

deeper root systems and are more heat and drought tolerant than **Poa annua**. Shallow rooted **Poa** is placed under stress when topsoil dries between irrigations, and this further reduces its competitiveness. Infrequent, deep irrigations can be made more efficient and uniform by the use of wetting agents which improve water penetration in hydrophobic areas.

Lightweight mowing of fairways has been frequently cited as the most important factor in increasing bentgrass populations in mixed bent — **Poa** turfs. Examination of possible reasons for the success of this practice reveals a complex interaction that involves plant responses to changes in soil compaction, wear, and nutrient availability. Alleviation of compaction and wear allows for more aggressive bentgrass shoot and root growth; the vigorous root system is better able to utilize soil water and this leads to reduced irrigation requirements. Clipping removal is important since it prevents leaf decomposition in the turf canopy. This reduces heat stress from the "silage effect," removes possible sites for development of disease organisms, and decreases the amount of available N and P by disrupting nutrient recycling. Also, removal of **Poa** seed heads has obvious advantages, especially if the annual biotype of **Poa** predominates.

In addition to the above strategies to favor bentgrass dominance, several chemical options are available to further inhibit **Poa annua**. Herbicides that have preemergent (bensulide) and postemergent (tricalcium arsenate, endothal) activity against **Poa** are available. Plant growth regulators such as fenarimol (Rubigan) and flurprimidol (Cutless) retard **Poa** growth, and repeat applications can gradually reduce **Poa** populations in bentgrass fairways. Applications of mefluidide (Embark) and Aquagro reduce seedhead production, but do not alter bent:**Poa** percentages to a great extent. None of these treatments are totally selective, and phytotoxicity to bentgrasses may occur. If use of these products is desired, applications should first be made on small test areas to determine appropriate rates and timing.

As a result of conversion to bentgrass fairways, further changes in management will be required. An aggressive thatch management problem will be necessary to maintain overall quality and playability of fairways. Disease and insect control is important to maintain stand density and exclude **Poa annua**, although disease problems may be less severe on dryer, less fertile bent fairways. Hand watering of dry areas plus soiling and seeding of divots may also be required to maintain a dense turf canopy. In all, the increased costs associated with lightweight mowing and thatch control of bentgrass fairways are likely to be offset by beneficial aspects such as reduced irrigation, fertilization, and pesticide applications. Also, many hours of aggravation and worry will be saved, and fairway quality can be maintained throughout the year.

(This column summarizes two reports — "Renovation Techniques for Establishment of Bentgrass Fairways" and "Bentgrass Fairway Management" — which were compiled after discussions with several Chicago area superintendents. These reports will be mailed to all CDGA-member superintendents, and will be available to other interested parties upon request. A small fee will be charged for out-of-state, non-CDGA members. Send requests to: Dr. R. Kane, CDGA, 619 Enterprise Drive, Suite 101, Oak Brook, IL 60521.)



Dr. Paul Sartoretto was honored at the recent GCSAA Convention in San Francisco. 1986 marks the 40th year of Dr. Sartoretto's dedicated service to the golf course industry.

W. A. Cleary Chemical Corporation, Somerset, N.J. is honoring Paul, their former technical director and president, by initiating an \$8,000 scholarship, \$2,000 per year, for the next four years in **Paul Sartoretto's** name. The donation is being made to the GCSAA scholarship fund.

New Golf Course Mechanics Association

With the Superintendent's profession becoming more and more refined, the role of the Golf Course Mechanic is critical in the Superintendent's efforts to achieve his goals. Has your Mechanic ever been heard to say?

—There's got to be a better way.

—I'm sure we could've gotten those parts cheaper somewhere else.

—Who do I call to get a straight answer?

Most have!

Following the recent Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendent's Association shop tour, those present felt the experiences gained were too valuable to be limited to an annual gathering. **John Maguire** echoed this sentiment and took the initiative to invite other Golf Course Mechanics to his shop. On February 11, 1986, 27 Golf Course Mechanics gathered at Sunset Ridge Country Club to form an association to discuss common goals and experiences. At this meeting the consensus was that forming an association geared to the exchange of ideas would be beneficial to the industry as a whole. The Chicagoland Golf Course Mechanic's Association was born!

Thoughts and ideas on goals for the organization were in abundance. A few goals of the CGCMA are:

- To better educate it's members.
- To become more professional.
- Finding quality parts at reasonable prices.
- Cataloging parts sources.
- Exchange seldom used specialty tools.
- Borrowing parts for emergencies.

Meetings will be held once a month on a rotating basis at various member's shops. All Golf Course Mechanics in the Chicagoland area are cordially invited to attend future meetings. Please feel free to contact any of the following for dates and places.

John Maguire - Sunset Ridge Country Club 446-5222 ext. 29

Mike Davis - Bartlett Hill Country Club 837-5270

Rod Halenza - Medinah Country Club 773-1704 ext. 277.