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*THRU THE GREEN*

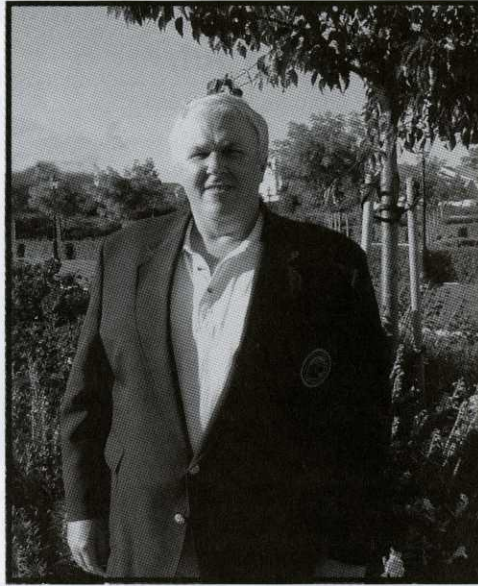
## President's Message

By Gary Carls, CGCS

It seems like just hours ago I was finishing up my last monthly message and it's time for another update. As we approach the end of summer we can start dreaming of some cooler days and a little rain in our future. Years ago I always thought that the fall meant a little time to relax but as we all know that is no longer the case. Greens have been thrashed by the long days of summer and many of us head in to some of our larger cultural programs now that cooler weather has arrived. Sometimes Mother Nature throws us a curve and keeps summer around until October just to punish us a little more. No matter how much we may complain, I doubt that very many of us are out looking for a different profession.

September also brings to our chapter the first opportunity as a group to have an in-depth discussion of the final version of the GCSAA Professional Development Initiative (PDI). The PDI is something that will have a significant impact on each superintendent's future and I urge everyone to make time for the meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Bayonet/Blackhorse Golf Course in Seaside. Bob Costa CGCS, who will be our chapter delegate, will be back from the Chapter Delegate's meeting at GCSAA headquarters with the latest topics of discussion. Two members of the Membership Standards Resource Group who have spent several years developing this proposal, Bruce Williams, CGCS and Raymond Davies, CGCS, will also be present to answer questions. We will attempt to present some real life scenarios of how PDI will affect the average member. See other portions of this newsletter for further details.

Those who attended the Scholarship/Research event at Orinda C.C. were once again blessed with great weather and some fantastic prizes. Thanks to Bob Lopic and the staff at Orinda C.C. for hosting us. The course was spectacular and took its toll on many of us. One sleeve of balls is not enough when your ball decides to head towards the fence at every possible opportunity. I know I had more homeruns than Barry Bonds that day. Bob Costa told me John Madden would have been proud of my somewhat unorthodox game. Special thanks to the Graves family for the large donation



they made in honor of Bert Graves whom recently passed away and was a member of GCSANC for over 50 years. This event will be played in his honor in the future. Special thanks to Steve Franzen and Rex Gentry, our affiliate representatives to the board, for organizing the event and to all of our affiliates and members for their donations. They are what makes this event a success year after year. One last round of thank yous go out to Debbie Franzen for driving the beverage cart and Joyce Ligon and Ryan for handling measurements for closest to the pin on the wagering hole.

Two items of discussion from the boardroom also need to be mentioned. The board has recommended that the Affiliate Representatives on the board of directors be given a vote on board matters. These members donate a lot of time and effort on our behalf and their constituents represent about half of our membership. This proposal will be presented as a bylaw amendment at the annual meeting in January.

Also discussed was the former program that allowed our retired members to attend regular monthly meetings at half price. This program did not include any of our special events. Since our calendar is now filled with mostly special events this program offered very little opportunity for these members to attend. The board has decided to look at this program on an event by event basis and provide the opportunity to these members to attend meetings when possible. We made the decision to comp these members if they wish to attend the September meeting and

are looking at some sort of discount for the annual meeting. The financial impact of this is minimal in most cases and it is a just reward to those who have been involved with GCSANC for many years.

The GCSANC/SNGCSA Joint Meeting will be at Arrowcreek in Reno on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Preliminary plans are for a presentation by Mike McCullough of the NCGA. Details should be arriving shortly. Hope everyone got through the summer o.k. and can find time to attend an upcoming meeting. Until next month,

Gary

## Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

Have you visited your calendar lately -- September -- finally? Time for a deep breath and a slow exhale. I hope everyone had a good time at Orinda. It was certainly a good day for it! Except for a few having difficulty navigating to the course and some not liking their "final scores," all I heard was praise! Bob Lopic, his crew plus Shim Lagoy and his staff certainly deserve a hearty "thank you" for a gracious and fun event! I certainly missed a golden opportunity to bid on a Sacramento River Fly Fishing trip. Looked up and someone else had "snapped it up" Doug if you want to trade --- give me a call!

Our two Affiliate Board Reps - Steve Franzen & Rex Gentry certainly deserve a hearty "thank you". It is always good to see Joyce Ligon and Debbie Franzen continue to support our organization also. These two women have always "answered" the call when asked to help out. Joyce & Debbie thanks!

Many new members have just received our directory so it is time to review some of our "SOP's." Meeting reservation etiquette, policy, guests etc. can be found in the directory. Please review these to make meetings more enjoyable for host superintendents and all that participate. We are increasingly required to "guarantee meeting numbers." These are requirements clubs have for every event. The cook can't possibly know how much food to order and prepare it without a "final" number, hence our meeting deadline policy.

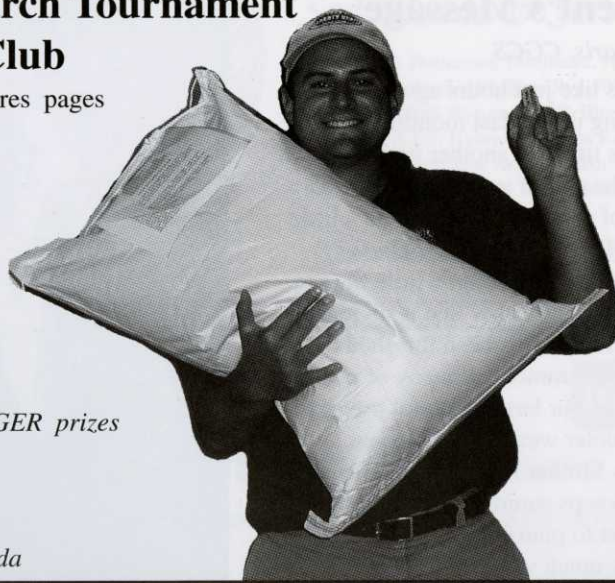


## Office Notes (Cont'd)

We need a cutoff time and number to forward to our host superintendent, golf professional and food and beverage staff. They can't do their job unless we all do ours. Make your reservations by returning the form provided with payment. Complete the form as fully as possible. The golf committee needs your index. This information also helps the Golf Chairman arrange foursomes to provide competitive playing partners. We also need this to properly score a tournament. If you make a request for a foursome, you **MUST** know those members are going to attend. Since we guarantee numbers, we include those you list in your foursomes. We are being charged based on this information. You will be charged based on this information! If you can't make a meeting, call by the cancellation date and you will receive a refund. We notify host clubs of the "guarantee" and therefore are bound to pay. If you cancel beyond that date, we are unable to refund your money. These are simple common sense courtesies we owe our host superintendent and his club.

## Scholarship & Research Tournament at Orinda Country Club

was a huge success. See more pictures pages 6, 7, and 8



*John Pina with one of the BIGGER prizes*

*Below: The auction table at Orinda*



## Scholarship Funding Now Available!

The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Northern California is seeking future golf course turfgrass professionals who qualify for scholarship funds.

### Candidates should be:

Full or part time students with turfgrass industry or golf course experience.

Currently employed golf course industry workers that are enrolled in turfgrass related classes.

A resident of Northern California or employed fulfilling an internship in N. California.

Any interested applicants may contact Roger Robarge at the California Golf Club at (650) 588-0965 or Barbara Mikel at the GCSANC office at (530) 626-0931.

**Application deadline: November 6, 2000**



*Participants enjoy lunch at Orinda Country Club*

## California Golf Industry Second In Nation

By Bob Costa, CGCS

One of the fastest growing segments of the California turfgrass industry continues to be golf courses, demonstrated by the opening of 36 new facilities in 1999. Nowhere in California has the golf boon been more evident than in Northern California where more than 15 courses have opened in the last 5 years. Adding these to the list of over 1000 existing courses, ranks California second to Florida nationally.

Although turfgrass is the major component of golf courses, many of the new facilities have been designed with fewer acres of maintained

turf. In addition, architects have emphasized the use of native grasses in out of play areas. **Dr. Ali Harivandi, UC Extension Researcher** sees this trend as a real plus for the golf industry. "Reducing the acreage of high maintenance turf translates into water savings, labor savings and reduced chemical and fertilizer use. Native grasses are not only environmentally friendly," continues Harivandi "but they also provide a striking contrast when grown next to traditional golf course turf varieties".

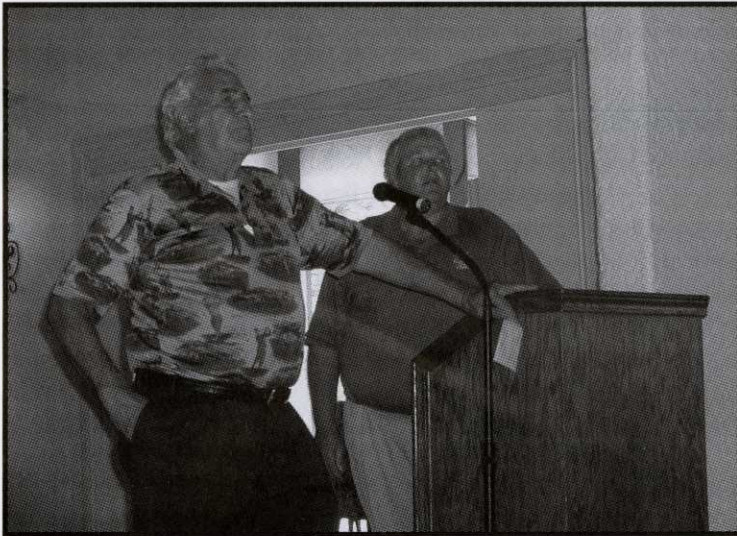
Many of today's NorCal courses feature a new improved generation of bentgrass for putting greens. Harivandi

currently has two golf turf research trials underway. Several new and old varieties are being evaluated. "Many of the newer bentgrass varieties produce a dense, tighter surface which slows weed encroachment allows superintendents to maintain the greens at lower heights" said Harivandi. Combined with lower water and fertility requirements, these new varieties have become a popular choice for new greens in Northern California.

Harivandi, who also is involved in turfgrass research at the Santa Clara research field station, has been actively evaluating turfgrass varieties for

years. "With the anticipated future growth of turfgrass in California, particularly on golf courses, superintendents and course designers will be searching for varieties that will provide the best performance while requiring the least amount of water, fertilizer and maintenance.

Like all segments of the golf course industry technological advances are no strangers to the turfgrass industry. As new turfgrass varieties and technologies reach the marketplace, their presence will continue to alter the face of the game.



Jim Lipari presents a donation to Gary Carls.



The guys yuk it up at Orinda.

### Media Scorecard – July/August

Chapter News - GCSAA Newslite – Jr. Golf  
 Golf Today – Question of the Month  
 Divot News – GCSAA NewsWeekly –  
 Turfgrass Awareness Week  
 NCGA News – Article "Get to Know Your Supt"  
 GCSANC Scholarship Tournament –  
 Jack Rosol of Golf Today participated  
 Hooked On Golf – Radio Interview – Gary Carls, CGCS  
 Press Release – Turfgrass Awareness Week  
 Press release – Golf Courses are Community Asset  
 Press Release - Golf Courses Environmental Benefit  
 Press release – California Golf Industry Second in Nation  
 Press Release – Superintendents Play A Key role

### Wanted: Jacobsen College Seminar Alumni for Reception in Dallas

Textron Golf & turf is on the lookout for Future Turf Managers Seminar alumni for a 30<sup>th</sup> reunion reception during the GCSAA Conference and Show in February 2001. More than 900 great students have passed through the seminar, and we need your help in finding them. If you are or know one of these individuals, ask them to contact Diane Ellsworth, events coordinator, Textron Golf & Turf, at [dellsworth@tccsp.textron.com](mailto:dellsworth@tccsp.textron.com)



## Pat Finlen, CGCS, to Host September Meeting at Bayonet/Black Horse

By: Ken Williams, CGCS

The GCSANC is heading south for the upcoming general meeting. Pat Finlen, CGCS, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Bayonet and Black Horse has been gracious enough to host the September meeting. Pat is dutifully assisted at Bayonet/Black Horse by Superintendent's Tom Bevan on the Bayonet and Brian Netz on Black Horse.

The educational portion of the meeting will feature practical discussion of the PDI issue and real life scenarios of its effects. Bruce Williams, CGCS, Ray Davies, CGCS and Bob Costa, CGCS will be on hand to explain the intricacies of the proposed initiative.

The Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses are situated just north of Monterey off Pacific Coast Highway 1 in Seaside. Both courses were owned by the Army and were part of Fort Ord until the base was inactivated in 1993. In 1997, the golf courses were purchased by the City of Seaside and leased of BSL Golf Corp of Houston, Texas.

The Bayonet Golf Course was named after the Army's 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the first and last major unit to occupy Fort Ord. General Robert McClure, Commanding Officer of the post at that time, designed bayonet in 1954. It features over 7,110 yards of oak and cypress lined fairways. McClure, a

left-handed golfer with a severe slice, designed the course to fit his game. This is evidenced by holes #11-15, a series of sharp doglegs to the left. These holes are widely known as "Combat Corner", interrupted



only by a 215-yard uphill par 3.

The sister course to Bayonet, Black Horse was designed in 1964 by General Edwin Carnes, the Commanding General at that time. Black Horse was named for the nickname of 11<sup>th</sup> Calvary Regiment. Black Horse also plays to over 7,000 yards and a par of 72.

Both courses were built by enlisted soldiers who "volunteered" for the work. The soldiers planted over five thousand trees on the once nearly treeless site. During the last three years, numerous changes have been made on both courses under the direction of PGA Tour architect Chris Gray.

This fall, The Bayonet Course will host the Monterey Peninsula Classic on September 25 as part of the Buy.Com Tour (formerly Nike Tour.)

Pat Finlen, CGCS, Director of Golf Maintenance, graduated from Rockhurst College with a BS degree in Business Administration. He spent two years as superintendent at Cypress Point CC in Virginia Beach, VA and twelve years as the Golf Course and Grounds Manager at Quivira Lake Golf & CC in Quivira Lake, Kansas. He's been a certified superintendent since 1989 and has served on

Carmel Valley Ranch. Tom's been at the Bayonet course since September 1998.

Brian Netz, Superintendent of the Black Horse, graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1993. Brian worked at Interlachen CC in Minneapolis (during the 1993 Walker Cup), and was formerly Assistant Superintendent at Somerset CC in St. Paul, MN and also at Richmond Country Club. Brian's been at the Black Horse since January of 1999.

These three men and their staffs have made vast improvements in the facility in the last few years. Everything is pointing towards a great meeting at a wonderful site. With only a week before the Buy.com event, I'm sure the course will be approaching tournament condition. Hope everyone can head down south to enjoy the cool breezes in Seaside on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

GCSAA Publication, Certification, Education, and Chapter Relations committees.

Tom Bevan, Superintendent of the Bayonet, graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in Horticulture and Turfgrass in 1996. He has worked as a greens keeper at Pebble Beach, a spray technician at Glen Oaks CC in Des Moines, Iowa, and as an assistant superintendent at



Steve Franzen addresses the crowd at Orinda

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## What is a “Mini-Sized” Fertilizer?

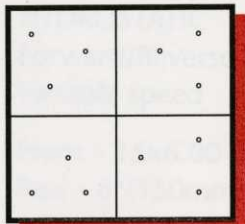
- Sometimes called “mid-grade”, Mini’s are smaller in size (diameter) than standard fairway grade products. This produces over three times the number of particles per unit weight.

### Mini-Sized

Tee and Fairway Grade

SGN SIZE 140

Approx. particle  
count per ounce  
6700

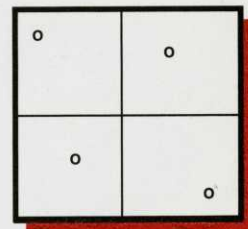


### Standard

Fairway Grade

SGN SIZE 240

Approx. particle  
count per ounce  
2200



## When should a Mini-Sized be used?

- Closely mowed or tight knit turf where standard particles can suffer mower damage or pick-up.
- To eliminate speckling at reduced application rates.

## What products are available?

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# GS 04 Verticutter

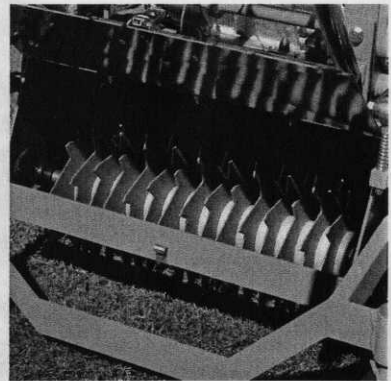
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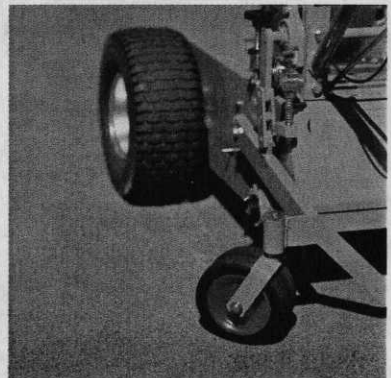
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<b>Drive</b>	HYDROSTATIC Forward/Reverse variable speed
<b>Wheels</b>	Front - 15x6.00-6 Tube type Rear - 6"(150mm) solid rubber
<b>Blades</b>	ø7.5"(190mm) tempered steel 8 tungsten tips per blade 15 blades at 1"(25mm) spacing
<b>Blade Width</b>	3/64"(1mm) 5/64"(2mm) 1/8"(3mm)
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<b>Cutting Width</b>	16"(400mm)
<b>Width</b>	33"(840mm)
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<b>Height</b>	41"(1040mm)
<b>Weight</b>	320lbs (145kg)

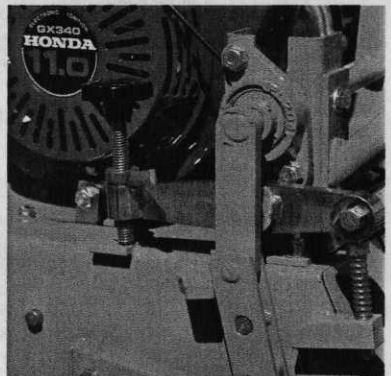
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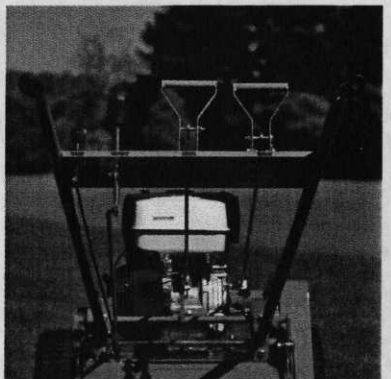
*Tungsten tip blades.  
Rear inspection cover enables  
easy cleaning of blades.*



*Turf tyres on front for  
maximum traction. Rear swivel  
wheels for manoeuvrability.*



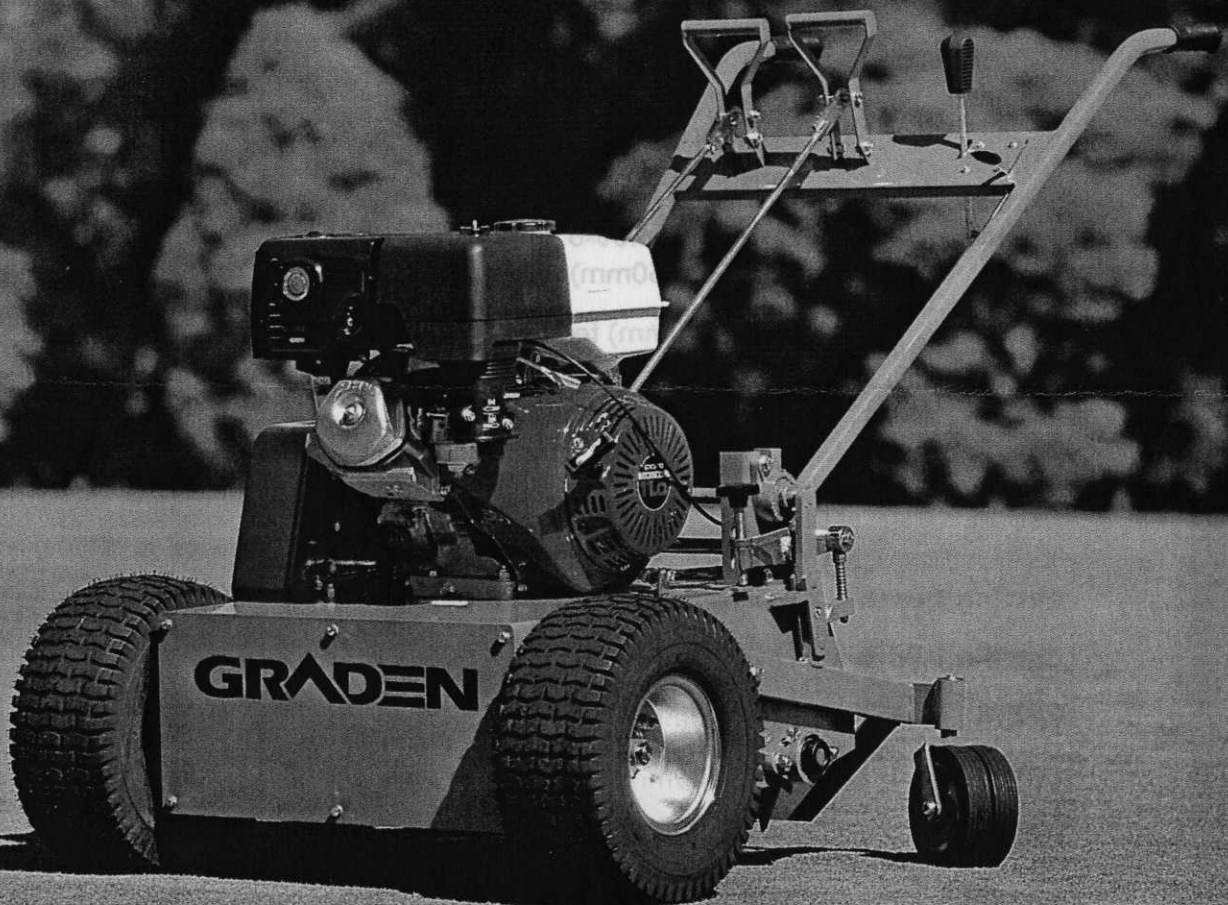
*Single knob height adjustment.*



*Operates in forward and reverse.  
Easy access to controls.*



# GRADEN



**Verticut**  
- for stronger, healthier turf.

## Scholarship and Research Tournament

August 21, 2000 Orinda CC

1st place Gross: **Ligon - Grasso** +5 points  
2nd place Gross: **Clark - Rosa** +1 point  
3rd place Gross: **Willis - Sayre** 0 points

1st place Net: **Lane - Minear** +31 points  
2nd place Net: **Lauth - McCullough** +30 points  
3rd place Net: **Franzen - Piper** +27 points

Closest to the Pin #3: **Mitch Frasier**  
Closest to the Pin #8: **Mike Ligon**  
Closest to the Pin #13: **Jack Rosol**

Long Drive #18: **Mike Hill**



*Upper right:  
Grasso & Ligon with the low  
gross awards.*

*Above:  
The Beautiful par 3 #8 at Orinda.*

*Above right:  
Lane & Menear show off the 1st  
place hardware.*

*Right:  
Scott Lewis watches his pitch at  
#9 at Orinda.*



## Boardroom Briefs

- ◆ Newsletter editor **Ken Williams** made a formal presentation to the Board outlining several options for the newsletter format. The Board approved a re-designed shell, which will allow for a monthly cover photograph.
- ◆ Past President **Dave Davies** presented a draft of the GCSANC annual awards criterion. The ensuing debate was centered around developing a selection system that included nominations from the membership and expanding the Turfgrass Excellence Award to possibly include a Public and Private golf course winner.
- ◆ Media Director **Bob Costa** unveiled the Ball mark repair poster that will be distributed to all Class A and B Superintendents at the end of September. The poster, bearing the slogan Fix It! – For the Good of the Game, is intended for display at member courses.
- ◆ The Board unanimously approved a draft of the bylaw change that will allow Affiliate board members voting privileges.
- ◆ Secretary Treasurer **Jeff Shafer** presented a final draft of the Salary and Compensation survey. The survey will be mailed to Class A and B Superintendents in late September.
- ◆ Unanimous in it's opinion that the Holiday party needed a new look the Board approved a proposal brought forth by **Dave Davies** to include a Casino Night at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in Monterey.
- ◆ Scholarship committee Chairman **Roger Robarge** announced that the Scholarship applications would be in the mail shortly. The deadline for completed applications is November 6th
- ◆ The Board agreed to re-institute a complimentary registration fee policy for retired Class A, B and Affiliate members as well as Class A life members. The complimentary fees are valid at the Annual meeting and other special meetings determined by the Board.

## Board Supports Bylaw Change

The GCSANC Board of Directors has unanimously supported a bylaws change proposed by Immediate Past President Dave Davies, CGCS. The bylaws change calls for the two Affiliate Representatives on the Board to receive voting rights in all matters that come before the Board. Currently both Affiliate Representatives serve in an advisory capacity on the Board. Discussion within the Board has taken place over the last 6 months and a final draft of the bylaw change was presented at the August 15 Board of Directors meeting.

In discussing this possible change, the Board noted the critical role the affiliate membership plays in the overall operation of the association. In almost all instances it is the financial support of the affiliate membership that drives the "extras" presented to the membership. Donations to events such as the Scholarship

Tournament and Holiday Meeting add valuable dollars to help defer costs and provide additional prizes. Their participation in the sponsorship program provides advertising opportunities for the affiliates but also helps reduce the financial impact on the association budget in providing the monthly newsletter. Costs for providing the annual directory are also reduced through affiliate advertising dollars.

The individual representatives on the Board provide valuable input to the operation of the association. They provide specific information from the affiliate perspective on all matters before the Board. In addition, they are volunteering service time for the association that takes time away from their primary duties as sales representatives for their employers. The Board felt strongly that this commitment of time and expertise deserved the same

consideration given to the superintendent representatives on the Board.

The proposed bylaw change will be addressed at the 2001 annual meeting in Sunnyvale. The official text will be included in the ballot informa-

tion to be sent out in December. A copy of the text will be made available to the entire membership through the Newsletter in the next issue. Questions or comments can be directed to any member of the Board of Directors. /



*President Gary Carls thanks Bob Lopic for hosting the meeting at Orinda Country Club.*



## Irrigation or Irritation

By Mike McCullough, NCGA Agronomist

Just mention pump failure or main line break during a hot spell and most superintendents' dispositions suddenly head south. Irrigation difficulties during any part of the golf season can put the club, course and the superintendent in a tough spot since most of Northern California golf courses are open for play year-round. This demand for play is great for clubs' or courses' bottom lines; however the demands placed on the irrigation system for nine to ten months out of the year can be quite frightening.

Several superintendents have recently told me about irrigation-related failures this past summer. Incidentally, isn't it funny how these problems happen during the hottest part of the summer? Regardless, irrigation emergencies can be issues that generate a lot of conversation in boardrooms, committee meetings, locker rooms and even in the pro shops.

I recently spoke with Dave Bigler, an independent golf course irrigation consultant, and asked him his views on irrigation and the inherent problems a superintendent is likely to face. Dave used the example of an equilateral triangle to explain common problems that superintendent's face when dealing with irrigation issues. An equilateral triangle has three equal sides and in this case imagine each of the points is represented by an important irrigation component. Head spacings/uniform distribution are on one point; proper flow (GPM) is on a point and acceptable water pressure on the third point. If everything is in balance and working properly, then acceptable results are the typical outcome. When any one

of the three points is not equal, then unacceptable results are soon to follow.

Bigler also said that every golf course has its own unique problems and challenges based upon the age of equipment, soil conditions, drainage, microclimates, and the amount of training the individuals who maintain the system have acquired. It is now evident why irrigation-related problems have some of the best and brightest individuals throwing up their hands in frustration.

In today's mobile society, superintendents routinely inherit a system in which they do not know the history or the reoccurring problems. Many times the person in charge of the irrigation

*In today's mobile society, superintendents routinely inherit a system in which they do not know the history or the reoccurring problems.*

system has a limited knowledge of the system or has been taught the bare minimum to keep the system functional. This process of hand-me-down instructions can lead to several important aspects of the system not being accurately relayed to the next person. Therefore, the system is frequently left alone and status quo is the crew's choice.

A recent example of this was when an area superintendent moved to an established course. The superintendent came on board and discovered that the irrigation system had several flaws. The superintendent began asking questions and inspecting the system and determined that routine maintenance of the system was not being performed on a regular basis. By researching the problems and taking a look at the whole system, this

superintendent observed a variety of obstacles but found several valves that were broken, rusted out and way past their life expectancy. Needless to say, these devices were not performing as they should and the results were sub-par (pun intended).

After several years of neglect, many courses face the distinct possibility of a complete overhaul of their irrigation system. This is a major expense to the club or group who holds the checkbook. Adrian Bertens of Hydro-Engineering has performed many renovations throughout Northern California. One of his biggest challenges when arriving at a site is not having enough documentation of the existing system ("as built"). Many parts of the older systems have been

modified, changed, or removed over the years. Rarely do these changes ever get transferred to the original blueprints or a master plan. This presents a logistical nightmare for his company as they are trying to work around the old system and install the new one.

Another concern for Hydro-Engineering is having a knowledgeable person on site every day to oversee the installation process. Bertens suggests that this person be an assistant superintendent or irrigation technician, because the superintendent is frequently called away and some aspect of the installation process could be overlooked. This "liaison" can be on site to inspect the installation and understand the intricacies of the system. Adrian recommends the person videos

or photographs each step of the process for future reference (see previous point).

According to a Northern California superintendent, the pump station is the heart of his golf course maintenance operation. Pump stations should be the focal point of routine maintenance schedules; at least that is what John Dexter of Pump Repair Service Co., would like to tell people. John recently listed the top four problems for pump stations. They are 1) high temperature failure of VFD (variable frequency drive), 2) pressure relief valves are stuck in the open position, 3) excessive drainage around the base of the pump, and 4) deficient discharge pressure out of the pump station. There are several reasons for the low discharge condition such as failure of the filtration system, overloading the pump motor by requesting more flow than the pump can produce and fluctuations of the incoming power supply whether it is power surges or outages. Obviously, power outages are out of the control of the superintendent, and they occur during the most inconvenient times.

A preventative maintenance program can curtail most of these problems. According to Dexter, the overall station performance should be evaluated on a semi-annual basis to keep the system running at the maximum efficiency.

Perhaps there is a need for more local training for golf course superintendents and assistant superintendents on irrigation-related topics. Granted, there are several classes taught at the national GCSAA convention on a variety of irrigation topics, but inevitably those classes are filled up and individuals have to get their

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## Poa Prose

By Mike McCullough

According to the Father of Annual Bluegrass, Dr. Joe Vargas, *Poa annua* has gotten a bad rap.

It is no secret that *Poa annua* has had a less than spectacular track record. The knocks on *Poa* have been that it is not heat tolerant, not cold tolerant, and produces too many seed heads. However, many of its positive characteristics seldom get the recognition that is due. Increased shade tolerance, ability to recover after a major stress event, and faster response from fertilizer inputs are benefits rarely mentioned when the topic of *Poa annua* comes up.

Vargas argues that *Poa annua* does not die due to heat. *Poa* dies because of diseases. He cited examples of healthy *Poa* stands during the middle of the summer in Atlanta, Georgia. Locally, *Poa* is routinely found in greens that have summer

temperatures well into triple digits, i.e. Redding, Sacramento, Stockton, Visalia, etc. When conditions exist for disease development and preventative fungicides have been applied, *Poa annua* can survive adverse environmental conditions.

It is well documented that *Poa annua* has more tillers per inch than the other commonly used plant material for putting surfaces. Researchers have also reported that the photosynthetic rates of *Poa annua* have been 40 % higher when compared to the "industry standards" for putting greens.

Dr. Vargas pointed out several cultural practices that favor annual bluegrass. A deep vertical mowing is beneficial once the spring flush of growth has started. The juvenile tissue that is formed handles the upcoming summer stresses better than older, mature tissue. Aerification should also occur during the initial green up period and during the peak production of seed heads.

A new cultivar of annual bluegrass is now available. Peterson's Creeping Annual Bluegrass was released from the extensive work of Dr. Don White from the University of Minnesota. Some of the published attributes are a stoloniferous growth habit, very dense and erect growth habit, and toleration of low mowing heights. Several courses have nurseries of the new variety, but I'm not currently aware of any courses that have it exclusively as a putting surface.

*Poa annua* is one of the most sensitive turfgrass species to soil salinity. Golf courses that use effluent water and have *Poa annua* greens are in for a challenge. Weekly monitoring of salinity during the dry season is an essential part of any management plan. Leaching with potable water or applying extra amounts of effluent will aid in pushing the salts through the root zone. Core aerification and deep-tine aerification helps when leaching salts from

pushup greens.

One of Dr. Vargas's best lines in defense of the second class turf species is: "Remember, the next time your lousy annual bluegrass turf dies, ask yourself, what also happened to the wonderful creeping bentgrass originally established on the green?"

## Irrigation or Irritation (Cont'd)

information elsewhere. Normally, the "elsewhere" is on-the-job training that requires many hours on the business end of a shovel or elbow deep in a muddy hole trying to fix a broken head or line.

As the summer winds down and the rainy season gradually gets a little closer, the yearly irritation of poor irrigation will be a distant memory. Of course, that is until it flares back up the next year.

## Fix It! – For The Good of the Game

Most golf course superintendents and golfers would agree that the number one golf course maintenance issue is un-repaired ball marks. It's a problem that has particularly frustrated superintendents for years and will likely continue to do so unless the habits of golfers can be altered.

There are several theories that attempt to explain why golfers are reluctant to repair ball marks. Regardless of what theory you may aspire to, education undoubtedly will play a key role changing golfer behavior.

Recognizing the importance of education and the need to increase golfer awareness the

GCSANC is sponsoring Ball Mark Repair Week beginning on October 2nd. The week will feature a series of press releases, interviews and climax with the distribution of 10,000 ball mark repair tools at the Transamerica Golf Tournament at Silverado Resort. In addition, all GCSANC Class A and B will be receiving two ball mark repair posters for display at their respective clubs.

The Ball Mark Repair Week concept was developed as a vehicle to educate golfers on the importance of repairing ball marks and to gain exposure for GCSANC Superintendents" said Bob Costa who serves as the GCSANC Media Director. "The distribution of the repair

tools, which will bear the GCSANC logo, serves this dual purpose. The posters, which demonstrate the proper way to repair a ball mark should be available to GCSANC Superintendents by late September, I strongly encourage all of our superintendent members to support the program and place the posters in highly accessible areas".

In addition to passing out repair tools at the Transamerica, GCSANC members will be distributing other promotional materials at a booth located at the golfers village on October 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Ball Mark Repair Posters Arriving Soon

GCSANC member superintendents take notice! By late September each member superintendent will receive (2) ball mark repair posters bearing the GCSANC logo. Superintendents are asked to display the posters in a prominent location to coincide with Ball Mark Repair Week, which begins on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

"Our ability to convey our message to the golfing public regarding the importance of repairing ball marks rests in the hands of our member superintendents said GCSANC President" Gary Carls. I urge everyone to actively participate and help make this week success.