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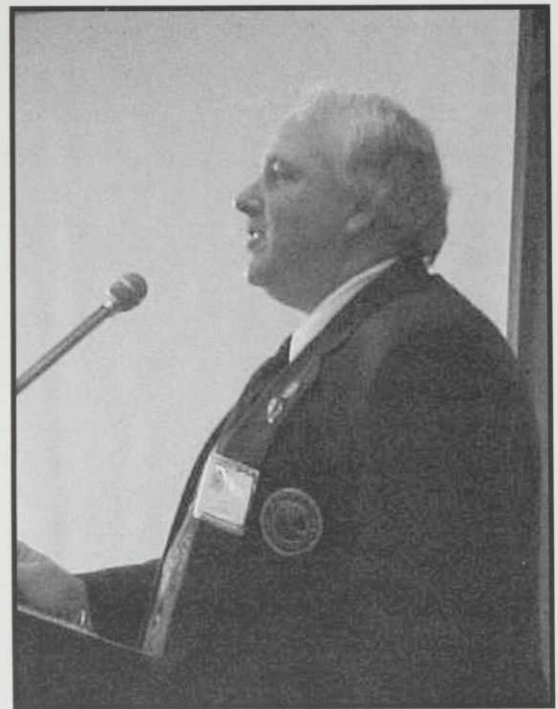
From The President

By Gary Carls, CGCS

Thanks to Jeff Shafer and the folks at Wente Vineyards for hosting another superb GCSANC event. The staff at Wente deserves a big "THANK YOU" for all of their hard work that went in to hosting our 2nd Media Event. This is my favorite place in all of Northern California to play golf and I hope all that attended can appreciate this fine facility.

As many of you may be aware, Greg Crawford chose to resign his post as GCSANC Media Director on March 31. We were only given short notice of his departure and were surprised at the timing of his resignation. Mr. Bob Costa CGCS, who has been our media committee chair since it's inception, stepped up to the plate and has taken on the additional responsibilities to be our Media Director. We still feel we have a program that will be beneficial to our organization in the long run. Although the program has not progressed exactly as we envisioned when we started, we feel we have made significant contacts within the media to serve as a solid foundation for the future. Over the next several months we will be discussing our options as a board for continuing the Media Program. I urge all of our members to give Bob as much support as possible in the coming months to continue our program. As we have said from Day one, we need the support of our members to make this program work. Now is your opportunity to give the board your feedback in regards to the future direction of the program. What did you see that you liked? Disliked? Please let us know in the coming months. We hope to complete most of the Media Programs we had outlined for the year.

As I write this I am about to head to Lawrence, Kansas for two more days of discussion on the P.D.I. and I hope to update you further in next month's



President, Gary Carls, CGCS

column. I would say that the evolution of this seems pointed in the direction of resolving the major issues brought up by the chapter presentations. Please remember that this is still in the member-input stage and I again urge you to send any comments to Ray Davies CGCS who is a member of the MSRG and our chapter. Despite what you may be reading in some of the forums, this is not a done deal. It will not be forced on anyone.

This month we will be hosting our 2nd GCSANC Field Workshop at Ruby Hill G.C. in Livermore. This is a unique event with a look at some on-site projects in a half-day educational format. There will be optional golf on the Jack Nicklaus designed course after lunch. In June the U.S. Open returns for the 100th edition at Pebble Beach Golf Links. This brings one of our chapter's most famous courses back into the national spotlight. June 26th brings GCSANC its own version of the open with the annual Supt./Pro event at Greenhills C.C. Our meetings to date have been very well attended and I hope that trend continues throughout the year. Hope to see you all at a meeting soon. ➤

Boardroom Briefs

◆ Secretary Treasurer **Jeff Shafer**, unveiled a new budget report form that condenses and summarizes the financial activity of the association. The financial summary will be included in the board packet which is distributed to Board members prior to each monthly meeting.

◆ The Board directed President **Gary Carls, CGCS** to draft a letter to the GCSAA Career Development department regarding a new publication entitled Employment Trends. The publication, which is directed to employers, "provides salary information which is misleading," contends **Bob Costa, CGCS**. The introductory issue listed median salaries for GC Superintendents at daily fee facilities at \$46,423 and at private facilities at \$64,782. Board opinion was the median salaries did not accurately reflect wages in California and could be easily misinterpreted by club owners and managers.

◆ Scholarship chairman **Roger Robarge** reported that a scholarship committee had been formed to discuss the future direction of the scholarship program. Committee members

include past Chairman **Ken Williams CGCS, Brad Langley** and **Jason Green**.

◆ Affiliate Board member **Steve Franzen** reported that a meeting was conducted with the staff at Orinda Country Club, site of the August Scholarship/Research Tournament. Steve reports that details of the event are being finalized.

◆ **Gary Carls, CGCS**, who recently returned from the State Board meeting in San Diego, reported that the Board has nominated **Corey Eastwood, CGCS** for President, our very own **Dave Davies CGCS**, Vice president and **Pat Gradoville**, Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations will be ratified by Board members at the upcoming State meeting in May. Gary also noted that **Barbara Mikel** will step down as the interim association Executive Secretary for the state.

◆ Board members approved a donation of \$750 dollars to the education fund established in the name of the children of southern California affiliate, **Tracy Barcelona**.

BUNKER SHOTS

A mishmash of editorial ramblings by Ken Williams, CGCS

Have you seen the PGA Tour's Driving Distance statistics? Yeah, yeah Casey Martin (with cart) is leading right? He drives everywhere! Well, almost. At this writing, he's actually second in driving distance at 290 yards. He's just behind John Daly and in front of Tiger Woods maybe accommodating persons with disabilities isn't really such a bad thing after all!

Pitch Canker is continuing to devastate golf courses up and down the coast. Many beautiful trees are being lost forever.Jeez, isn't it about time for a crabgrass or English daisy blight?

Wouldn't we all like to see Corey Eastwood and Ray Davies go toe to toe in a debate over PDI?Maybe we can get Dave Davies to moderate.(to make sure a hockey game doesn't break out!)

Stanford, Castlewood, The Course at Wente Vineyards, and now Ruby Hill. If you are not coming to meetings now.

Have you heard about Callaway's new ultra-hot ERC Driver? The club is said to produce incredible results. But unfortunately, the club will only be sold in Japan, out of reach of most US players.Maybe now our members will have a reason to empathize with us regarding the availability of chemical technologies in CA!

Did you see Jeff Shafer's incredible putting course set up on the practice green at Wente? The course had sand, rocks, water, tress, and perfectly striped fairways. What fun! Who knew we had one of the best mini-golf architects in the world on our Board? The course was used to raise over \$300 in S&R funds.





John Grant finds trouble on Jeff Shafer's putting course.

Pictured below: Bob Lopic, Bob Costa, CGCS; Rex Gentry, Jeff Shafer, Arel Wentz, Gary Carls, CGCS; Gary Sayre, CGCS; Steve Franzen, Gary Skolnik

Golf Results From The Course at Wentz Vineyards

Best Gross and Net Ball of Foursome

1st Place: John Theilade
Doug Poole
Nancy Cooper
Ron Salsig

2nd Place: Ross Brownlie
Alan Brownlie
Bill Davis
Rex Gentry

Congratulations to PGA Pro John Theilade from Alameda for winning the Closest to the Hole on #11. He did it with a Hole-in-One witnessed by his group and GCSANC Board Member Gary Skolnik. John used a nine iron for the shot. Way to go John!!!

Mrs. Wentz Poses With The GCSANC Board at the Media Event



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When applied regularly, CPR will improve your turf's tolerance to decline and early senescence caused by the multiple sources of stress on your golf course. CPR integrates the best biostimulant technologies and foliar nutrition systems with the most advanced surfactant chemistries to produce truly superior playing and putting surfaces.

CPR produces:

- Superior root mass and depth
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- Superior overall plant health, vigor and visual quality

Causes of Stress on Golf Courses

Most superintendents think that heat stress is the primary cause of turf-grass decline on golf courses. But, the truth is that decline in root growth in cool season turfgrasses appears to be triggered by regular, frequent mowing — not summer heat stress. To be sure, high temperatures make matters worse, but the vast majority of the reduction in root growth has occurred by the time the “dog days” really begin. In fact, nearly 75-90% of the decline in root growth in USDA Hardiness Zone 5 occurs before the 4th of July.

Some of the major factors involved in creating stress on your turf are:

- mowing
- heat
- drought
- traffic
- diseases
- insects

— things that regularly occur on your golf course.

CPR:

Color, Performance, Roots

The cornerstone of CPR is our proprietary blend of liquefied sea plant extracts — PanaSeá Plus. PanaSeá Plus has 2 1/2 times higher cytokinin levels than the next nearest competitive product.

Some researchers say that turf plants produce enough cytokinins on their own. But that's true only under normal conditions, and normal stops when mowing starts. And when heat starts. And when traffic, disease and insect pressures start. The high level of natural cytokinins, sea plant sugars and chelated trace elements in PanaSeá Plus deliver the first layer of defense against stress. Along with PanaSeá Plus we've added SeaSequential Micronutrient Complex for color and minor nutrient supplementation, and an Aquatrols surfactant to increase absorption.

Color

Not Just Cosmetic

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Iron and micronutrient formula with unique chelation systems that produces faster, longer-lasting, more natural and uniform color under the widest variety of conditions. The color response you see from SeaSequential[™] with Micronutrients is not just cosmetic. Again we use a rich base of sea plants, already rich in trace minerals, to deliver three forms of Iron. Thus the color you see is not just from the Iron but also from the enhanced performance of the turfgrass plant.

CPR helps your turf in several major ways. First, it dramatically enhances root growth and stress tolerance. Secondly, it adds a premium wetting agent to help your turf absorb nutrients and water. Third, it produces a beautiful, natural, sustained greening of your turf.

SeaSequential's integrated approach produces a natural, healthy-looking color which reflects the improved condition of the turf.

SeaSequential's deep color is visually superior to any other. It's due in part to the blend of three different Iron chelates, which provide sustained, sequenced, long lasting color that won't fade between applications. The Iron, Potash and Sulfur are both foliar and soil available and buffered for improved uptake and ease of application. SeaSequential's unique formulation provides rapid absorption and translocation of nutrients within the plant. Natural sugars promote microbial activity.

SeaSequential's micronutrients include Zinc, Copper, Molybdenum, Sulfur, and Magnesium — the elements commonly found to be most deficient in turf soils.

The best products produce the best results. The combination of our three products is what gives you superior turf with superior performance characteristics.

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Aquatrols' patented chemistry provides a wetting agent with excellent penetration characteristics, even through thatch, to promote better turf quality. Its benefits include:

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- More uniform and efficient movement into the soil
- Reduced water loss caused by surface evaporation and runoff
- Better turf quality

- Uniform coverage and course uniformity
- Reduction in Localized Dry Spots

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Roots



PanaSeá Plus — Proven in years of use and testing to be the best biostimulant for improving root growth and stress tolerance. PanaSeá Plus has the strongest concentration of active ingredients (naturally occurring cytokinins). Time and again in side-by-side field trials by independent turf researchers, PanaSeá Plus has outperformed competitive biostimulants for enhancing root development in intensively maintained turfgrasses to deliver these results:

- Superior root mass and depth
- Superior high temperature stress and drought tolerance
- Superior low temperature stress tolerance

"PanaSeá at the recommended rate showed 79% better root development than the control." ... "PanaSeá at the recommended rates showed from 25-36% better root development than the synthetic product at the same concentrations."

— Root Strengthening in Sod Production
Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1982.

PanaSeá Plus is the most potent, proven, turfgrass biostimulant on the market. It is a proprietary blend of several liquefied sea plant extracts. Regular foliar applications of PanaSeá Plus augment the plants' own cytokinin production as soon as root growth peaks.

And, during high stress periods when the plant stops producing these hormones, PanaSeá Plus provides cytokinins necessary to stimulate and sustain cell division in root tissue.

In addition to enhancing root development and stress tolerance, the cytokinins in PanaSeá Plus also raise the threshold at which premature senescence in leaf tissue occurs during high temperature stress to improve the turf's wilt tolerance.

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Requirements: 2 years degree minimum. QAC card, 1 year of golf course experience, above average written, and oral communications skills, excellent record keeping skills, must be able to operate all golf course equipment. Avid interest in the game of golf is helpful. Able to speak Spanish a plus.

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Bob Costa introduces the Media Panel at Wente.

Crawford Resigns GCSANC Media Post

In a surprising announcement, Greg Crawford, Media Director for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California announced his resignation effective March 31, 2000. Crawford who served as GCSANC Media Director since January 1999 will continue similar duties with the Northwest Turfgrass Association.

As his primary reason for stepping down, Crawford cited "a need for a more local influence to jump start the program." GCSANC President Gary Carls, CGCS credited Crawford with developing the Media Program and indicated that the Board of Directors would be discussing a successor to Crawford at a future board meeting. In the interim, the Media Director's position will be assumed by Bob Costa, CGCS.

Ruby Hill (Cont'd)

When Mark's away from the golf course, he enjoys spending time with his wife Dora and their three children. They like to camp and attend the Church of Christ. Mark's hobbies include playing golf and restoring old cars. Asked how he misses the heat of the desert, Mark quips, "Around April I seem to always be wishing for some heat but by July I'm very glad to be here." /

Dates For Upcoming Board Meetings

The GCSANC Board of Directors encourages members to attend Board Meetings of the Association. GCSANC Board meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- May 15 10:00 a.m. @ California Golf Club
- June 19 @ Palo Alto, Time and location t.b.d.

Naumann's NorCal News

Chris DuBas is the new Superintendent at Santa Teresa Golf Club in San Jose. Chris was the assistant at the Institute Golf Course in Morgan Hill.... **Rich Laura** has accepted the Superintendent position at Burlingame Country Club. Rich has been the assistant there under **Terry Grasso** before Terry moved on a few months ago to Sequoyah CC.... **Jay Abbott** is the new Superintendent at Contra Costa Country Club. Jay was the Special Projects Manager prior to accepting the new position. He comes from a family of golf superintendents from Michigan.... **Barry Mueller** has moved from Redwood Empire Golf Course and is now the new Superintendent at Mountain Shadows Golf Course in Rohnert Park.... **Mike McCraw** is the new Superintendent at Seascape Golf Course in Aptos. Mike is still the NorCal Regional Supt for American Golf. He is taking his old position back with the recent departure by **Mike Higuera** who has moved on to another project.....

Media Scorecard - April 2000

- Press Release - Scholarship recipients
- Press Release - Jr. Golf Contribution
- Golf Column Monterey Herald - Green speeds
- Golf Today - Question of the Month
- Media Day - Media panel, The Course at Wente
- Hooked on Golf - Interview with Mike Garvale
- Article Monterey Herald - Merle Russell
- Golf Column S.F. Chronicle - Jr. Golf Contribution

Aerification Produces Healthier Golf Courses

By James Stammer

Editors Note: I felt this article may help superintendents communicate their efforts to their constituents. Please contact me if you would like a copy by email.

The time has arrived. The moment when golfers across our area cause the ears of every greens superintendent in town to burn with a fiery glow. Within the next several weeks every course in the area will undergo aerification as courses ready themselves for the busy season.

Nearly every golfer, myself included, despises this practice. It always seems that just when the course is at its best, that is the time for major work to be done. We all hate putting on aerified greens, and blame the little holes for every missed putt.

When you look at the long-term benefits, however, it's easy to understand why aerification is a necessary evil. Just as any good car owner would change the oil in his car to prevent future problems, the golf course superintendent uses aerification as a form of maintenance.

Aerification is an integral part of any successful golf course management plan. The job of every superintendent is not only to make the course look fabulous today, but also tomorrow and down the road. It's important for everyone to understand how important aerification is to producing healthy turf and a healthy golf course in the future.

Aerification achieves three major objectives:

- ◆ First it relieves soil compaction.
- ◆ Second, it provides a method for improving soil mixture around the grass root system.
- ◆ Finally, it reduces or prevents the buildup of thatch.

When golfers by the thousands walk on the greens and drive carts on the fairways, the traffic causes the soil near the surface to compact into a hard layer. Over time, the soil becomes so tightly compacted that water and air have a difficult time penetrating the surface to reach the root system of the grass.

Once this begins to occur, the roots decline, the turf becomes weak and disease and other problems begin to appear. Aerification pulls plugs from the compacted soil allowing an infusion of life-sustaining water and air to reach the roots and bring about a resurgence of growth.

On the greens, the holes are filled with a sandy topdressing that drains well and resists compaction. By introducing this sandy topdressing periodically, a superintendent improves the green's top layer and helps avoid the expense of rebuilding or renovating the green.

The growth of turf adds to the protective layer of organic material on the surface. This layer, called thatch, is an accumulation of dead grass, leaves, stems and roots. A strong and healthy thatch layer helps the turf recover faster from divots and cart tracks, and helps prevent the intrusion of insects and disease.

One of the newest aerification techniques uses smaller "tines" to pull plugs from the greens. These smaller holes help the green to heal faster and allow the superintendent to get a better dispersion of top dressing.

So before you trash your superintendent the next time you see him gassing up the aerification machines, remember that he's only trying to give you the best golf course, now and in the future.

Reprinted by permission from the Stuart News/Port St. Lucie (Fla.) News, October 14, 1999

Silver Creek Valley CC Recognized for Environmental Excellence

Silver Creek Valley CC (SCVCC) golf course has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" issued by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS.) The Club is the seventh golf course in California and the 207th in the world to receive this honor.

Through its participation in the certification program, Silver Creek Valley is involved in projects that protect and preserve the natural resources and habitats for the benefit of the community. SCVCC is among a select few country club environments that have achieved this honor and being certified, as a sanctuary is acknowledgment of their commitment to their local environment.

Congratulations go out to Golf Course Superintendent Nick Checklenis and his entire staff at SCVCC for their positive environmental efforts!

Dr. Bruce Clarke Speaks on Turf Diseases

By Mike McCullough, NCGA Agronomist

While many of the NorCal superintendents attended the Media Day at Wente Vineyards on April 12, I attended the Novartis Crop Protection Turf Disease Seminar at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Dr. Bruce Clarke, Extension Turfgrass Pathologist at Rutgers University was the featured speaker. I thought that a brief recap of the diseases covered by Dr. Clarke would be beneficial to those who missed this excellent program.

Summer Patch is a disease that many superintendents encounter each year. This root disease can become problem in the same areas on the course every year. Conditions that favor the development of the disease symptoms are hot and humid conditions, excessive soil moisture, low mowing heights, soil compaction, and poor drainage. When soil temperatures are cooler, the pathogen lays dormant on the outside of the root system; once soil temperatures warm up the symptoms can take up to 6-8 weeks to appear. Cultural control measures include reducing compaction and providing the turf with better growing conditions (i.e. raising the height of cut). Try to adjust the soil or rhizosphere pH to 6.0. Fertilizing with ammonium sulfate or SCU's products has shown some success in the suppression of summer patch. However, be careful when applying these products since there is a potential for foliar burn, especially when warm weather is imminent. Many of the newer fungicides have been effective in controlling the fungus (i.e. Heritage and Compass). Dr. Clarke recommends watering the chemicals in after an application has been made. This practice moves the product into the root zone where it could be utilized effectively.

Basal Stem Rot Anthracnose (ABR) is a common stress related disease. This fungus resides in the thatch and during stressful conditions in the summer an outbreak is very likely. ABR attacks both poa and bent and the results are generally a yellowing and thinning out of the turf. Conditions that favor the development of the disease are any mechanical damage to the turf such as double cutting or rolling, low fertility, consistently wet soils, and compaction. Dr. Clarke mentioned that the use of soft spikes has had positive effects in reducing the incidence of this disease. Cultural practices that help in reducing the disease are increasing mowing heights, reducing mowing frequency, not aerifying or topdressing when ABR is active, and reducing soil moisture. A preventative fungicide program is essential. Start the spray program two weeks prior to stressful summer conditions and continue the program until more favorable temperatures exist. Low Nitrogen applications throughout the disease season can help in turf recovery. It is important to alternate the chemistries of the fungicides when controlling this disease. Many superintendents will

tank mix N and fungicide applications.

A couple of the new diseases on the turf horizon are Bentgrass Dead Spot and Gray Leaf Spot. Bentgrass Dead Spot is a relatively new disease that should grab the attention of superintendents that have new bentgrass greens. It was originally found in 1997 in Maryland and most recently found last year in Missouri, the Carolinas, and Texas. The disease prefers greens that are less than 6 years old and are built with large amounts of sand. Full sun locations and hot and dry weather also favor the development of the disease. The diseased areas get no larger than 3 to 4 inches and look very similar to dollar spot or cutworm damage. The disease is easy to identify as the black fruiting bodies of the fungus are very prominent and can be seen with a small hand lens. The damage generally takes 6 to 8 weeks to heal after an infection has occurred. Any efforts to reseed in these damaged areas are futile as the fungus releases toxins that delay germination. Balanced fertility has provided some relief of the disease. Avoid stress or mechanical injury, excessive traffic, and dragging in topdressing treatments. Some of the newer bentgrass cultivars have shown some resistance to the disease. Chemical control measures include the DMI fungicides on a curative 5-7 day interval.

Gray Leaf Spot is a foliar disease that affects St. Augustine, perennial rye, annual rye, and to some extent tall fescue. According to some local sources, GLS is commonly found on St. Augustine in Southern California. No GLS has been reported on perennial rye in California as of yet. The disease can occur in the spring and continue until fall. Usually the disease occurs in July, August, and September when air temperatures consistently reach 70-80 F. The disease favors young stands of turf with overseeded areas being the most susceptible. Rough areas that are cut above 2.5 inches develop the most severe infestations. Drought-like conditions predispose the turf for infections of GLS. Researchers at Penn State have developed a disease predictor model that will alert superintendents when conditions favor GLS. Culturally you should: avoid irrigating at dusk, do not use PGR's or herbicides during the hottest summer months, mow only when the turf is dry, and remove clippings as frequently as possible. Summer fertilization is not recommended. The newer fungicides will control GLS, which is known to be a prolific spore producer. Currently there are no resistant cultivars of perennial ryegrass. Some of the newer tall fescue varieties have shown some resistance to GLS. /

For a copy of Dr. Clarke notes, please give me a call or email me with a request and I'll get those to you ASAP.