



GCSANC Annual Meeting

By Ken Williams, CGCS

The GCSANC held their annual meeting on January 16th at the beautiful Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel. Host and outgoing president Bob Costa, CGCS did a great job in organizing the event. The chilly day began with attendees checking in for a nice spread at breakfast. The Association's annual meeting followed. The meeting began with recognition of numerous Past Presidents in attendance, reports from the Board, elections, bylaw changes, and numerous awards. Without going into too much detail, here are the basics of what happened:

Bob Costa, CGCS called the meeting to order.

Cliff Wagoner, CGCS led the group in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff Shafer delivered the Invocation.

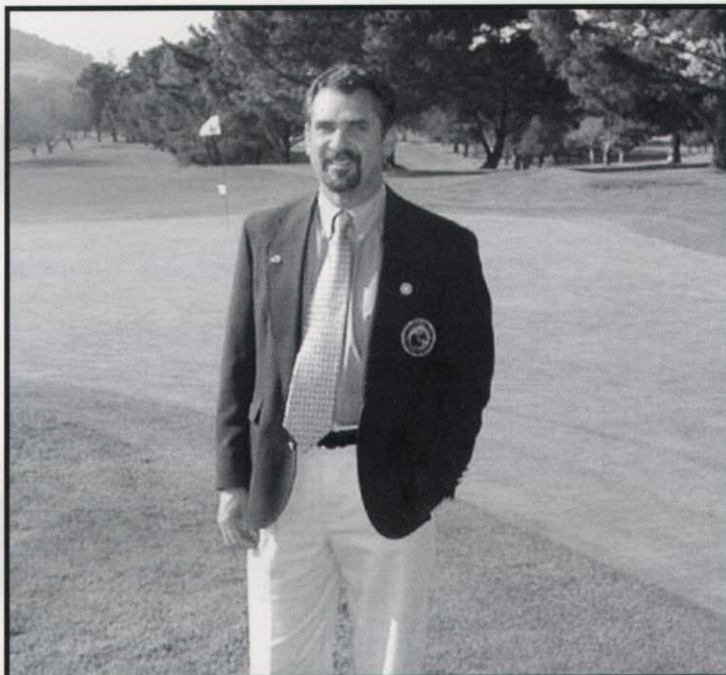
Bob Costa, CGCS recognized the Past Presidents and special guests in the audience. He also noted the loss of Past President Pete Bibber in the necrology report.

Bob Lopic read the minutes from the 2001 meeting and gave the Treasurer's Report (The Association seems to be in good financial health).

Dave Sexton, CGCS gave the review of the books done with Rich Lavine, CGCS.

Pat Finlen, CGCS presented the GCSANC Membership Report for 2002:

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Host Bob Costa at Rancho Cañada



Cliff Wagoner led the Pledge of Allegiance



Bob Lopic read the Treasurer's report



Dave Sexton gave a financial report.



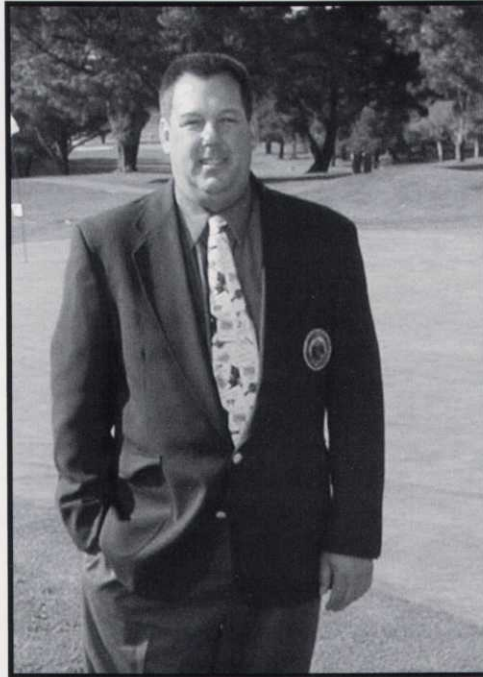
President's Message

By Jeff Shafer

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the membership this year as your President. I am honored and humbled, and will work towards representing you in a professional manner.

None of this would be possible without expressing thanks to many individuals. First, thanks to my wife and children for giving up family time and to Kent Alkire for allowing me to ride along on your coattails. As most of you are aware, serving on a Board or committee can take you away from the golf course, often at the most inopportune times. Thanks to my two Assistant Superintendents, Mike Souza and Gabe Bishop for putting in the long hours to keep the course in great shape. Equally, I thank my Service Manager, John Cunningham, for his dedication and friendship. The Went family continues to be supportive of my efforts and I am forever indebted.

As for you, the membership, many of you have offered an ear to listen, time to reflect and many hours of friendship and support. I would be remiss not to thank Randy Gai and Terry Grasso who welcomed me to Northern California years ago at my very first GCSANC meeting; Dave Davies who has assisted me on GCSAA assignments; Don Naumann for teaching me what a salesman can and cannot do; the past two Boards of Directors that helped me get up to speed quickly; Corey Eastwood for challenging me; Jim "Speedy" Lipari for being there when I needed someone; and finally Jim Hustung and Ted Horton for helping me to understand health and family come before



Jeff Shafer

work. Gentlemen, thank you.

Two individuals that I would also like to recognize and thank have committed tremendous time so that we can all enjoy the benefits we currently have. To Barb Mikel, thank you for serving the membership and assisting in directing us in a professional manner. As for Ken Williams, your dedication to the newsletter often goes unnoticed, but on behalf of the membership, thank you.

While September 11, 2001 reminded all of us how fragile, life can be, many of us have experienced in the past and some will unfortunately most likely experience in the future how fragile this business can be. Last night I read an article that summed up the

challenges that all of us face. It reminded me why I believe our local, state and national associations should be challenged to provide services that meet our needs.

Tony Dungy was fired recently as coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.... Dungy was the most successful coach in club history... leading the Bucs to the playoffs in four of the past five years.... The coach met Tuesday with general manager Rich McKay and the sons of the owner Malcom Glazer.... The article goes on to say, "It has been a privilege to work with not only Tony Dungy the coach, but Tony Dungy the man. This has been a most difficult decision. Tony has done great things for our football team and community."

How is a person that has done "great things" being fired? How does a Superintendent that has done "great things" get fired? Tony Dungy will get another job. So will that Superintendent. The difference is Tony Dungy makes an income that could support 10 of us. That Superintendent could now be out on the street.

Let us all come together to make a difference in each other's lives. Let us all offer constructive comments, not destructive comments. Let our association's provide services that make a difference, like education, benevolence and retirement. Let us take the time to call and invite someone who hasn't been to a meeting in some time. Let us chose to value difference, not devalue each other. Let us put our own agenda's aside for the good of others.

Let us not forget each other when trying to make a difference./

Office Notes

By Barb Mikel

Hope all are busy preparing to head for Orlando and the GCSAA Annual Convention. Me? I have lots and lots of projects that are keeping me home this year. But I am looking forward to next year's Convention in San Diego!

Some of those projects are included in this newsletter. You will find a new Membership Application and a



Membership Upgrade Form. Please use any old ones lying around for scratch paper. This form had been modified somewhat and makes for better office use. The Membership Upgrade Form looks a lot like the new Membership Application without a place for an attester signature or fee. If you keep one as a master for your office, you'll have

one on hand when that potential member that drops by.

I get calls at dues renewal time telling me, "I'm retired." Well, good for you but you need to do the paperwork to get those reduced fees. Yes, the retired members do get a reduced fee. So do Class A Life members and those who have been a GCSANC member for 25 continual years.

The adoption of new bylaws changes for the Affiliate and Associate classes will be reflected next year. We will be reviewing those classifications and sorting them out in the coming months. It is my hope to be able to increase membership of the association with that classification change.

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California Native

By Mike McCullough, NCGA Turfgrass Services

Why are native grass plantings becoming more popular on golf courses? Is it because native grass plantings provide economic savings by reducing inputs? Do native grass plantings enhance wildlife habitats on the golf course? Will the golf course blend into the existing landscape when native grasses are used?

The answer to all of those questions is a resounding yes. However, there are some basic premises that have to be understood before all of the benefits of utilizing native plant material are observed.

More and more golf courses are trying to imitate nature with the naturalized look in and around the golf course. This does not happen overnight nor does it happen by accident. Establishing a stand of native grasses requires an abundance of planning, patience and pennies.

A superintendent of a newly constructed golf course who has plenty of experience in planning a native grass establishment was Forrest Arthur of The Preserve in Carmel Valley. Forrest stated that without the commitment to proper planning and documenting the existing native plant inventory, the process would have had disastrous results. Instead, the native grass areas at The Preserve are one of the most intriguing aspects of the golf course.

Forrest had a good understanding of native grass plantings while serving as Superintendent of The Links at Spanish Bay. However, the amount of area to re-establish to native grasses at The Preserve was staggering. Prior to construction, Forrest and Paul Kephart, manager of Rana Creek Restoration, inventoried the native plant material on each hole. They took notes of the plant material for both the highland areas and the lowland areas.

Forrest was challenged by the permitting process to only have 70 acres of irrigated turf for the entire golf course. During the construction process, Forrest estimated they disturbed another 70 acres that had to be revegetated to its original pristine condition. The disturbed areas were hydroseeded with the appropriate blend of grasses to match the existing flora. Supplemental irrigation was used to help the seeds germinate and develop an acceptable stand. Forrest worked closely

with regulating agencies to plant the disturbed areas precisely back to pre-undisturbed conditions.

According to David Kaplow of Pacific OpenSpace, Inc., golf course superintendents need to learn the behavior of native grasses. Most experts agree that it can take up to three years to have an acceptable stand of native grasses. By taking longer to fully establish, Kaplow suggests superintendents have different expectations for native grass areas.

Roger Robarge, Superintendent at California Golf Club in San Francisco, has learned the value of patience when planting several acres of native grasses. Once a major tree removal effort was wrapped up, Roger and the Green Committee wanted to re-establish native plant material in the under stories of the trees as well as cleared out areas which were not in play.

Robarge worked closely with Kaplow to develop a plan and identify plants that would restore native grasses and shrubs throughout the golf course. Roger and his crew devoted plenty of manpower and inputs to keep the newly established areas weed free and well-manicured, which was extremely important to the Green Committee at the Cal Club. Robarge always strived to have the native areas golfer friendly, in case an errant shot ventured into an established planting. The initial native program was slated to last only two years, but Roger and staff have made a long-term commitment to keep the areas intact.

For as many success stories as there are on establishing native grasses on golf courses, there are probably twice as many failures. The two biggest problems with failed native grass plantings are poor site preparation and lack of weed control. Many superintendents have learned the hard way that there is more to establishing native areas than just sowing seed and waiting for it to germinate.

Paul Kephart suggests that superintendents understand the big picture when preparing a site for native grass plantings. Questions that have to be answered are: percent slope, direction of slope, soil texture and structure, climatic conditions, weed seed bank, maintenance strategies, irrigation availability as well as previously mentioned native grass inventory and seed selection. Once the entire

site criterion is addressed, the chances for failure are greatly reduced.

Proper weed control is essential if aggressive weeds are competition with the native grasses. If this condition persists over time then the native grass stand will not perform up to standards. Every effort should be made to be diligent in weed control efforts. Whether it is herbicides, mowing, hand weeding, etc., regardless of what method of weed control is used, the practice should be timely and uniform throughout the planting area.

Because of the cost, planting native grasses is not a seat-of-the-pants decision. Prices for the seed of native grasses can create some sticker shock when compared to commonly used grasses on golf courses. Some varieties often exceed \$10 a pound. However, once these grasses are established, they should be around for a long time.

Another pitfall is planting a mixture of grasses that may not be the right fit for the location, otherwise known as the shotgun approach. Performing an accurate assessment of existing plant material is essential for selecting the ideal grasses for each project. The best plant material for the location is not always the lowest priced. There are literally hundreds of people, businesses or consultants in the state of California that are connected in some way, shape or form to promoting naturalized areas. There is also a large amount of information available about native grasses on the Internet. An easy-to-understand website with helpful information about native California grasses and businesses that are closely associated with the environment is the California Native Grass Association (www.cnga.org). The website will be changed in the next few months to a more user-friendly site with tons of practical information and tips on how to manage and maintain native grass areas.

There is no doubt that more and more golf courses are reintroducing native grasses. Golf course owners, club managers, superintendents and even golfers are encouraging more native grasses plantings. Developing the native grass areas that blend well with the natural surroundings takes time, money and expertise. Becoming a true California Native is well worth the effort. /



Annual Meeting (Cont'd)

As of 1/2/2002

Class A Superintendents	168
Class A Life Superintendents	26
Class B Superintendents	49
Honorary	3
Retired Superintendents	6
Retired Affiliates	15
Superintendents Or Assistant	
Inactive	4
Student	4
Assistant Superintendents	77
Associate	20
Affiliate	164
Educational Members	14
Media & Courtesy Members	40
Total Membership	590

Jeff Shafer gave the Programs Report thanking Roger Robarge for setting up the year's meeting schedule that includes:

- NCGA/USGA meeting at Castlewood in March
- Superintendent Field Day at Peninsula CC in April
- Supt/Pro at Myacama in June
- Assistant's Tournament in July
- Scholarship Tournament at Lake Merced in August
- Family Day in September
- Institute with golf at Boulder Creek
- Holiday meeting with golf at Corral De Tierra

Barb Mikel presented the Administrative Report noting the increase in technology available to members at this time

Bob Costa, CGCS gave his FINAL, final thoughts.....He thanked everyone who has helped the association exist and prosper over the past year. His goal as President was to increase value to member superintendents. The Media Program has blossomed and is now being promoted with the help of Emmy Moore-Minister who has done tremendous work for the NCPGA.

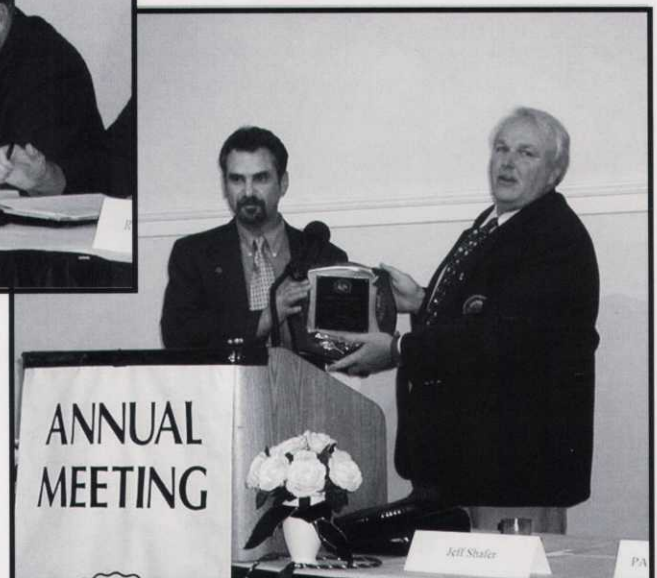
Gary Carls, CGCS ran the election.



Pat Finlen gives the membership report.



Barbara Mikel addresses the group.



Bob Costa, CGCS - Superintendent of the Year

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Annual Meeting (Cont'd)

The results for 2002 are as follows:

Jeff Shafer, President
 Bob Lopic, VP
 Pat Finlen, CGCS Secretary/Treasurer
 Jim Irvine, Director, Emerald Hills
 PJ Spellman, Director, Corral De Tierra

Appointed to fulfill the vacated term of Joel Ahern: Mike Hill, Director, Moffett Field

New Affiliate Representative: Gary Ingram, CGCS

The proposed bylaw changes, regarding the definitions of affiliate and associate members, were approved by the membership.

Gary Carls, CGCS also presented the Awards:

25-Year Pins: Robert Dalton, John Fleming, Mark P Francetic, Leonard Theis and posthumously to Pete Bibber

Superintendent of the Year: Bob Costa, CGCS (2nd time winner)

Affiliate of the Year: Rex Gentry

Excellence in Turfgrass Management: Dennis Kerr of Quail Lodge (Dennis thanked his crew and Assistant Thor



Gary Carls ran the election



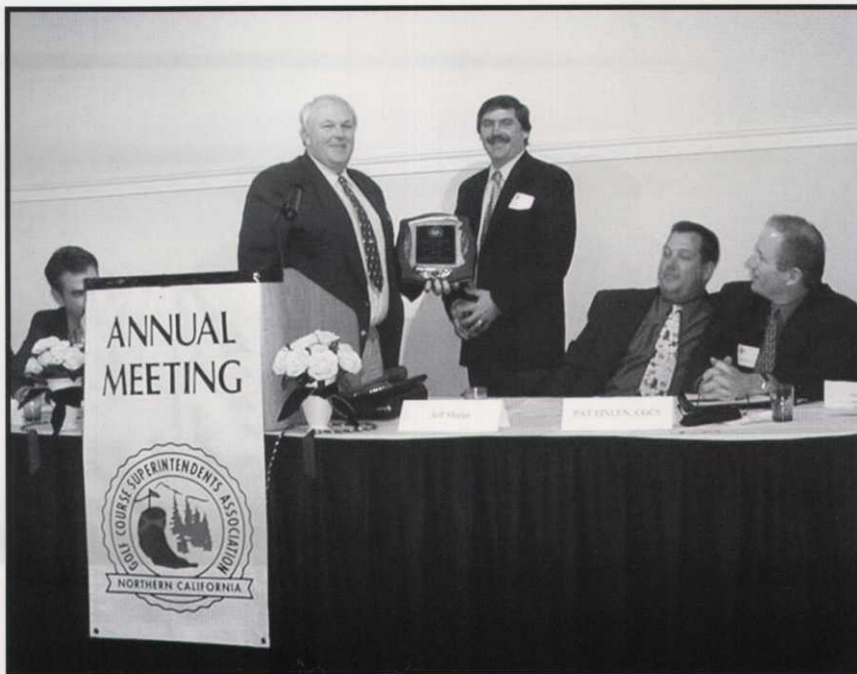
Leonard Theis receives his 25-year pin



Bob Dalton receives his 25-year pin



6 Rex Gentry - Affiliate of the Year



Dennis Kerr - Excellence in Turfgrass Management



Annual Meeting (Cont'd)

Larsen for their dedication. He also said, "Being a Superintendent is all I really want to do in life." Dennis was very gracious in accepting the award and noted with a smile, "I'm just like a lot of you guys out there who basically operate out of fear.")

George Santana Distinguished Service Award: Joe Rodriguez, CGCS

(Joe graciously accepted and followed, "Having known George Santana and the kind of man he was, makes this award very, very special to me.")

Merit Award for the Outgoing President: Bob Costa, CGCS

Jeff Shafer concluded the meeting noting how proud he was to be elected president and thanked those who have helped him along the way. He followed with words of encouragement to the membership to asked everyone to give something back to this great organization and to their fellow man.

Lunch and golf followed on a brisk windy day. Host superintendent Tim Greenwald and staff had the course in wonderful shape. Players played in a Net Scramble format that made for a lot of fun. Thanks go out to the entire staff at Rancho for making for a great day for the GCSANC! /



Joe Rodriguez CGCS, wins the George Santana Distinguished Service Award



The 2002 GCSANC Board left to right: Pat Finlen, CGCS, President Jeff Shafer, PJ Spellman, Bob Lapic, Jim Irvine, Andy Slack, Vince Keats, Gary Ingram, CGCS, and Past President Bob Costa, CGCS. Not shown, Mike Hill.



Overseeding Troubles Hit the Southwest

By Pat Gross

USGA Green Section - Southwest Region, January 2002

Winter overseeding quality has suffered this year at many of the desert courses in Palm Springs, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Tucson. High temperatures in October and November caused the bermudagrass to keep growing strong and smother the seedling perennial ryegrass despite repeat applications of growth regulators to keep the bermudagrass in check. Although conditions looked good in early November, much of what people were seeing was the actively growing bermudagrass. After a few days of frost in December, the bermudagrass is now dormant, producing a patchy appearance and disgruntled golfers who are used to seeing a perfectly green golf course.

What happened? Good overseeding quality is dependent on the proper air and soil temperatures at the time of seeding. Optimum conditions include:

Optimum temperatures for successful overseeding

- Daytime temperatures between 60° - 75°F.
- Night temperatures consistently between 50° - 60°F.
- Soil temperatures near 75°F.

Historical weather data in the Southwest indicates that temperatures are ideal for seeding in early to mid October in most areas of the region, but this was a year when the historical data got thrown out the window. Temperatures remained hot through November, quickly followed by frost in mid December. The following is a brief synopsis of weather data from the Palm Springs area:

Temperatures in Palm Springs - Fall 2001

- First daytime temperature below 90°F October 29th
- First daytime temperature below 80°F November 23rd
- First night temperature below 50°F November 26th

After visiting a few courses that have experienced problems, it was easy to see that there were plenty of seedlings present, but the plants were thin with only 2 to 3 leaves per plant. As you can see, conditions were never favorable until Thanksgiving, and by

then it was too late and too cold to get any new seed established.

What can you do? In most cases, the best thing to do is not overreact. Allow temperatures to gradually warm and this will stimulate perennial ryegrass growth. During this time, it is important to control traffic and keep the focus on playing quality. Verdant green perennial ryegrass is pretty to look at, but dormant bermudagrass provides a good playing surface as well. If you must start looking for a quick fix, here are a few things to try:

- Spot aerify the affected areas with 1/4" solid tines to slightly warm soil temperatures and stimulate perennial ryegrass growth.
- Consider pre-germinating perennial ryegrass seed and spot seed and weak areas. Pre-germinating seed can be done by using a clean 55 gallon drum or clean plastic tank filled with water. Next, place 25 lbs. of seed in a burlap bag and set the bag in water with a continuously running air hose at the bottom of the barrel. Change the water at 6, 12, and 24 hours. At the end of 36 to 48 hours, pour off the seed onto a fine screen and allow to dry. The seed should not have the white root (radical) exposed yet. If a small root is visible, the seed must be spread by hand. Seed affected areas in one direction at the rate of 10 - 15 lbs./1000 sq. ft. and brush the seed into the turf. Pre-germinating seed is not practical on a large scale and is only intended for small sections of the course.
- Topdress any reseeded areas with a light covering of organic compost.
- The use of *Poa trivialis* may be an option for spot seeding areas of fairways, rough, and tees. *Poa trivialis* germinates better in cold weather, but the seed is more expensive and germination often takes 14 days.
- Fertilize at a light and frequent rate using a combination of ammonium and nitrate based nitrogen fertilizers at a rate of no more than 3/4 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. every two weeks. Excessive fertilizer applications to push the turf should be avoided at all cost and will only serve to damage the existing seedlings.
- Restrict cart traffic to the greatest extent

possible.

- Green latex turf paint can also be used to cover spots of dormant bermudagrass.

Overseeding is a temperature game, but superintendents must make preparations for this time consuming practice based on the calendar and the needs of their course. In most cases, this leaves no option for seeding the course when temperatures are ideal. The result is poor overseeding quality during years when temperatures are above normal in October and November. Hopefully, conditions will bounce back soon.

Pat Gross is the Director of the Southwest Region. He can be reached at the Green Section office in Santa Ana, California (714) 542-5766 or via E-mail at pgross@usga.org

GCSAA Provides On-line Courses

GCSAA has developed new self-paced e-learning programs allowing you to begin continuing education courses at any time and work on them at your own pace, on-line. GCSAA CEUs are awarded for completion of these courses and each course can be ordered on-line with a credit card by visiting GCSAA's Web site at <http://www.gcsaa.org/learn/online/elearn.html>. Check this out, it is a great way to help fulfill your continuing education requirements without the headaches of travel, traffic, schedules, etc.

Quick Quote

"It is a well-known fact that badly drained land will positively not produce satisfactory turf for golfing purposes."

Donald Ross



Equipment Technician University

February 27, 2002

Castlewood CC, Pleasanton, Calif.

7:00- 8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 - 9:45 a.m.	Surges and Shorts: Diagnosing Electrical Problems B.J. Cannon, The Toro Company
9:45 - 10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00 -11:45 a.m.	Planning and executing Preventative Maintenance Schedules for golf course equipment Fidel Baca, Textron Golf Turf and Speciality Products
11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:45- 2:30 p.m.	What Leak? Troubleshooting Hydraulic Issues Graham Foot, The John Deere Company
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Starting an Equipment Technician Association on the local level. Tim Johnson, Royal Fox CC, St. Charles, IL
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Cost: \$20.00 — Includes: Break refreshments and lunch.

Content/Format: — A one-day intensive workshop for golf course equipment technicians that will cover important technical and professional issues in their field.

Registration Deadline: February 20 by mail only.

Please mail the attached form and a check for \$20.00 (sorry, no credit cards) made out to the NCGA to:

Northern California Golf Association
Attn: Mike McCullough, Director of Turfgrass Services
P.O. Box NCGA
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

For more information, visit the Turfgrass Services page on the NCGA web site at www.ncga.org or E-mail the Director of Turfgrass Services at mike@ncga.org. Phone: 831-625-4653 Fax: 831-625-0150

Palo Alto, Calif. Superintendent Receives Environmental Certification

David Davies, CGCS at Palo Alto Golf Course, Palo Alto, Calif., has earned an environmental management specialist certificate from the GCSAA for completing a specialization program in Employee Safety and Right-To-Know.

GCSAA is addressing the environmental impact of golf course maintenance and the increasingly complex training needs of golf course superintendents by offering specialized training through its Environmental Management Program (EMP). GCSAA's EMP consists of five specialized certification programs: Integrated Pest Management, Employee Safety and Right-To-Know, Water Quality and Application, Golf Course Development and Storage, Disposal and Recycling.

The Employee Safety and Right-To-Know specialization focuses on the responsibility to properly inform and train employees. It covers the standards required by regulatory agencies for safety in the workplace, community right-to-know and emergency response.

Turfgrass IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Wednesday, May 1, 2002 University Club, UC Davis Campus

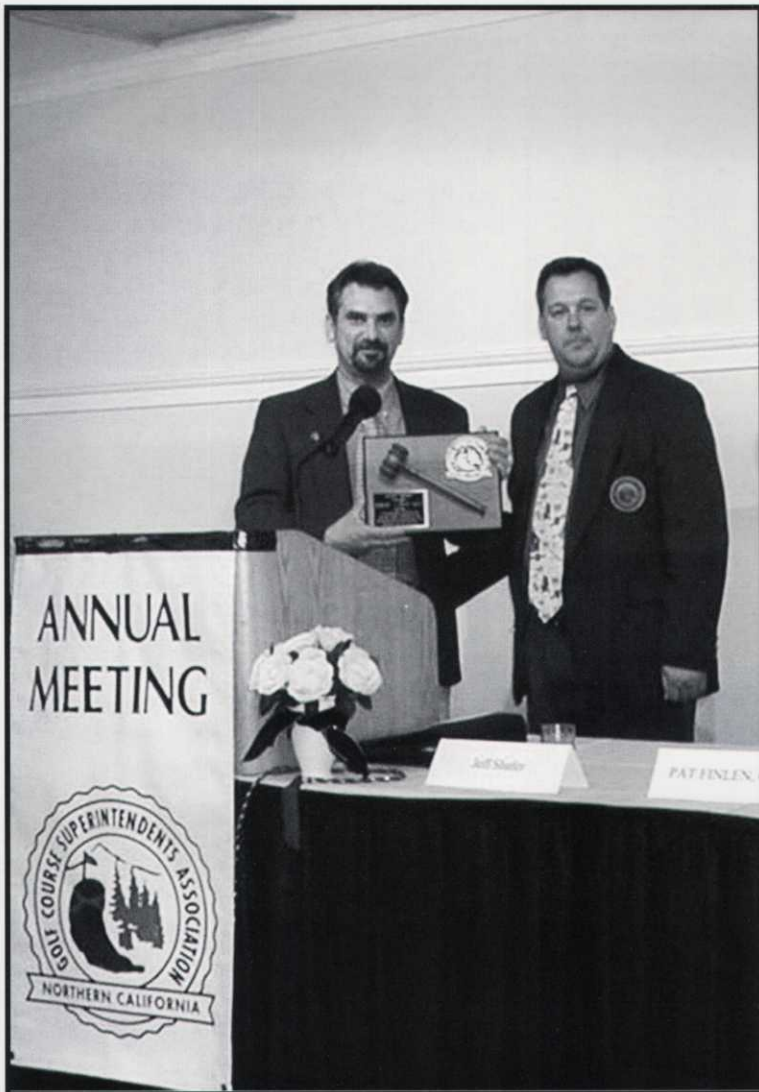
The University of California Extension-Davis, is offering this one-day course which will focus on techniques needed for effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in all professionally maintained turfgrasses. It should be of interest to municipal parks and recreation site managers, golf course superintendents, sports turf managers, school and college grounds managers, cemetery turf managers, horticultural consultants, pest control advisors, turf seed and sod suppliers, and other professional turf and landscape managers. Six hours of Pest Control Advisors (CDFA), six hours of Certified Crop Advisor Continuing Education Credits, 0.6 hours of Certified Gold Course Superintendents are pending, and 0.6 Extension Continuing Education Credits will be awarded. To receive program details call 1-800-752-0881 or E-mail:

aginfo@unexmail.ucdavis.edu.

Office Notes (Cont'd)

Other projects in the works include on-line/E-mail newsletter & meeting registrations. Right now you can go to the California Web site and the Northern California Section (www.gcsaa.org/cgcsa) download a "PDF" file and view or print our GCSANC "Thru the Green" newsletter. Sometime in the future I hope to offer the E-mail option for receiving the newsletter. For some of you that makes sense (hey, you can save the photos that way!) For those of you (Jeff Shafer included) preferring the "feel" of the printed media, don't worry, we will keep you on the mailing list.

Next month look for an advertising insert for Newsletter sponsors!



Incoming President Shafer presents a plaque to outgoing President Costa

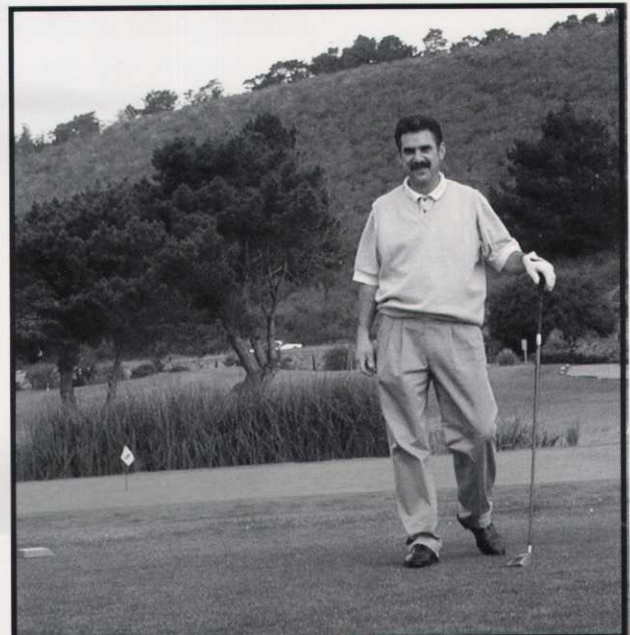
Naumann's NorCal News

After 30 years of tireless service, including three Tour Championships, two US Opens, and countless amateur events, **John Fleming** is retiring from the Olympic Club in San Francisco. Look for John in the future to surface in the design, construction, and maintenance fields.....Replacing John at the Olympic Club is **Pat Finlen, CGCS**. Pat was the Director of Maintenance at Bayonet/Black Horse at Fort Ord.....**Bob Yeo** is the new Superintendent at Old Del Monte Golf Course. He had been the Assistant at Spanish Bay Golf Links prior to his move. Bob is replacing **Pete Bibber, CGCS** who passed away last year.....**Pat Macaulay** is the new Superintendent at Sharpe Park Golf Course in Pacifica. Pat was the Assistant at Lincoln Park before his move. Both courses are run by the City and County of San Francisco.

Annual Meeting Golf Results

Net Scramble Format - Rancho Cañada - West Course

1st Place: Rich Lavine, PJ Spellman, Blake Swint, Ken Williams	55
2nd Place: Mike Clark, Howard Fisher, Ed Vyeda (Card off)	57
3rd Place: Tim Berg, Gary Sayre, Gil Stiles (Card off)	57
4th Place: Alan Andreason, Ross Brownlie, Rex Gentry, Mike Hill	57



Bob Costa shows off on #18 at Rancho