



Summer Golf, Fun, & Yes, Beer

By Gary Skolnik

Four summers ago, I decided to embark on a "Let's get together, play golf, and have fun," mission. And I'm sure if you ask any of the participants involved, they would surely tell you that the "mission" has been accomplished.

Originally, the Sonoma County Golf Course Employee Tournament consisted of Andy Trinkino and the guys from Fountaingrove; Dave Saly, Jose Flores, and their staff from Rooster Run; Rick Hansen, Pablo Rosales, and their staff from Windsor; Chester Manni, Tom Farrell, and their staff from Bodega Harbor; Ed Bale, Robin Hackett, and their staff from Northwood; and last but certainly not least, Chris Robertson and Bill Penn from the extremely unique Robertson Golf Links in Sebastopol.

Created in 1980, the beautiful Robertson Golf Links sits on twenty-five picturesque acres in West Sonoma County. The longest hole on the course is 246 yards and the shortest being a tricky 109 yards long. This gorgeous piece of property hosts numerous parties and weddings annually and several movies have been filmed at this amazing hideaway. In addition to golf, the Robertson's property includes tennis, volleyball, trampoline, hiking trails, boating, swimming, and fishing.

Since the Employee Tournament's inception in May of 1999, we have added Scott Stewart, Jeff Calhoun and their staff from Adobe Creek in Petaluma, and recently Dick Rudolph, Deepak Lal and their staff from Foxtail Golf Club in Rohnert Park.

So what does all this really mean? First and foremost, there is no cost (and never will be) to anyone involved, period. Secondly, all golf course employees are allowed to play which includes employees from various pro shops, outside service attendants, marshals and even a few of our most generous vendors who have helped all along the way to keep the momentum going. Finally and most importantly, all those who choose to attend must relax, have fun, play golf, and drink; whether it be beer, soda or water. It's basically whatever floats your boat.

The interesting aspect of these monthly gatherings is the diverse environment each and every one of us comes from. We have people coming from courses like those with 1.2 million dollar annual maintenance budgets like Fountaingrove or from basic tracks that spend about half that keeping it playable for upwards to 100,000 rounds per year. In our opinion, it just doesn't matter at all. Well, nobody cares anyway in Sonoma County!

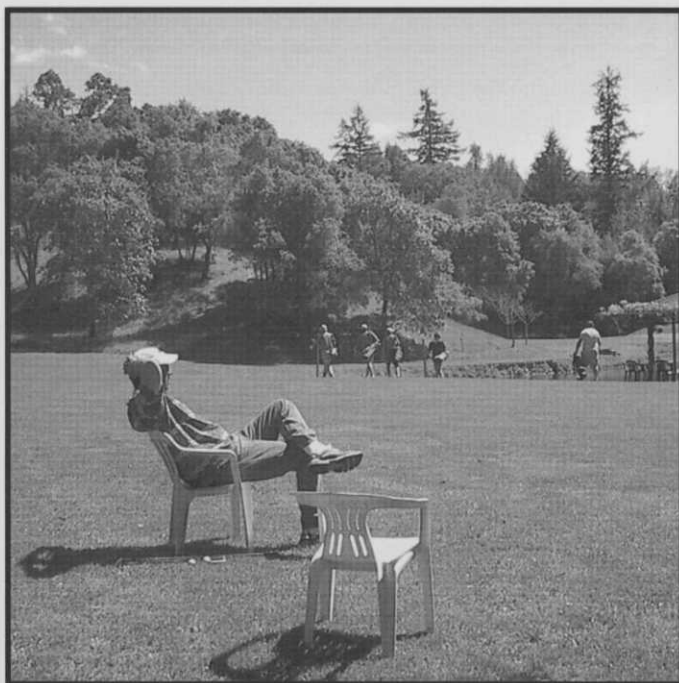
Typical discussions are about water quality, poa annua seed heads, mowing patterns, hiring principles, vendors, sprinkler nozzles, rodent control, tournament preparation and on and on.

Skins (depending on the number of people who show up) are \$5.00 each and can pay anywhere from about \$20.00 to \$100.00. And by the way, it's all on the honor system. Bumping it or "mulligans" are not happening either. We don't do name badges, some courses have dress codes and some just don't care. That is why my favorite nine in our beautiful county is at Northwood. Just show up in jeans, shorts, tank tops, and even bring your ice chest! Then head to the tee and grip it and rip it. Northwood's Assistant Superintendent Robin Hackett has even designed and built trophies that have ranged from a sprinkler head to a golf ball wedged between the sharp talons of a local hawk.

So, does any of this sound cool to you, my fellow colleagues? If it doesn't, I really don't care anyway! One thing for sure, there is nothing better than an afternoon of barbecue, refreshments, golf, and good friends to hang out with. It sure beats the hell out of working. /



2 Some of Sonoma County's EGT participants



An afternoon of Golf in Sonoma County



President's Message

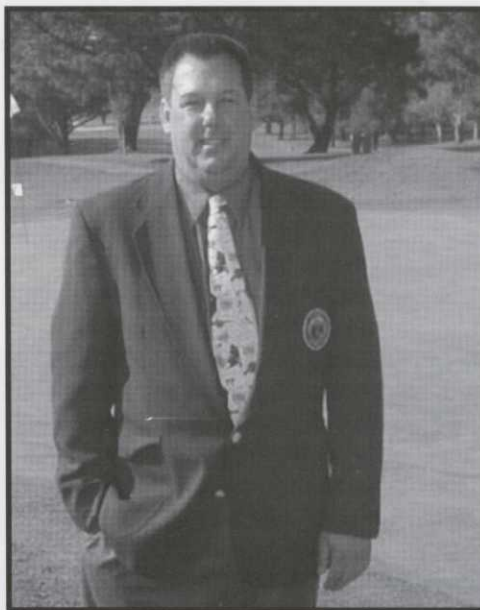
By Jeff Shafer

Workshop

Thanks to all that attended the Workshop at Peninsula Club. What a great day we had and Bill Davis, CGCS and his staff have done a tremendous job preparing the new course for play. The facility and speaker presentations were excellent and the many congratulations and thanks go to the Workshop Committee for their efforts to this event. Led by Jim Irvine, this committee met many times to ensure that all the guests were only presented the best this association could offer. Special thanks go our sponsor, DHR Construction, for their generous support and the wonderful display boards that decorated the room.

Superintendent - Professional Tournament

Please mark your calendars and participate in this annual event. This year's event at the absolutely beautiful Mayacama will be special. The event is open to all members and their guests and there are prize flights for all groups. We will be going back to the traditional game of golf as Mayacama is a caddy only golf course. The golf committee has done everything possible to keep costs down including getting the golf completely



Jeff Shafer

compensated. Thank you to Mayacama and our host Superintendent, Dale Engman, for your generosity. Please show your support for these efforts by attending this year's event!

GCSAA

It is an honor to have the chance to support one of our own into the political ranks of the GCSAA by officially nominating Gary Carls, CGCS, as a candidate for the GCSAA Board of Directors in 2003. Anyone that has worked with Gary in any capacity recognizes how dedicated and professional he is to all of our associations and the game of golf. We all wish Gary the best and he has the full support of our association. Please thank Gary for taking on these efforts because I am confident his efforts are for the good of the association and each of you as a member. If you can lend any national support to Gary's campaign by contacting any other chapters of other states that may not be aware of how hard Gary has worked to promote our association please do so. Gary, congratulations on your efforts!

Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank Chris Dubas and Santa Teresa GC for allowing the Board to meet at his facility this year. The central location has worked extremely well and is very much appreciated. /



Course employees enjoying the afternoon golf



Tough choice — golf or swim at Robertson Golf Links

Clopyralid And Compost

What's at Issue?

Clopyralid is a herbicide that farmers, foresters, ranchers, golf course managers, parks and recreation professionals and others rely on to control hard-to-manage invasive weeds. Products containing clopyralid have been on the market for more than 15 years. Compared to similar products, clopyralid has a relatively favorable health and safety profile for both people and wildlife.

Note: Clopyralid is registered for use on a number of food crops, and around a variety of turf and ornamental plants. However, if not used according to the product label it can cause adverse effects on beneficial plants belonging to the same family of weeds for which it is used. Examples of sensitive plants include legumes such as clover, as well as peas and beans; Asteracea such as thistles and dandelions, but also sunflowers; and Solenaceae such as nightshade, but also tomatoes and potatoes.

Recently, clopyralid residues have been reported in compost at levels that could damage sensitive plants such as tomatoes, sunflowers and legumes. Few documented instances of plant damage have actually been reported, with the reports primarily deriving from Washington State.

The primary source of these residues is believed to be the composting of clopyralid-treated grass clippings from residential lawns. Label directions on clopyralid products restrict the use of clippings for mulch or compost. But treated grass clippings may still find their way into compost because homeowners using professional lawn care services may not have been informed that clopyralid was used and/or may not be knowledgeable of the restrictions that apply.

How Does This Issue Affect Me?

Based on data from environmental fate studies, clopyralid is not persistent in the natural environment and breaks down readily in soil. Similar studies suggest that it does not break down as readily in compost.

Dow AgroSciences, state and federal regulators, users of the product, composters

and others are working toward new use restrictions, product stewardship initiatives, communications and training programs, and compost use practices to keep clopyralid residues out of compost at levels of concern for sensitive plants.

Note: Blending compost with soil or other organic potting media (such as pine fines, peat moss, perlite) is a widely accepted and commonly recommended practice. (U.S. Compost Council field guide, www.compostcouncil.org. However, unblended compost has the potential to shrink appreciably, decrease water holding power of the growing medium, and contain unwanted components (soluble salts, organic acids, etc.), especially if not sufficiently cured or mature. Documented cases of injury to sensitive plants from compost containing inadvertent clopyralid residues have included the use of unblended and/or immature compost.

The potential for clopyralid residues to cause adverse effects on plants is a function of label restrictions not having been followed, inappropriate use of the compost, the susceptibility of the plant species and a several other factors. (An extensive list of plants that are not susceptible to clopyralid is available from Dow AgroSciences.)

By contrast, use of clopyralid where treated grass clippings will not be composted — for example, golf courses, parks, cemeteries, home lawns where mulching mowers are used and other, similar managed turf situations — would not be sources of compost harmful to plants due to clopyralid residues.

Why Not Just Ban All Uses of Clopyralid?

Ill-conceived or hastily imposed restrictions may, while well-meaning, create a number of unintended, and potentially greater, problems than those they sought to correct. For example:

* Many states require the control of noxious weeds because of their harmful impact on recreational areas and range and farmland. Clopyralid products control invasive weeds that alternative products may only suppress.

* Clopyralid is highly effective on certain hard-to-control weeds that infest residential lawns (e.g., clover). A well-maintained lawn not only has aesthetic value; it also increases property values and protects children against falls and stings from bees drawn to yards by flowering weeds.

* Eliminating clopyralid uses could result in greater and more frequent use of other pest control products, with less impact on hard-to-control weeds, greater public exposure to pesticides and less land available for wildlife and recreation.

Conclusion

Dow AgroSciences is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state regulatory agencies and other affected parties to develop new federal labeling for clopyralid products on an expedited basis. This new labeling will incorporate use restrictions in addition to the current label prohibition against using compost from clopyralid-treated foliage.

Dow AgroSciences is expanding communications with product users to provide increased product stewardship and better address this issue. We also look forward to working with composters to improve communication of best management practices for proper compost use.

A Note of Appreciation

By Bob Whittaker

As most of you know, I lost my wife Joyce this past year. Joyce and I would have been married 33 years this past April 2nd. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to each of you for your sympathy and concern for my family and me. Your thoughtful cards and letters and your outpouring of grief and sympathy have been overwhelming and yet welcome and appreciated. I find it difficult to express in words alone how your support has helped me during this most difficult time in my life. I don't know how else to express my heartfelt appreciation than to say, "Thank you, friend."



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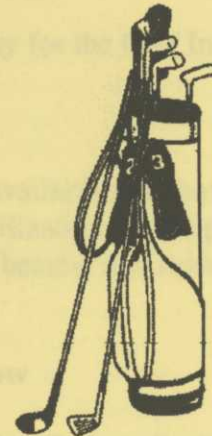
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- Rana Creek Ranch is located in the beautiful Carmel Valley, 7 miles east of Carmel Valley Village. The entrance gate for the Open House / Field day is on the South side of East Carmel Valley Road at milepost 19.2.

Guest Speakers include:

- Mr. Mike McCullough, N.C.G.A. Agronomist and Superintendent Intern Director
- Mr. John Greenlee, Greenlee Nursery, Author of Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses
- Mr. Ryan Heacock, GPS / GIS Specialist Rana Creek Habitat Restoration
- Mr. Tom Orzoff, Principal Designer for Fazio Design Group

Speaker Topics include:

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For Reservations Please Phone or E-Mail:

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Quick Quote

“The highest reward for a man’s toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.”

— John Ruskin —

- Lodging recommendations available upon request



Bayer requests voluntary cancellation of Nematicur

Bayer has submitted a request to the U.S. EPA to voluntarily cancel all uses of fenamiphos, which will probably be phased in over the next three to five years. Fenamiphos is the active ingredient in several versions of Nematicur nematocide.

The company's request said that "the escalating costs of defending fenamiphos relative to its limited use," had prompted the decision to request the voluntary cancellation.

Although the final details of the cancellation are being worked out, the three-year phase out would apply to extremely vulnerable soils. These are defined as "hydrologic soil group A soils that are excessively drained and predominantly sand or sandy loam such as soils in suborder psammets." The five-year phase out would apply to other soils.

During the phase out, Bayer intends to continue to manufacture and distribute fenamiphos. Its request to the EPA specifies that dealer sales and customer use of the product would be permitted for as long as the products remain in the channels of trade. "The outcome of this process, which is going to result in Nematicur staying on the market for another three to five years, is a positive one," said Mike Daly, brand manager turf and ornamental. "The involvement the Florida superintendents allowed the EPA to make a more informed decision about Nematicur as a tool for the control of nematodes in turf. If it weren't for their involvement the product would have probably disappeared from the market several years ago."

As part of the process, Bayer has pledged to fund research at the University of Florida to look for alternative ways to control nematodes that golf course superintendents can use after the Nematicur is no longer available. /

Quick Quote

"The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it."

— John Ruskin —

Tips from the USGA: Slow Start for Bermudagrass and Early-Season Salinity Problems

By Pat Gross, USGA Green Section - Southwest Region

Visits to courses throughout the Southwest indicate a very slow start for bermudagrass growth in 2002.

Overall, it has been a very cool, dry spring and bermudagrass is not responding as in previous years. The extended dormancy has perpetuated the undesirable thin lies on fairways and lumpy conditions in the rough where patches of volunteer cool season grasses persist. Normally, bermudagrass green-up occurs in early to mid March with active growth by April. This year, night time temperatures throughout Southern California have remained in the low 40°F range throughout March and April, and there has been very little rain to help warm the soil. As a reference, bermudagrass begins to break dormancy as soil temperatures approach 60°F. Active growth occurs when night time temperatures are consistently above 60°F with day time soil and air temperatures in the range of 90°F. Growth of the improved varieties of hybrid bermudagrass appears to be two to three weeks ahead of common bermudagrass.

It is important for golfers and club

officials to understand that this situation is all temperature related. There is very little the superintendent can do to change the weather. Routine maintenance practices such as core aeration and irrigation can help to warm the soil, but bermudagrass will not show active growth until the temperatures are right.

Early season salinity problems
The lack of rainfall this winter has contributed to higher soil salinity levels early in the year. Southern California is 9" below normal rainfall estimates, causing superintendents to schedule deep irrigation on fairways and leaching of greens to stay ahead of problems. For courses with *Poa annua* greens and a history of salinity problems, it is important to monitor the EC on a weekly schedule using a portable EC meter that can be used in the field. Readings of 2.7 dS/cm signal the need for deep irrigation cycles to move salts away from sensitive turf roots. You may also wish to consider adding a leaching fraction of 15% to 20% to normal irrigation applications to compensate for the elevated salinity. /



The newly renovated 18th at Peninsula Golf & CC



Lights...Camera...Action

By Emmy Moore Minister

Over the past few months GCSANC Members and Staff were in the limelight as guests on Voice of the Valley Television Show. While the show was on location in Pebble Beach, CA, Association Manager Barbara Mikel was interviewed about the GCSANC and its primary mission. She provided an excellent overview of the organization and its purpose. Mikel also took the time to recognize GCSANC Board Member Bob Costa, CGCS, the most recent recipient of the Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award. She also spoke about the GCSANC's donation to the 9-11 relief efforts, locally as well as nationally. GCSANC Affiliate Members Gary Davis with the City of Salinas and Ron Taborski of Hollister, CA, also got a chance to share some thoughts while the cameras were rolling at Pebble Beach.

Inside studio shows brought together GCSANC Member Alan Andreasen, CGCS and PGA General Manager Alan Campos discussing the new Los Lagos Golf Course in San Jose, CA. They also spoke about the Rancho Del Pueblo Golf Course, another City of San Jose course they are involved with on a daily basis.

Also appearing on the set of Voice of the Valley Television Show was GCSANC President Jeff Shafer from the Course at Wentle Vineyards. Joining Jeff was Devin Meheen, PGA Director of Golf, and Carolyn Wentle, President of Wentle Vineyards. Shafer got a chance to share some thoughts about his course as well as his vision for the GCSANC.

Previous guests on Voice of the Valley Television Show have included GCSANC Members Paul Dias, CGCS and Dave Davies, CGCS with Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course. Others that received name recognition on the show for their dedicated

work in the profession were GCSANC Members Greg Sherwood of Sea Ranch Golf Links, Chester Manni of Bodega Harbour Golf Links, and Edwin Bale, CGCS of Northwood Golf Club. Public Service Announcements supplied from the GCSAA are also airing in conjunction with the television show.

Voice of the Valley, now in its 10th year, is a cable access television program that airs on Wednesday evenings at eight o'clock on channel 15-A in San Jose, CA. The show also airs on a variety of other nights in Campbell, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Atherton, Stanford, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont, Woodside, Hillsborough, Burlingame, Millbrae, San Mateo, Foster City, San Bruno, Woodland, Davis, and portions of Cupertino. Check your local TV guide for specific air times. /

The Value of Preserving History

By Gary K. Carls CGCS

Over the past several years I have come to have a much greater understanding of the importance of history in our lives. Whether it is your personal history, that of an association or the history of your club they can all play an important role in many of the decisions we make in our jobs. Many of us have maintained a personal historical record in our heads of the things we have done that have worked well or have been failures. By maintaining this history in our minds we have learned to be better superintendents. Understanding and appreciating the value of history can help make us all more successful in our careers.

Having been privileged to have a copy of the GCSANC 65-year history, it becomes much easier to understand the old statement "history repeats itself." It is amazing to see how many issues of today were concerns in the past. Issues such as water, staffing, chemical use, meeting participation, education and the image of the superintendent are all recurring themes throughout the history of our association. We all have made considerable efforts in these areas yet they remain concerns to the superintendent today, as they were 60 and 70 years ago. Does this

mean things have not changed in all these years? Certainly not, but we still work with nature and its ever changing character. New products have come along to help us do a better job or be more efficient in our work, but we will never be able to conquer "mother nature." Other facets of our job have also changed and made our work more challenging. Player expectations have grown enormously over the past twenty years and we take it as our personal challenge to meet those expectations. The expectations at my course may be different than those at yours, but we also are probably working with different tools to meet those expectations. Understanding that these challenges have always been there and will continue to be, is a key to remaining successful in this business.

In the past few years I have heard a lot more superintendents speaking about the history of their courses and clubs. I think this allows them a greater appreciation of what the intent of the original course designer was and allows them the opportunity to maintain their course to this intent. I think we all have been guilty at some point in our careers of thinking we could design a better hole than what we were given to work with. By understanding the original design I think we

can see how many of our current problems may be the result of changes that were not properly thought out in the time between the original plans and today. As different committees, superintendents or members have tried to leave their mark on the course, history may have been changed, often times not for the better. In most cases, I think a well-designed course from 70 years ago is still a good design. Maintaining the course to the original intent may be the key. Learning more about the history of your course may be one of the best things you can do to understand how to best maintain your course. If you have a set of original plans look them over and try and envision what the architect was trying accomplish and how he wanted the course to play and how your maintenance practices affect that intent. Can you alter your practices in a way that will make the course play more like the original design? In our area, we are blessed with golf courses designed by some of the greatest architects of all time. I don't think equipment advances will ever make these pieces of history obsolete, but trying to maintain them in a manner they were not designed for might. Try and preserve the history and learn from it whenever possible. The results may surprise you. /

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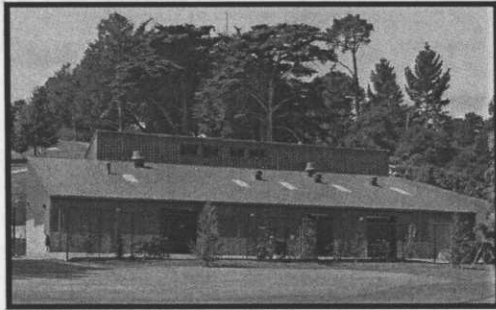
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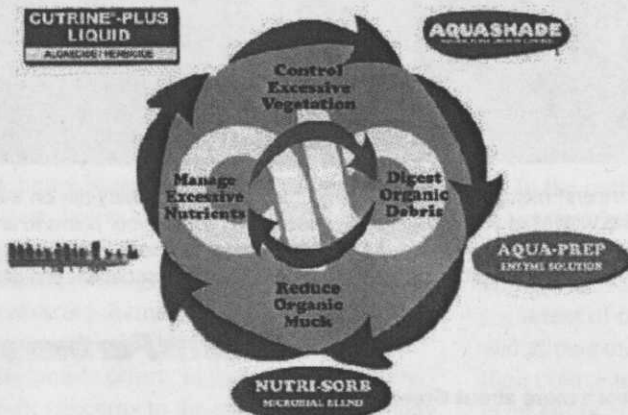


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The Field Workshop at Peninsula G & CC



Host Superintendent Bill Davis, CGCS addressed the crowd



Workshop cochairman, Dr. Ali Harivandi



Attendees checked out the new Dominant Plus betgrass green

See more Field Workshop pictures on pages 8 and 9

Naumann's NorCal News

Mike Vicars is the new superintendent at Dublin Ranch Golf Club. He was the construction superintendent there prior to taking over for Sean Leahy.....**Tom Unruh** has accepted the superintendent position at Serrano CC in Sacramento.....**Phil Brown** has left Genoa Lakes Golf Course to become the superintendent at Spring Creek Country Club in Ripon. Phil is replacing longtime superintendent **David Piper** who has moved on to a Parks and Golf position with the County.....



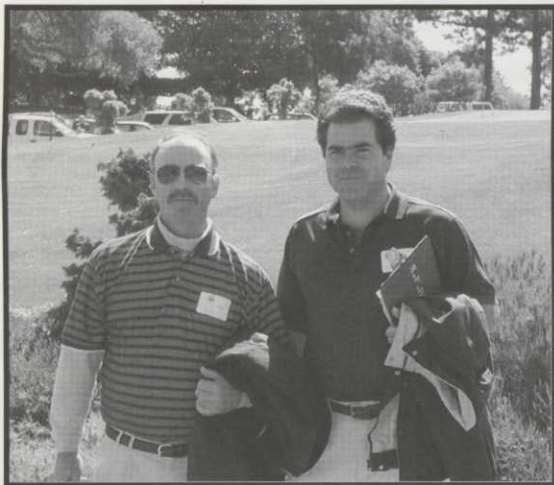
Field Workshop



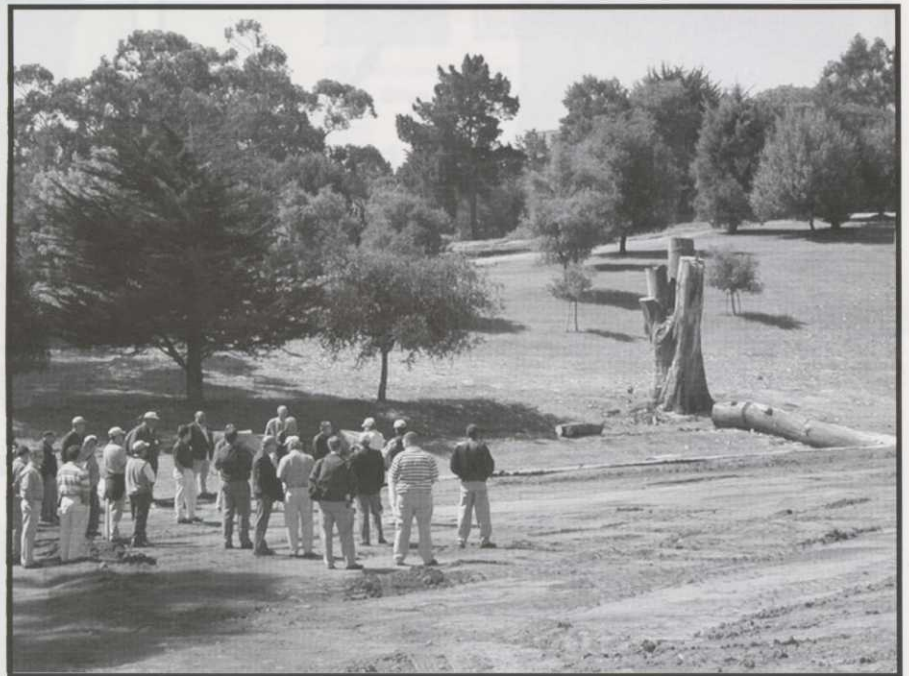
Bill Davis, CGCS explains his work



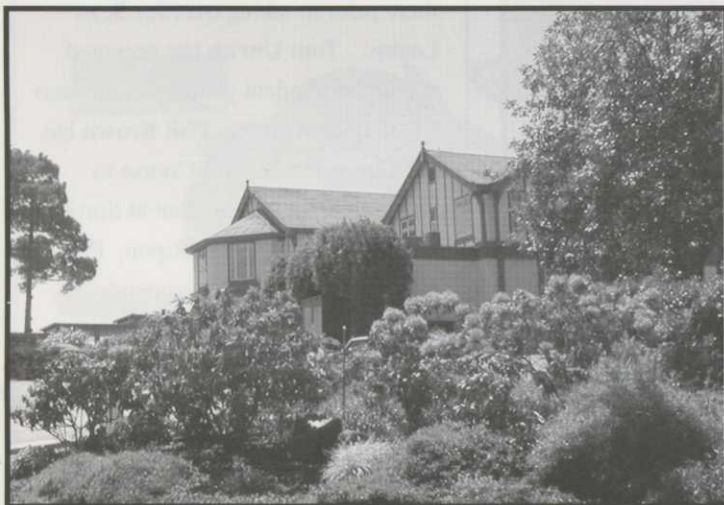
Attendees also toured the completed nine



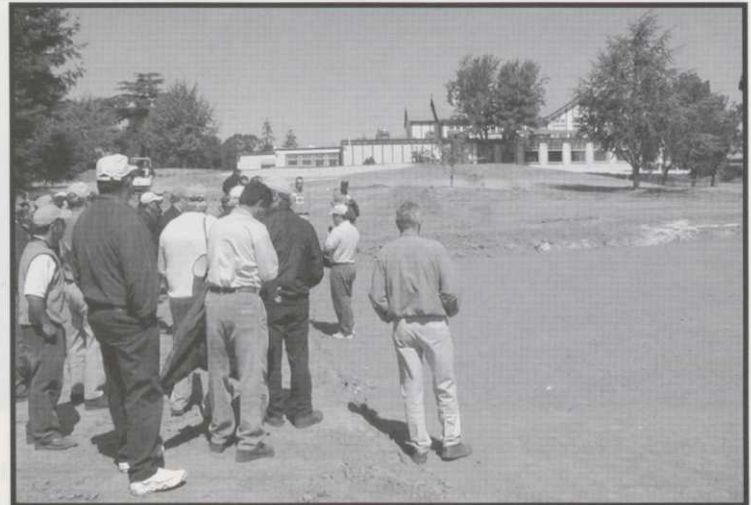
Joe Faulkner and Zach Salem of the City of SF



The project included removal of some large Eucalyptus



The Tudor style clubhouse at Peninsula G & CC



Workshop attendees view a green cavity



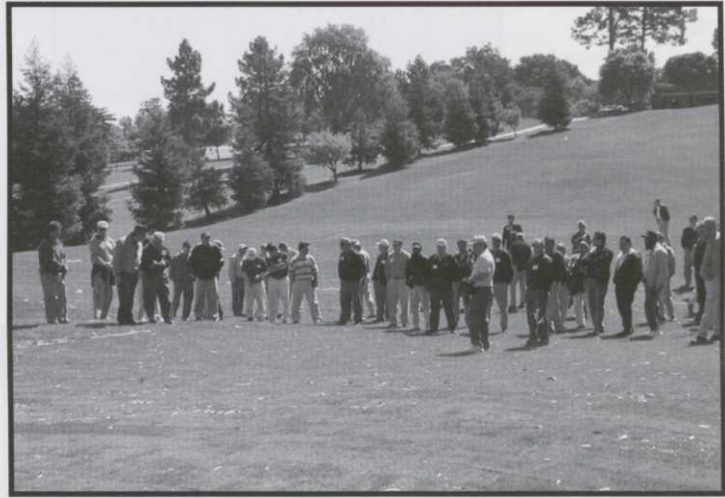
Project Manager Cliff Bechtal describes the drainage work



Attendees viewed irrigation and drainage installation work



Workshop attendees head out on the completed nine



Workshop attendees view new sod on the range



Dr. Carno Trinade of Emerald Hills GC, Joy Ramos of DHR Construction and Ken MacDonald



Bill Davis and Cliff Bechtal answer questions

Office Notes *By Barb Mikel*

Wow, is it June already? Mark those calendars **JUNE 17**, Superintendent Pro Tournament at Mayacama Golf Club. Don't miss this one! This tournament is open to **ALL MEMBERS**. If you haven't signed up already, dig out the form and get it in ASAP. If your pile of papers has eaten it, give me a call and I'll fax you one!



Congratulations to newly certified members Roger Robarge, CGCS and Steve Fackler, CGCS.

Roger's notice appeared on the GCSAA web page. Steven's will probably be posted shortly. I got some advance notice from Steve for proctoring his exam here in

Diamond Springs.

Nice to see that you are using those membership applications mailed early this year! We have new members signing up daily! The Affiliate and Associate classifications will get a review this summer to sort out the commercial & vendor section

from the educational and park & recreation districts.

Product endorsements are a part of all major sports, golf included. But superinten-

dents unlike golf professionals do not provide "personal" product endorsements. Why is that?

My neighbor spends lots of time tending four acres of grass with products used on golf courses but he isn't sold any product because of a superintendent's professional endorsement. He might buy a set of clubs because Tiger Woods uses and endorses them but he isn't likely to buy fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides because a superintendent endorses them. You don't really expect the Tiger Woods clubs to make you a professional golfer any more than know how to maintain a golf course because you buy the fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides etc. The superintendent's knowledge and professional experience is the "product." The question is, how do you market or endorse the "superintendent product"?

NEW OFFICE HOURS Tuesday through Friday 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm Monday is now declared an "out of the office day." /

Membership Report

By PJ Spellman II

Roger Robarge of the California Golf Club of San Francisco recently achieved his GCSAA certification. Congratulations Roger!

New Members:

- Christopher Mitchell, Affiliate, Russ Mitchell & Associates
- Salvador Villalobos, Affiliate, Christiansen Irrigation
- Michael Tentis, Affiliate, JR Simplot
- Ron Carey, Affiliate, Industrial Electronics Services
- Robert Cobb, Affiliate, Rana Creek Habitat Restoration
- Jeffery Burns, Affiliate, Industrial Electronics Services
- Tom Bracamonte, C, Sunnyvale Golf Course
- Craig Johnson, C, California Golf Club
- Hilarion Johnson, C, Crystal Springs Golf Club
- Kevin Pryseski, A, Stone Tree Golf Club

Reclassification:

Robert Killian upgrades to A Retired.

When Every Square Inch Counts...



Andersons™
GOLF PRODUCTS

Particles Per Square Inch Calculator

		Size Guide Number (SGN)					
		100	125	150	175	215	240
	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
Pounds	150	10.8	5.5	3.2	2.0	1.1	0.8
Product	175	12.6	6.5	3.7	2.4	1.3	0.9
Per Acre	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