to his lack of circulation. But he was the truest friend anyone could ask for. He was there when you needed anything. He was the type of guy that would not only give you his shirt but also his coat if you needed it. He never spoke badly of anyone. I feel honored to have had such a great friend.

Al left his wife Pam, his daughter Aubry (15), and his son Chace (12). Because of his heart condition, Al was never able to secure life insurance. The family is now trying desperately to make ends meet. If anyone would like to help the family in this time of need, we are asking you to send a gift of any amount to: Pam Deschene, 3397 MacDonald St., Napa, CA 94558. Your gifts and time are very much appreciated. Thank you. ✍

PDI On The Web: Read All About It

If you've recently visited GCSAA Online's discussion forums, you've probably seen something about the Professional Development Initiative. But if you're wondering what it all really means, be sure to visit the special PDI section in the members only area of the site. In this section, you'll find a copy of the materials presented at the chapter delegates meeting, frequently asked questions, and a schedule of upcoming presentations at chapter meetings. New features will also be added as the PDI develops.

Did You Know?

California: Gov. Davis vetoed a bill that would have required 72 hour pre-notification of school pesticide applications, including use of products such as Raid and Lysol. The veto is good news for pesticide users — activists use school notification measures as the first step toward a complete ban of all pesticide uses.

GCSAA Education



Sustainable Golf Course Landscape Design: Enhancing Aesthetics, Function and Maintenance

Wednesday, January 5, 2000; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Code: 00RS229-04; 0.7 CEUs

Lake and Aquatic Plant Management

Thursday, January 6, 2000; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Code: 00RS034-03; 0.7 CEUs

Member Fee: \$110.00;
 Nonmember Fee \$165 (per seminar)
 The Pleasanton Hilton at the Club;
 Pleasanton, California

*Brought to you by the GCSA of Northern California
 Sponsored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products*
 For more information or to register (800) 472-7878

TEXTRON

Boardroom Briefs

November 2, 1999

By Ken Williams, CGCS

- ◆ Present: Carls, Costa, Davies, Grasso, Franzen, Williams
- ◆ Absent: Kilcoyne, Nunemacher, Sayre, Swint
- ◆ Treasurer's report found the Association to be operating in good shape.
- ◆ Eighteen incomplete scorecards from the Hiddenbrooke meeting were disqualified.
- ◆ The Media program was discussed. Board members were to submit a list of questions to be answered by superintendents and issued as press releases. The Board felt the Media Director needed to step up his performance in the coming year. Bob Costa, CGCS was to draft a letter from the Board to Greg Crawford.
- ◆ The Board reviewed the criteria for the annual awards. It is becoming extremely difficult in choosing award winners. Since this year was a short year for the GCSANC (April-Dec.), the board voted to suspend the annual awards for this year. But the question still remains, how does a committee select just one winner in each category?
- ◆ The annual meeting at Palo Alto in January was discussed. Terry Grasso is going to invite Jerry Berrow from the Alameda Junior Golf Program to accept our donation of golf equipment. A candidate list for the upcoming election was due soon. Already confirmed were Gary Skolnik, Jeff Shafer, and Roger Robarge. It was hoped that the Past Presidents would run the election. Ray Davies, CGCS will present and answer questions about the GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative.

Ali Harivandi will also present some of the things happening with himself and the UCCE.

- ◆ Ken Williams, CGCS was to write a letter to a GCSANC member who disrupted the educational session at the Institute.
- ◆ A crab feed was scheduled for the 2001 Holiday Party. It was hoped that Ron Rogers, Adrian Bertens, and Mike Ravel would coordinate the meal.
- ◆ Delta College of Stockton has started a two-year turfgrass program. Professor Mike Toscano has numerous turf plots that could be used for research.
- ◆ The Board asked Ken Williams, CGCS to draft a five year plan for Scholarship and Research funded by the GCSANC. There are so many avenues now to direct research dollars, the Board felt a specific plan of action was needed.
- ◆ Barb Mikel has taken over as the California GCSA Manager. Barb adds this responsibility to her current workload which includes the GCSANC.
- ◆ The CGCSA has coordinated the Overall Economic Impact of Golf study. The study is being funded by the NCGA, SCGA, CGCSA, PGA, and the GCOANC. The study will be used to show legislators how important the golf industry is to the California economy. This will aid our lobbyist George Steffes in fighting for our causes.

Pine Pitch Canker (Cont'd)

into California in a manner that was very unexpected. Delivery and use of infected/infested pine material from pitch canker areas of the US into un-infested locations can aid disease spread. This issue is particularly important in situations in which the imported pine needles are used as mulch around golf course and park plantings contain pines. The disease persists in soil and mulch for at least two years and will fruit during moist times. Native insects could close the infection loop by bridging the gap between the fruiting structure and a nearby susceptible pine host.

If you have used imported pine straw, please contact Dave Adams at the CDF. He can be reached at 530-758-0306 or e-mail at david_adams@fire.ca.gov.



WEST STAR DISTRIBUTING, INC.

2438 Radley Court • Hayward, CA 94545-1159
11373 Sunrise Gold Circle • Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

TORO

HAYWARD
(510) 887-1222
FAX (510) 785-3576

RANCHO CORDOVA
(916) 635-3232
FAX (916) 635-3348