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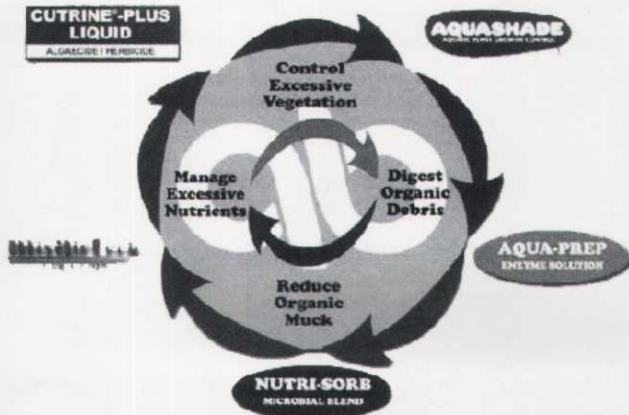


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President's Message

By Jeff Shafer

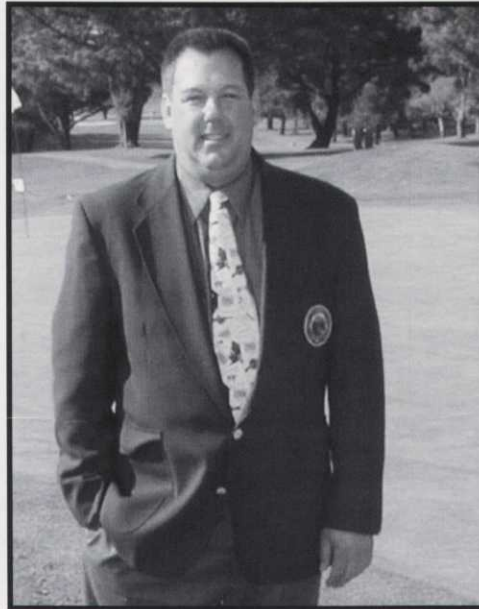
Priorities

By now most of you have completed your spring aerification and are getting prepared for the warmer days and months ahead. Of course this brings on those longer work summer hours and stressful days. However, please take the time necessary to be with those that mean the most to you. For some of you that means your wife, family and friends; for others that means your Harley, fishing pole or dog. What ever it is, take time to be away from the stress of our profession. Put your faith first, health second, family third and your job somewhere after that. Without the first three, is your job really that important? A good opportunity to involve your family in the pleasures of your job is the upcoming, "Take Your Daughter to the Course Week," July 8 - 14. Several superintendents who took the time to do this last year very much enjoyed the experience.

"We cannot change the direction of the wind... but we can adjust the sails." Anonymous

Monthly Meetings

Please make every effort to attend and



Jeff Shafer

support the association and those superintendents who host a meeting. Last year, the Board elected to eliminate our local May meetings so everyone would have a greater chance to attend the State Meeting held the same month. This year the event is in Palm Springs and the education and golf are first class. In June we have the annual Superintendent - Professional - Affiliate event at Mayacama Golf Club. Mike Hill is working very hard on getting that event organized so

please mark your calendars. For the assistants, we are also working hard on securing a venue and date for the Assistant's Meeting in July. Last year was the first year and attendance was great. Thanks to those that are helping out on the committees this year.

Code of Ethics

Golf by its roots is made up of a game where the individual enforces the rules. This same formula should be adhered to when it comes to our Code of Ethics. Whether it's going to play golf at another course, looking for a job or any other situation involving the association or our fellow members, please make every effort to ensure that these guidelines are followed. If you are not sure, please check your Membership Directory where the Code is listed. And please, do not hesitate to ask someone about the proper protocol. This industry is far to tightly knit to burn any bridges along the way.

Remember...

"The mind is the greatest weapon, the greatest club in your bag." Steve Elkington

"A real champion is somebody who can act like a gentleman and perform like a gentleman when things are not going well." Peter Jacobsen

Office Notes By Barb Mikel

Our thanks go out to all of you using those membership applications! P.J. Spellman II is keeping busy sorting them out!

Please take a minute to look at the two forms. The form with the "attester signature" lines is for new members. The form without the attester signature lines is for change of membership classification. If you fill out the incorrect form, it will only delay the process! A reminder to



all superintendent members, unless you joined before the affiliation agreement between GCSAA and the chapters, you must

be a member of both a local chapter and the national chapter.

It is membership directory time again. Sponsorship slots are available for those of you wishing to support your association by listing your company in the directory. The membership survey indicates the newsletter is

read by 99% of our members.

Your exposure is very high. Recent comparisons of other associations find our

advertising rates extremely affordable. The back page and five section pages of the directory are available. Prices are listed in your "Thru the Green" Sponsorship brochure. If you can't find it, give me a call! Seems like we all get more "computer generated calls" than any one human can or wants to answer. We would like to make sure members can keep in touch with each other. This is one reason your directory is only circulated to members and we do not sell our mailing list.

On another note, U.C. Davis publishes an interesting journal called "Growing Points." Various contributors present interesting articles on Environmental Horticulture research. Contact Linda Dodge, Managing Editor Environmental Horticulture Dept., University of California (530) 752-8419 fax (530) 752-1819 e-mail: <http://envhort.ucdavis.edu>



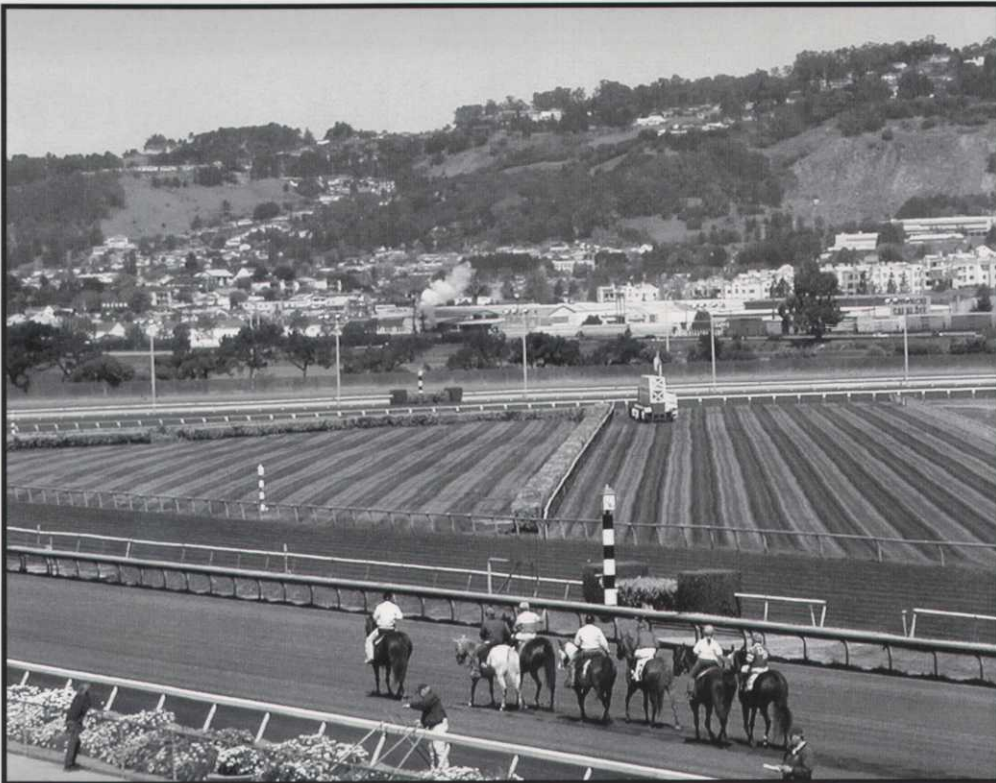
A Day At The Races

On March 27th, LESCO and Golden Gate Fields sponsored "A Day at the Races." Golden Gate Fields' Superintendent of Turfgrass, Mr. Jason Spetnagel and LESCO's Gary Ingram co-hosted the event. It was attended by a number of GCSANC Superintendents and Golden Gate Fields staff.

Jason gave a talk about the turfgrass race-track and shared some of the challenges managing his turf. The turf is run across by groups of twelve hundred pound athletes at thirty-five miles per hour for 100 races in about 120 days...Ouch!

Greg Nafftz of Sustane, Mike Carpenter of Nutrical, and Bill Blackman also gave presentations providing attendees with three hours of continuing education units.

Most participants stayed after lunch to watch and wager on some of the races. It is rumored that GCSANC member Tracy Shannahan of Saratoga Country Club came away a BIG winner on one race. The Day at the Races was a great way for superintendents to get in some continuing education and have a little fun along the way.



Horses and jockeys led to the gate at Golden Gate Fields



Bruce Kidd of CA Weed Science Society gave a talk on Weed Science at the USGA/NCGA Conference



California Happenings Update

By Gary K. Carls CGCS

Over the past few months a lot has been happening both locally and statewide. I thought I would briefly update the status of some of those items.

The Economic Impact Study undertaken by the state association and several other allied organizations is nearing completion. This study will be used as a tool to help emphasize the important economic impact our facilities have on the overall California economy. Many thanks go out to Jeff Shafer, Jim Husting and Ted Horton and many others for making this study become a reality. There will be a brief presentation about the study at the CGCSA State Meeting in Indian Wells.

Speaking of Indian Wells, the State Meeting will be held May 19-21 at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort with golf at the prestigious La Quinta CC. The focus of the meeting will be "Water Management" and it should be a great event for all hosted by the Hi-Lo Association. The meeting site looked great during our recent CGCSA BOD visit.

Thanks to your efforts, California Fairways magazine should begin arriving in a timelier manner. Due to the great response in returning the signed subscription cards, the magazine now qualifies for 2nd class

mailing.

This next item may be of special interest to those in the East Bay. The Oakland Education Initiative is a cooperative program to bring turfgrass education to students at Castlemont High School and Merritt College in Oakland. Over the past year several groups including representatives from CourseCo, Lake Chabot Golf Course, GCSANC, Peralta Community College District and Castlemont High School have been working to develop a program to promote careers in turfgrass management. Several guest speakers from the field have lectured at Castlemont High School and the first new course developed at Merritt College will debut later this month. The course, "Recreational and Sports Turf Management Seminar" is a general introduction into careers in turf and will be taught for three Saturdays beginning April 27. Ray Davies CGCS and myself will be the instructors for the course.

Lastly I want to recognize those from our chapter who have given of their time to represent us on GCSAA Committees and on GCSAA programs at Conference and Show. They all do a great job representing our chapter on the national stage. I apologize in

advance if I miss anyone.

Ray Davies, CGCS and Vince Keats both did excellent presentations as part of the educational programs in Orlando. Dr. Ali Harivandi continues to teach his popular seminar, "Reclaimed Water Irrigation." Ted Horton, CGCS also instructs the "Golf Course Safety, Security and Risk Management" seminar with Robert Hedburg from Salinas CC. Representing GCSANC on committees this past year were Cliff Waggoner CGCS, Ted Horton CGCS, Ray Davies CGCS, Patrick Finlen CGCS, Bob Costa CGCS, Gary Carls CGCS, Rogelio Martinez, Richard Lavine CGCS and Tim Sedgley CGCS. Many of these individuals have served our chapter for years on various national committees. Serving on these committees means even more time away from family to work on behalf of our fellow members. Thank you to this group and those who have served before.

Lastly, a big THANKS to those that take the time to serve on the GCSANC Board of Directors. The commitment of many individuals over the years is what has kept GCSANC strong. ♣

DHR Construction T0 Sponsor Field Workshop

Hundreds of golf courses across the country have benefited by having D.H.R. Construction, Inc. install their concrete cart paths. Daniel and Joy Ramos founded D.H.R. fifteen years ago. From their first small cart path replacement project at the Tilden Park Golf Course in Berkeley in 1989 to the present, they have successfully completed projects in 22 different states. The company is based in Northern California and has established a solid reputation for quality work, fair prices and excellent customer service.

To further serve the needs of their clients in Northern California, a year ago Danny and Joy took over the operations of Larson Golf, Inc. Roger Larson was thinking of retiring, and the Ramos' were looking for more ways of serving their well established customer base. So with the transfer of Larson Golf to the Ramos' and Roger staying on as a key

consultant, Larson Golf was reborn.

With Roger's knowledge and experience, coupled with Danny's love affair with equipment and technology, Larson Golf has emerged as a top quality contractor, offering the personalized attention and value of a small company, backed by the strength and reputation of a well-established firm. Larson specializes in small remodeling projects, such as renovating a few tees or a couple of greens, improving drainage, shaping driving ranges and most small to mid-sized golf course renovation projects.

Since the change in ownership they have successfully completed projects at Burlingame Country Club, Laguna Seca Golf Course, Marin Country Club, The Watsonville Driving Range, Sequoyah Country Club, Lincoln Park Golf Course, Rooster Run Golf Course, Richmond

Country Club, Boundary Oaks Country Club and several others.

Among the equipment they have are several rubber-tracked loaders, a D-3 bulldozer and state of the art tee-leveling equipment. D.H.R. Construction, Inc. continues installing new cart paths and replacing old asphalt paths with concrete, and now coupled with the services offered by Larson can help you with all phases of your course renovation.

For more information contact Joy Ramos toll free at 1 (800) 553-3384



Crystal Clear Choices: Keeping Water Features Algae-Free

by Kathleen Conard, Aquatrols, Cherry Hill, NJ

Water features are both loved and hated by golfers and superintendents. If properly maintained, they can be a beautiful addition to the course as well as necessary for irrigation. But if not managed properly can become a nightmare. There are several products available to help superintendents maintain attractive, clear and algae-free lakes, fountains and ponds. How difficult are these products to use, are they really effective, and what kind of impact do they have on the environment?

Lake Dyes

Dyes are available in powder or liquid. The dark colors of these compounds filter out the sun's ultraviolet light, interrupting the photosynthesis of most aquatic plant life. Dyes can be a useful tool to manage bottom-rooted weeds. When using dye products for algae control, keep in mind that this strategy is better at reducing algae at lower depths of the pond; algae can still thrive at or near the surface because light levels are still high in this zone. Some superintendents stray away from dyes, as they can be unnatural in color.

Biologicals

Biologicals are a relatively new pond management tool. With this treatment, bacteria are added to the water feature to compete with the algae for nutrients,

effectively starving the algae out. It is important to make sure the bacteria strains are viable before introduction to the water, and the bacteria used must be specific to the type of algae causing the problem. In addition, biologicals should only be considered in water features with a neutral pH, a pH higher than 9 will kill the bacteria. Temperature is also important, as bacteria slows in cooler waters.

Copper-Based Algaecides

Copper-based products have been used throughout history and are still used today for aquatic algae control. As copper ions fall through a body of water the ions kill any algae they come in contact with. The two common compounds used are copper sulfates and chelated coppers; while fairly inexpensive and readily available, these products tend to be labor intensive to apply and at times not very effective. Because the copper ions fall out of suspension relatively quickly, frequent applications may be necessary to combat algae growth. While chelated copper products last approximately 10% longer than sulfates, their effectiveness is still relatively short-lived. An additional concern with using these products is the build-up of copper sediments on the lake or pond bed, which could adversely affect the

balance of the aquatic environment.

New Copper-Based Technology

A new generation of copper-based products is now available. This new technology eliminates many of the traditional problems associated with using copper for algae treatment or prevention. It holds copper in the ionic state, which is the most biologically active state. The charged ions repel one another and effectively hold the copper in suspension indefinitely until algae is encountered. Because the ions push as far away as possible from one another naturally, the product self-disperses evenly throughout lakes or ponds from a single application point. With this new generation of copper-based products, you can achieve mathematically predictable copper levels that allow for precise control of algae WITHOUT over treatment.

No matter what product you choose to keep your ponds, lakes and fountains algae-free and crystal clear, it is extremely important to use products that are approved by both local and national regulatory agencies. If fish are present, make sure you check the labels to make sure the product is safe to use in fish bearing ponds. Many products are not suitable for all fish species, check with the manufacturer if rates for your fish type are not specified. ↗

Boardroom Briefs - April 2002

By Bob Costa, CGCS

- Education Co-Chair Vince Keats reported the 2003 GCSAA regional seminars have been selected. Turfgrass Management I is scheduled for January 7th, followed by Managing Localized Dry Spots and Managing Root Zones on January 8th.
- A letter from past-president Mike Clark, CGCS, which contained numerous suggestions to the Board was reviewed and many items will receive evaluation and consideration.
- Bob Costa, CGCS announced the member survey, distributed in the fall, resulted in an overwhelming response of 250 members. Costa stated that he is close to compiling all the data and hopes to publish the information in the April newsletter.
- Post annual meeting comments produced a

desire to encourage the Affiliate Board candidates declare themselves early enough to allow for a proxy vote. The Board hopes to increase the participation level in the affiliate voting.

- President Jeff Shafer presented a proposal he received from Bryant Fuel, which offers a .02-cent payback to the GCSANC per dollar of product purchased by GCSANC members. The ensuing discussion resulted in a recommendation that the company be allowed to purchase advertising in the newsletter to communicate their offer, however there would be no official Board endorsement of their products or services. A final decision will be made at a future Board meeting
- Until a final budget is formulated, the Board has decided to suspend their support

of the Palo Alto's annual Celebration of Jr. Golf event.

- A proposal to fund a research project spearheaded by the NCGA is being evaluated by research chairman Pat Finlen, CGCS. The project will examine the use of Trimit to suppress and control of *Poa annua* on bentgrass greens.
- A request by P.A.C.E. to purchase GCSANC mailing labels for an upcoming seminar was denied by the Board. The approved recommendation was to suggest they purchase an insert for distribution in the newsletter.
- After discussion, a request to supply partial funding for a NCGA summer intern was denied by the Board. The consensus was the financial contribution would not provide significant benefit to the membership.



If I Only Had Known Then, What I Know Now...

By Mike McCullough, NCGA Agronomist

What do golfers and maintenance workers have in common? The sun. Who out there hasn't had a bad case of sunburn at some time in their life? The likelihood of being in this profession and not having a case of sunburn is like never missing a three-foot putt - highly unlikely.

Working or playing in the great outdoors is truly an occupational hazard. However, just because a person works or plays on a golf course does not mean he or she has to become the next statistic at the dermatologist's office. The next few paragraphs will describe my story with skin cancer and some helpful tips in being a little brighter about sun exposure (pun intended).

As a youngster, I had my share of sunburns, but nothing that I would consider to be life threatening, at least not then. As time has passed by, I have realized that those minor incidences during my formative years have had major consequences later in life: skin cancer.

Reports claim there are as many as 300,000 to 1 million new cases of skin cancer each year. Ninety-five percent of all skin cancers are caused by UV (ultraviolet) light. Many researchers believe that 80 percent of skin damage occurs before the age of 20. Other studies found that just one severe sunburn during this time frame can

double the risk for skin cancer.

After reading and studying this information on skin cancer, I finally determined that I was a high-risk candidate (I have fair skin and reddish-blond hair). When I was growing up in the 70s and 80s, there were only a few products that provided any type of skin protection.

Available products were mostly suntan lotions with maximum protection of 10 or 12 SPF (sun protection factor). Even though I spent most summers outdoors, I rarely used these products. Now I seriously regret that.

I was first diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma on my neck at the age of 25. During the next couple of years, two surgical procedures were performed to remove these cancers from my neck. Eight years later I am skin cancer free.

There are three major types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and malignant melanoma. Most skin cancers can be easily cured when detected at an early stage. If there is a spot or mole that has grown or changed colors recently, get it checked out immediately. Skin cancer, if left undetected, can have fatal outcomes.

Today most dermatologists recommend applying a lotion with a minimum SPF factor of 15 for all skin types, at least 30 minutes before anticipated exposure to the sun. Reapply sunscreens after a couple of hours

outside. Remember, the larger the SPF number, the more protection for the skin.

Other important tools in the fight against skin cancer are lip balms with SPF, wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses that block all UV rays. All hats should have at least a one-inch brim. While baseball hats may provide adequate protection for the face and scalp, they do not do a good job protecting the ears and neck.

The \$64,000 question is, "Do I wear sunscreen every time I go outside?" Yes and no.

If my outdoor activity is going to take longer than 15 minutes, then yes, I liberally apply the sunburn prevention lotion. If I am only outside for a few moments, then no, I do not apply any sunscreen. It is good habit to apply sunscreens no matter if the exposure is two minutes or four hours.

Another benefit from having had skin cancer is semi-annual visits to the dermatologist. Frequent monitoring of questionable areas of the skin provides peace of mind. Whether it is bright and sunny or dull and overcast, take a little precaution and apply sunscreens. It is never too early or too late to protect the skin from the sun's damaging rays.

Ask me, because I have proof — on my neck. /

NorCal Superintendents Big Winners in Orlando

By Ken Williams, CGCS

GCSANC member Jeff Arneson of Redwood Empire G & CC in Fortuna had the good fortune to win this year's 27-Hole Challenge at the GCSAA Conference in Orlando. Jeff's Grand Prize winning scorecard was drawn from thousands of entries in this year's event. His prize is an all-expense golf vacation to Scotland for four people.

Jeff's a pretty good player so he's really looking forward to the trip this August or September. He's never been to Scotland, let alone played the famous links. Notes Jeff, "I really couldn't believe it when they called me, I had to call back to GCSAA headquarters three times before I was sure!" Asked whom he was going to take on the nine-day

\$20,000 trip, Jeff says, "Definitely my wife but the others are still up in the air. I asked a superintendent buddy of mine, but he actually backed out, I couldn't believe it!" Asked what the trick to winning was, Jeff said he actually forgot his card in the hotel room the first day of the conference. He was going around the show that day with friends giving them serious grief for slowing down at each banner to stamp their cards. Luckily for Jeff, he brought his card the next day, completed it, and the rest is history.

It was a good conference for some other Northern California superintendents as well.

Kevin Breen, CGCS of Lahontan GC in Truckee won third prize in the 27-hole challenge (a Gateway Computer Package)

and Leonard F. Theis of Sun City Roseville GC was the "Get Connected" winner and received a Sony CLIE Handheld. Congratulations guys, nice to see winners from NorCal!

Did You Know That . . .

By Gary Carls, CGCS

- The cost of construction of the Silverado CC in 1956 was \$200,000.
- In 1952 GCSANC had only 9 voting members of the GCSAA.
- In 1952 attendance at GCSAA Conference and Show in Columbus, Ohio was 750.



Tips from the USGA:

Vegetation Buffer Area Biofilters And Improving Golf Course Water Quality

by David Wienecke, USGA Green Section Agronomist

Water quality has been in the news and, based on questions I am being asked, also on many people's minds in the Southwest Region. The first point to be made about water quality deals with research facts. Almost every study dealing with pesticide environmental fate, fertilizer nutrient environmental fate, and water quality on golf courses over the past 15 years has shown water quality is improved after flowing through golf courses compared to water entering the property. Due to space constraints, I would like to focus discussion of water quality in this article on what you can do to develop your stream and lake side water quality program.

Let's begin by defining water quality. Water quality is a complex topic defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) using biological, chemical, and physical criteria. Drinking water standards deal with taste palatability and health issues while other water standards look at water quality from an environmental standpoint of healthy aquatic ecosystems. A partial list of water quality criteria is listed below.

- * Biological regulatory standards focus on disease causing organisms or biological indicators of animal water contamination. Total Fecal Coliform Bacteria (bacteria found in the animal gut) and/or *Escherichia coli* (a bacteria found in the human gut) are used as indicators of water contamination from animals to water supplies. Other biological tests may be done for bacteria found in the feces of water fowl that contaminate water and can cause diseases or other pathogenic organisms once contamination is suspected. Another biological test is the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) that show the water's ability to sustain life or tendency to become anaerobic.

- * Chemical regulatory standards include a wide variety of factors including: pH (acidity or alkalinity), Hardness (degree of minerals in the water), amount of sodium, amount of salts, amount of nitrate nitrogen, total nitrogen, and amount of phos-

phates. There are also chemical tests for organic chemicals including gasoline and pesticides and inorganic chemicals such as arsenic and heavy metals.

- * Physical regulatory standards include items that interfere with water clarity. Turbidity is a measure of biological or soil particles that make the water look cloudy. Temperature is also a physical water quality measure since many animals and plants have narrow temperature limits that sustain aquatic life.

Of course on golf courses we are primarily looking at environmental ecosystem health standards. The bottom line is that water quality is a complex topic that goes beyond what most golf course managers are willing to dive into (pun intended).

Let's distill all this down to the basics. Here's what you can do:

- * Decide on water quality criteria and testing tailored to your golf course environmental concerns and conditions. The SCGA and NCGA are collaborating with the USGA and the San Diego Golf Course Superintendent's Association, the Central California Golf Course Superintendent's Association, and the Sierra Nevada Golf Course Superintendent's Association to

offer two workshops on Environmental Stewardship designed to give you the opportunity of doing this for your golf course. Brochures to sign up for these workshops are being mailed out soon. Workshops are being offered April 15, 2002 at Barona Creek Golf Club in Lakeside, CA and May 6, 2002 at Stevinson Ranch Golf Club near Merced, CA.

- * Establish buffer strips around all your waterways including lakes and streams even if the streambeds are seasonal in nature. EPA research has shown water quality contaminants of pesticides, silt particulates, and fertilizer nutrients are reduced 90-99% by vegetation buffer strips acting as biofilters for the water. The buffer strip reducing water contamination 99% was 30 feet wide while the buffer strip reducing water contamination 90% was 15 feet wide. Buffer strip width recommended at most golf courses is 25 feet wide.
- * The more you know the better you will feel about your golf course being a community resource for helping make your local environment.

For more information on this topic join us at one of these workshops. Have a great spring!



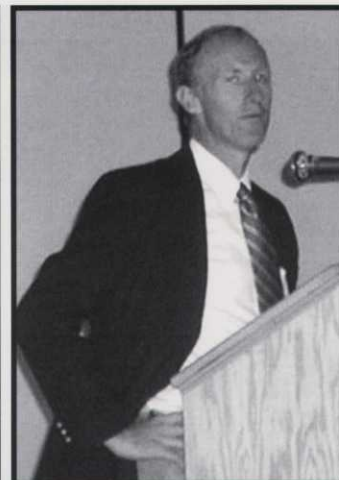
Attendees warmed up on a beautiful day at Castlewood



Attendees Listen to a presentation at the USGA/NCGA Meeting



Larry Stowell described the Chytridomycete disease affecting poa.



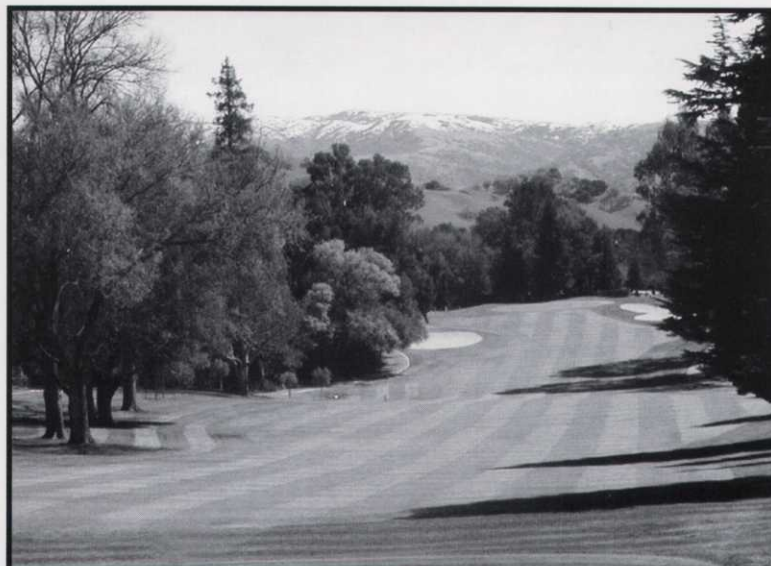
USGA Agronomist Dave Wienecke



Mulkh Raj, Corey Eastwood, Adrian Bertens & Don Allen at Castlewood



Breaktime at the USGA/NCGA Regional Conference



Castlewood was shining for the USGA/NCGA Conference

Did You Know That

By Gary Carls, CGCS

- In 1947 George Lineer of C.M. Volkman Seed Company was named the first honorary member of the Northern California Greenskeeper Association.
- In 1947 UCLA developed several short courses in Turf Management.
- Clifford Wagoner, CGCS was first elected to the GCSANC Board in 1952.



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Home Stretch

Essential contains all important humic acid and L-amino acids that improve color, quality, and stress resistance. Companion microbial inoculant contains beneficial *Bacillus subtilis* GB03 microbes, which colonize the soil/root zone. Healthier soil and plants mean greater stress and disease resistance!

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GCSANC Membership Report

By PJ Spellman

New Members:

Shelby Anderson	C
Trent Barr	C
Luke Haynes	Assoc.
Josh Heersink	B
Deepak Lal	C
Jesus Pacheco	C
Roger Ragland	C
Richard Rudolph	A
Brad Snavelly	Affiliate
David Trieschman	Affiliate

Upgrades:

Tim Berg	A
Marcelo Cortez	A
Jason Green	B
Roger Larson	A Life
Brian McCrae	C
James Ross	A Life
Harkenal Singh	A Life

When Every
Square Inch Counts...



Particles Per Square Inch Calculator

		Size Guide Number (SGN)					
		100	125	150	175	215	240
Pounds Product Per Acre	100	7.2	3.7	2.1	1.3	0.7	0.6
	125	9.0	4.6	2.7	1.7	0.9	0.7
	150	10.8	5.5	3.2	2.0	1.1	0.8
	175	12.6	6.5	3.7	2.4	1.3	0.9
	200	14.4	7.4	4.3	2.7	1.5	1.0
	225	16.2	8.3	5.0	3.0	1.6	1.2
250	18.0	9.2	5.3	3.3	1.8	1.3	

Contact Your Andersons Territory Manager

Bob Miller
1-800-456-6401