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THRU THE GREEN

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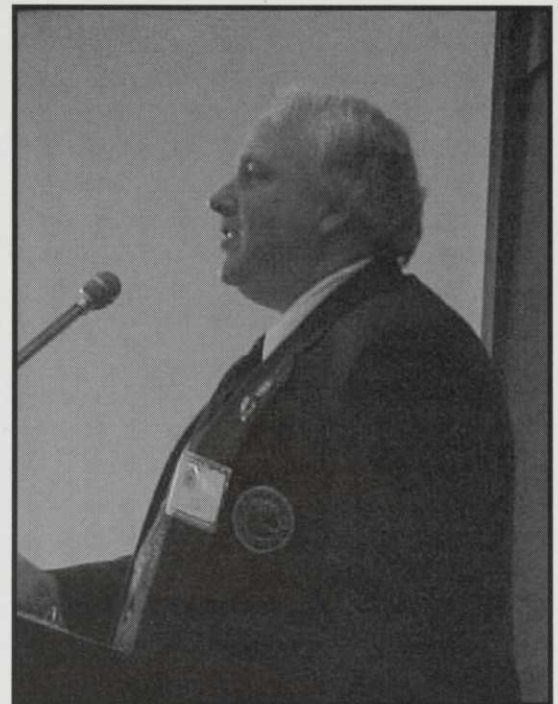
From The President "Back To The Future"

By Gary Carls, CGCS

As I write this, my second President's message, the rapidness of the technology age has truly struck home. With the tremendous speed of the Internet, the timeliness of our monthly newsletter seems to move at a snail's pace. By the time you read this, we will have hopefully had a safe and fruitful adventure to the GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans. Yet as I write this, I am still 5 days from leaving. With the increasing burdens of our jobs, some of us have emerged into the world of high-tech faster than others. As we look at our future and try to plan GCSANC events, we hope to offer some different educational opportunities in the next year. I think we will be a little less golf oriented at our monthly meetings. I hope this venture is successful just to ease a great deal of time spent by board members trying to coordinate these events. If you really feel the need to play golf, call your fellow member down the street and go play his course.

Our new board member committee assignments are listed in the back of this publication. If you would like to get involved and have a little time to spare, contact one of the chairs and offer any help you can. The new board held its first meeting on January 31st. There is a lot of enthusiasm and information contained within this group and they all look forward to your help. Two of the programs we are going to take a hard look at in the coming year are our Scholarship and Research programs. If you have any suggestions as to how we might get the maximum benefit from these programs, please forward those ideas to the committee chairs or myself.

On March 6th, Stanford G.C. and Ken Williams CGCS will be hosting the GCSAA Etonic program "Enhancing



President, Gary Carls, CGCS

Your Job and Securing Your Future " with Mr. Dalton Floyd Jr. This four-hour program will cover items such as employment contracts and how to negotiate with your employer. Space will be limited to 90 participants. Because of manuals etc. we will be unable to accommodate walk-in registrations that day. Please plan accordingly. GCSAA CEU's (.35) will be awarded for those who complete the exam at the end of the program.

By the time you read this, we hope to have plans finalized for our 2nd Annual Media Event. Also, please mark your calendar for the USGA/NCGA Meeting at Castlewood March 23rd, the CGCSA Meeting in San Diego on May 1 and 2 and the GCSANC Field Workshop May 22nd at Ruby Hill GC in Pleasanton.

Finally, please feel free to contact me at (408) 730-7625 if you ever have questions or items you want to talk about. There are a lot of great ideas floating around out there and they need to be heard. We are an association of over 600 members and your experiences and input are valuable to those of us who make the daily decisions of GCSANC operations. Thank you for your time. — Gary

Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

We receive thank you letters each year from our scholarship recipients. The board of directors and scholarship committee read those letters. The presentation program provides an opportunity for each student to give his or her personal thanks. Last month I received a call from the father of a scholarship recipient just wanting to say "thank you." It was quite an emotional conversation. Seems this young man lost his mother to cancer two years ago and struggled to keep on going and do the "thing he has always wanted to do"-- be a golf course superintendent. His father was proud and appreciative of your efforts, take it to heart, and feel good about this program.

Your directory is "in the works". We hope to make additional improvements this year. What I really hope is that I have the most current information! I have many questionnaires outstanding as of this writing. The only way we can hope to keep this current is if you tell us when things change in your life. /

Etonic Seminar Series Comes to Stanford University Golf Course

March 6th, 2000 is the date for the seminar, "Improving Your Job and Securing Your Future." The seminar is part of the Etonic Seminar Series sponsored by golf shoe and apparel manufacturer Etonic. With the help of the GCSAA, the GCSANC was able to bring this excellent seminar to Northern California.

The four-hour seminar is being taught by Dalton B. Floyd, Jr. Mr. Floyd is an attorney and the founder of Golf Rx Associates, a consulting firm addressing the unique legal needs of the golfing industry. He has presented to the PGA, and numerous other golf associations. He has authored articles for GCSAA's Golf Course Management magazine as well as the Leader Board.

"Improving Your Job and Securing Your Future" will focus on increasing awareness of our changing environment. It will examine our attitudes and behaviors in the face of change. It will help superintendents build better partnerships and improve upon leadership and negotiating skills. It will also cover written employment contracts.

Lunch and golf will follow the seminar. Participants will be limited to 90. Please join us for a great day of education and camaraderie at the beautiful Stanford Golf Course. /

Is not life a hundred times too short for us to bore ourselves?
— Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche —

New Board Backs Media Program

Last year's inauguration of the GCSANC Media Program was heralded as an opportunity for local superintendents to gain much deserved recognition within the golfing industry. Like most programs in their infancy, the first thirteen months were punctuated by a number high and lows. Although some concerns have been publicly acknowledged, any notion that the program is in trouble should be dismissed. In fact, the first two months of 2000 have been the busiest since the program's inception.

Last year, the primary objective was to establish relationships with members of the local media and develop a presence within the golf community. "I think the program had a great deal of success the first six or seven months" said Bob Costa, CGCS and PR chairman, "but then it just seemed to stall". As for an explanation, Costa suggested there were some internal issues that have since been worked out plus the membership just didn't respond. "Realistically, there is only so much that we can do to promote our profession, it's difficult to create stories about our members when no one has come forward with ideas or stories. In spite of the lackluster member involvement, Media Director Greg Crawford did manage to produce 17 press releases and there was some success with radio interviews and in the print media.

This year's program has been retooled accordingly. The 2000 program is built around events as opposed to individuals. It will feature activities such as a media forum, ball mark repair week, turfgrass awareness week, a media team at the superintendent pro tournament, and a US Open diary. The Board will be fine-tuning the 2000 program at a planning session schedule in late February. "I think it is safe to say that this is a critical year for the program," said Costa. "All of us at the Board level are committed, and Greg is really focused."

"One of our objectives will be to get Greg more involved on a personal basis with members of the media. As always, we still have our hand out to the membership for stories. Anything they can contribute, increases our chances of success with the program and ultimately the respect and recognition of the superintendent". /

*"In golf construction art and utility meet;
both are absolutely vital,
one is utterly ruined without the other."*

— George C. Thomas, Jr. —
Golf Course Architect

CLCA Asks California Cities to Reconsider Leaf Blower Bans

The California Landscape Contractors Association called upon the state's 20 cities that have enacted leaf blower bans to reconsider them in the wake of a California Air Resources Board report that failed to find serious health or environmental consequences when the newest technology is used properly.

"Total bans are overkill and extremely harmful to working class people, and we hope they will be lifted by communities that have so far gone to those extremes," said David Norred, CLCA's president.

ARB's staff wrote the 61-page report in response to a request from the California Legislature to summarize the potential health and environmental impacts of leaf blowers and recommend alternatives to their use, if alternatives were deemed necessary. Entitled, "A Report to the California Legislature on Potential Health and Environmental Impacts of Leaf Blowers," the document was released on December 13, 1999 and is scheduled for consideration by ARB at a meeting to be held Thursday and Friday, January 27-28, at the South Coast Air Quality Management District Auditorium in Diamond Bar.

Norred said the report is "the most thorough examination of the health and environmental impacts to date and will be the starting point for all future public policy discussions about leaf blowers, not only in California, but throughout the world."

Norred noted that the document examines three potential impacts: exhaust emissions, dust emissions, and noise. While the report raises some areas of concern about all three, Norred emphasized that it does not conclude that equipment is more of a problem than many other types of mechanized devices used in and around the home, nor does it make recommendations for alternatives.

Landscape workers, who may be in very close proximity to
See "Leaf Blower Bans" Cont'd on page 7

New GCSAA Web Site Look Coming Soon

GCSAA members have asked for an easier way to get around the GCSAA web site, and now the site is being revamped. The GCSAA soon will be unveiling its web site "facelift."

If you haven't visited the site lately, here's what you can expect:

- 1) One click access to the site's most popular features.
- 2) News and announcements on the home page where you can easily find them.
- 3) A new quick poll to collect your opinions on a variety of industry issues.
- 4) Easier access to the entire site's contents.

And, to further prepare you, here's what you won't find:

- 1) Frames!
- 2) An FYI Java applet to slow the home page down.
- 3) A separate members-only area. All the "members only" features will be available from the public side but will still be password-protected just as they are now.
- 4) The GCSAA Exchange and Student Union discussion forums. It's been recommended that these forums be discontinued due to lack of participation.

The site's new look is much easier to read, easier to navigate, and easier to use. Check it out if you haven't been there in a while! /

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2000 Sponsorship/Advertising Order Form

- Eagle Plus Package**
 - Half Page Ad - 6 issues of "Thru the Green" \$450
 - Insert - 1 issue of "Thru the Green" (month _____) \$425
 - Scholarship Contribution - Level 3, 2, or 1 (select one) \$300, \$200, \$100
 - Christmas Meeting Contribution - Level 1, 2 (select one) \$100, \$200

Total (less 10%).....\$ _____

- Eagle Package**
 - Business Card Ad - 12 issues of "Thru the Green" \$450
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 - Scholarship Contribution - Level 3, 2, or 1 (select one) \$300, \$200, \$100
 - Christmas Meeting Contribution - Level 1, or 2 (select one) \$100, \$200

Total (less 10%).....\$ _____

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 - Insert - 1 issue of "Thru the Green" (month _____) \$425
 - Scholarship Contribution - Level 3, 2, or 1 (select one) \$300, \$200, \$100
 - Christmas Meeting Contribution - Level 1, or 2 (select one) \$100, \$200

Total (less 10%).....\$ _____

- Par Package**
 - Scholarship Contribution - Level 3, 2, or 1 (select one) \$300, \$200, \$100
 - Christmas Meeting Contribution - Level 1, or 2 (select one) \$100, \$200

Total (less 10%).....\$ _____

- One Putt**
 - Scholarship Contribution - Level 3, 2, or 1 (select one) \$300, \$200, \$100
 - Christmas Meeting - Level 1, or 2 (select one) \$100, \$200
 - Insert - 1 issue of "Thru the Green" (month _____) \$425
 - Monthly Meeting Sponsorship (month _____) \$400
 - Membership Directory \$325
 - Institute (negotiable) \$3,000 minimum
 - Member Listing \$225
 - NorCal/Sierra Nevada Joint meeting \$1,000

Total.....\$ _____

- Two Putt**
 - Selection #1, activity _____ month _____ \$ _____
 - Selection #2, activity _____ month _____ \$ _____

Total.....\$ _____

Total Due: full payment.....\$ _____

Total Due: 50% payment (balance due 3/1/99).....\$ _____

Business Name: _____ **Phone#** _____

Dr. Bruce Clarke – Turfgrass Pathologist from Rutgers University
Round Hill Country Club in Alamo, CA
Wednesday - April 12, 2000
9:30 AM –2:00 PM

Novartis Crop Protection is proud to sponsor Dr. Bruce Clarke, Turfgrass Pathologist from Rutgers University. All turfgrass professionals are invited to attend. Dr. Clarke will be discussing turfgrass disease control strategies, focusing on turfgrass diseases of golf course greens, tees and fairways. Included in his discussion will be his most recent work with some of the newer chemistries soon to be labelled for use.

Dean Kinney, Marketing Specialist for Novartis Crop Protection, will also give a brief update on several new products from Novartis to be introduced this year including Compass® brand fungicide and Meridian® brand insecticide.

As seating is limited and lunch will be served, it is very important we get an accurate number of attendees to the catering staff at Round Hill Country Club. Therefore, we are requesting you to RSVP by April 1, 2000 one of the following ways:

1. Mail/fax this card back to Dean Kinney of Novartis Crop Protection with the requested information.
2. E-mail me at dean.kinney@cp.novartis.com with the requested information.
3. Call me at either 916/983-1526 (office/fax) or 916/716-2622 (cellular).

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting!

Best Regards,

Dean Kinney
Marketing Specialist
Novartis Crop Protection

Persons Attending: _____

Company/Golf Course: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

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Tiger Wins 6th Straight in Monterey

Tiger Woods overcame multiple obstacles to win the AT&T Pro-Am in Monterey. He survived fierce wind, rain, fog, losing the head off his driver, six-hour rounds, Tom Smothers' yo-yo antics and a Monday finish to outlast 180 professionals at the event. His final round 64 included an eagle on the par 4 15th hole. This was Tiger's six straight PGA Tour win bringing him within five of Byron Nelson's all time record of 11.

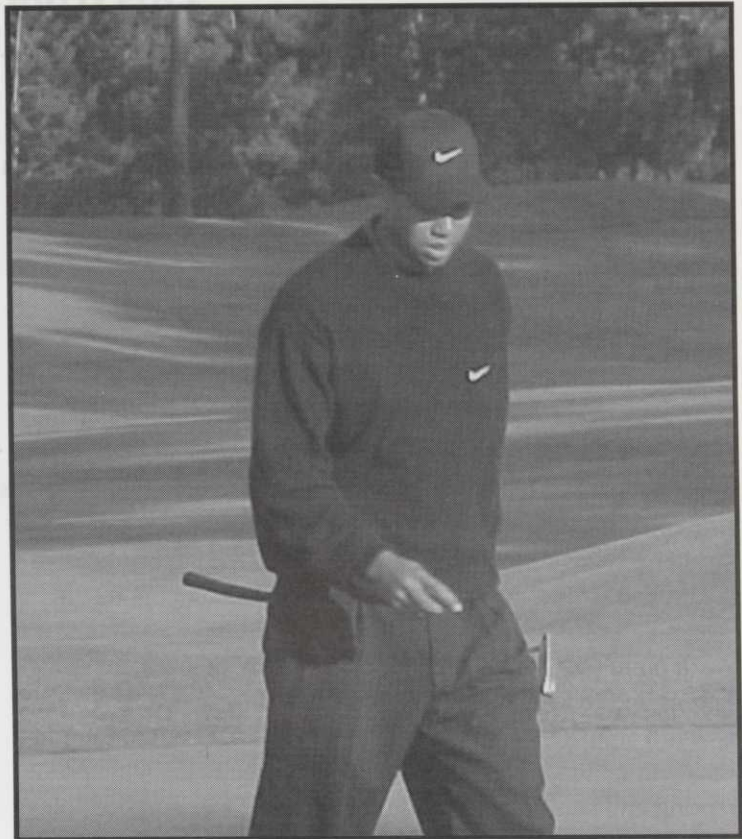
Tiger's \$720,000 victory check brought him to within \$40,000 of the PGA Tour's career earnings record held currently by Davis Love III. The event was contested over GCSANC member Manny Sousa's Poppy Hills GC, Eric Johnson's Spyglass Hill GC, and Mark Michaud's/ Eric Greypok's Pebble Beach Golf Links. Congratulations guys for a well run event! /

Home On The Farm (Cont'd)

tant to be conservative in your approach but at the same time explore new alternatives".

In an era when job related stress finds most superintendents relishing the opportunity to "get away" at day's end, Stanford's Williams makes his home right on the golf course. "It has its advantages," says Williams, a devoted family man. "It's given me greater flexibility to spend time with my kids, particularly when working the weekends." The home, which was originally constructed in 1877, sits amongst what was once Leyland Stanford's stock farm, where at one time over 300 horses roamed. Some horse stables still remain and are located adjacent to the golf course. Its occasional aroma is a constant reminder to Williams of Stanford's equestrian heritage.

In spite of the challenges of managing a university golf course and raising a young family, Williams has found the time to make an impact within the association, serving as a Director in '98 and '99 and as the newsletter editor since last spring. Williams was also instrumental in developing the highly successful Turfgrass Field Day, which debuted last May at Crystal Springs and will travel to Ruby Hill this year. On March 6th, Williams and Stanford will play host to the first in a series of GCSANC educational meetings that will feature a four-hour Etonic seminar followed by afternoon golf. "Our staff is excited and very much looking forward to hosting the GCSANC and the Etonic Seminar series" says Williams, an education advocate whom you could say is truly at home, down on the farm. /



Tiger strides toward victory at Monterey

*"Don't lose hope —
when it gets darkest, the stars come out."
—Unknown —*

GCSAA Develops Limited Budget Outreach Program

GCSAA is asking local chapters to identify limited budget golf facilities in their area. They will then match those facilities with local superintendent members who are willing to serve as mentors and provide assistance. The overall mission of the program is to help and enhance course conditions in order to help grow the game of golf, thereby fostering increased golfer enjoyment and participation in the sport.

This outreach program will promote communication and technical information transfer between experienced superintendents and those individuals in charge of maintenance at limited budget golf facilities. The program is geared to utilize existing relationships as much as possible and would use a non-threatening approach. Look for more information in the coming months in GCSAA's Newslite. /

Tips from the USGA:

1999 in the Southwest Region

by Pat Gross, Southwest Director

The past year was very productive and rewarding for most golf courses in the Southwest. As we leave 1999 behind, it is always a good idea to see where we have been and hopefully learn from our collective experiences. The following are a few highlights from the Southwest Region in 1999.

Labor shortage – With the economy booming, many courses found it difficult to fill vacant positions on the maintenance staff. This left many courses short-handed and limited their ability to complete improvement projects. Golf courses seemed to be competing with construction contractors for entry level laborers, and golf courses often lost out to the higher paying construction companies. One superintendent remarked that he couldn't even find a person to operate a weed-eater for \$9.00/hour. Some courses have compensated with more part-time employees, but many courses are still struggling to keep a well-trained staff.

Mild weather – After the heavy rains of El Nino, La Nina brought less rainfall and milder temperatures throughout the spring and summer. Because the weather was so good, play was up at most courses compared to the previous year. The mild weather was also a benefit to superintendents, with fewer pest problems and healthier grass. Many superintendents pressed their luck with lower putting green mowing heights further into the summer. There seemed to be many happy golfers this summer as a result of the faster greens. During a mild year, you can get away with it, but each year is different.

Redgum lerp psyllid – A small insect pest called the redgum lerp psyllid caused extensive damage to several species of eucalyptus trees throughout California. The larvae of the psyllid produce a crystallized honeydew structure called a "lerp", which serves as a protective cover for the larvae and complicates control efforts. Heavy infestations caused severe leaf drop on many trees. According to entomologists at the University of California, repeated defoliation can weaken the tree and increase susceptibility to wood-boring pests such as the eucalyptus longhorn borer. According to John Kabashima with the University of California Cooperative Extension, the redgum lerp psyllid has been a common pest in Australia for over 100 years and rarely kills trees. Some courses are implementing aggressive control programs while others are weathering the storm. In the meantime, entomologists at the University of California are actively pursuing and testing various biological controls for the psyllid, a project that may take two to three years.

Overseeding – Courses in Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Palm

Springs had a successful overseeding season. While overseeding establishment seemed to go quite well, the main challenge for the desert courses was the control of *Poa annua*. Various products and programs were tested including standard products such as ethofumesate (*Prograss*) and newer products such as prodiamine (*Barricade*) and the fungicide fenarimol (*Rubigan*). Overseeding was also a hot topic for courses in the inland valleys of southern California. Cold temperatures in December caused the complete dormancy of bermudagrass and kikuyugrass. Courses that decided to overseed looked like heroes in the spring and early summer, and courses that decided to forego overseeding received a lot of criticism until the warm season grasses resumed active growth in April and May. But, with such mild temperatures, the overseeded perennial ryegrass persisted throughout the summer in many locations and limited the recovery of bermudagrass. The question of overseeding will continue to spark debate throughout the Southwest. Most locations are able to provide excellent turf conditions for nine months of the year. The main question for course owners and members is what three months are you willing to accept less than perfect conditions? (December through February, or July through September?)

New grasses – A number of new courses have planted some of the improved creeping bentgrass and hybrid bermudagrass cultivars of greens. Penn A-4 creeping bentgrass appears to be the most popular variety with extremely fine texture and ability to handle very low cutting heights. Courses with the new Penn A-series and G-series grasses are still getting comfortable with the required maintenance practices. According to the superintendents I have talked to, the most important aspects of maintenance include 1) thatch control, 2) nitrogen fertility rate, and 3) proper mowing practices. The regional test greens sponsored by GCSAA, the USGA, and NTEP are also performing well. The Southwest is very fortunate to have four of the sixteen test greens. (The SCGA Members Course, Murrietta, CA; Crystal Springs Golf Course, Burlingame, CA; Fox Hollow at Lakewood, Lakewood, CO; and the Country Club of Green Valley, Green Valley, AZ) If you have not had a chance to visit one of the sites, make it a point to stop in and see the grasses this year. What makes this project unique is that the grasses are maintained under actual playing conditions with traffic so that superintendents and club officials can get a realistic view of how each grass performs in their area.

What's ahead for 2000? So far, it looks to be a very dry year. Many courses are looking a little tired and salt-stressed due to the lack of rainfall. Let's hope Mother Nature gives us a few showers soon to freshen everything up and get us off to a good start in 2000. Happy New Year, and best wishes for a successful and productive year. ♣

Leaf Blower Bans (Cont'd)

the machines for several hours on a daily basis, appear from the report to be far more likely to be affected by any potential impacts than bystanders or individuals who occasionally use the machines around their own homes, said Norred. "Landscape maintenance contractors and gardeners should learn from this report by making sure appropriate breathing and hearing protection is used, purchasing the quietest available leaf blower technology, and shifting as quickly as possible to Year 2000 models that are significantly less polluting than older ones."

Norred said pending legislation, cosponsored by CLCA, would go a long way toward addressing the potential impacts mentioned in the report. Assembly Bill 1609 by Tony Cardenas (D-Sylmar) would authorize cities and counties to ban all but the quietest available leaf blower technology, require testing and certification of blowers used for commercial purposes, and mandate common sense rules of leaf blower courtesy. "This bill addresses the issues discussed in the report without stripping landscape maintenance professionals of an essential tool," he stated. /

Naumann's NorCal News

Tom Zoller is leaving Cinnabar Hills Golf Course in San Jose to become the superintendent at Tehama Golf Club in Carmel. Tom is replacing **Carl King** who is retiring and moving back to the Palm Springs area . . . **Bill Conrad** is moving to Walden at Lake Houston Golf and CC in Houston, Texas. Bill was the superintendent at Summit Pointe Golf Course in Milpitas. His replacement has yet to be named . . . **Eric Greypok** is the new superintendent at Pebble Beach Golf Links. Eric was the assistant prior to his promotion. He is replacing **Mark Michaud** who recently accepted the position of superintendent at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club on Long Island in New York. The US Open is scheduled to return to Sinnecock in 2004



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