

(WEST WATER

continued from page 45)

Another legislative liaison for the superintendents' association in California is Jim Alwine, who moved in July to a new post from Stockton CC in the central valley to Bernardo Heights GC in San Diego County.

"We all know this across the board, 20 percent is not a very efficient way to conserve water," Alwine argues, "and most golf course supers in this state are already doing their job with drought resistant turf and wetting agents, so there's been a push to find more of a coefficient for Bermuda grass, rye grass and how much water you should use for certain areas. Golf courses are very efficient irrigators and a 1 percent leak would create a wet spot on the golf course."

"I really hope the 20 percent reduction doesn't happen in 2015, but if it does, that's just poor management," he argues.

The state's water use policy as it applies to golf courses has been more reactive than proactive, Alwine continues, "it was a hot button issue three years ago when we were in a drought, but the last two years have been very good rain years so legislators are not looking at water 'cause water's not a problem right now."

Alwine urges superintendents in other parts of the country who face water use restrictions to have a drought contingency plan in place.

"You start picking areas you know you can do without, some of the out-of-play areas and native areas you can go completely off, like the driving range, out of play areas," he advises, "some of the out-of-play areas and native areas you can cut it completely off if you need to." Then, if need be, you can drop water use by 30 percent in rough areas and 20 percent in primary rough areas, and 15 percent in fairways.

"Greens you pretty much don't

want to mess with, because of the cost of each green complex as well as a host of diseases and other issues that can come into play" he adds.

"Tees, greens and approaches are what make a golf course, so they should be pretty much untouched in your drought plan," he adds.

"Another way to make sure you're using water as best you can is to use water meters to measure the soil, have a weather station so you know what the ET rate is for that day, and if you know those factors and what your turf can handle, tools like wetting agents can be extremely valuable," he argues.

Pressed for more advice, Alwine recalls advice he got from a superintendent he worked for many years ago; stronger turf ultimately needs less water, he points out.

"If you're not killing anything, you're not trying hard enough," Alwine continues, or, in other words let the weaker turf fade away and die and let the stronger turf survive, "some of the poannia in your rough, let it be replaced by Bermuda or rye grass. It's kind of a survival of the fittest mentality and you end up making a very strong turf system that way." **GCI**

Richard J. Skelly writes about golf, music and finance and is a frequent GCI contributor.

(MILLER

continued from page 28)

insisted we sit and chat for a while, often with a crackling fire in the fireplace and surrounded by walls of books.

And it was the books that interested me so much, too. His interest in history, especially that of New England and of golf, was everywhere. Geoff and Ron Whitten wrote the book *The Golf Course* in the early 1980s, and I would bet it must have held some sort of popularity record

COMPANY	WEBSITE	PAGE
AMVAC	www.amvac-chemical.com	2
Aqua Aid	www.aquaaid.com	53
Aquatrols	www.aquatrols.com	47
Aspire Golf Consulting	www.aspire-golf.com	45
Bayer Environmental Science	www.backedbybayer.com	17*
Bruce Williams Golf Consulting	www.williamsgolfconsulting.com	44
Champion Turf	www.championturffarms.com	8-9*
DuPont Professional Products	www.proproducts.dupont.com	13, 23*
Executive Golf Search	www.egsinc.com	45
Grigg Brothers	www.griggbros.com	29
Irrigation Consulting	www.irrigationconsulting.com	44
Jacobsen	www.jacobsengolf.com	60
John Deere Golf	www.johndeere.com	5
JRM	www.jrmonline.com	55
OHP	www.ohp.com	21
Otterbine Barebo	www.otterbine.com/golf	33
PBI/Gordon	www.pbigordon.com	6, 20, 31
Plant Food Systems	www.plantfoodsystems.com	18
Precision Laboratories	www.precisionlab.com	41
Redexim	www.redexim.com	7
SePro Corp	www.sepro.com	35
Sipcam/Advan	www.sipcamadvan.com	59
Superthrive, LP	www.superthrive.com	26
Toro	www.toro.com	19
Turfco	www.turfco.com	39
Wiedenmann North America	www.terraspikeusa.com	27

*denotes regional advertising

for books of its kind. I recall Ron telling me that he carried his golf course information in his shirt pocket on a floppy disc while Geoff had his golf course information nearly filed on 3x5 recipe cards! I have all of his books, each inscribed by some wonderful remarks. They are my library treasures.

Geoffrey Cornish died on Feb. 10th of this year, and many kind and truthful things have been written about him. He was recognized with most of golf's awards,

during his long life of 97 years, yet you'd never guess it. He was kind and humorous and loyal and humble. He was an architect and author and ambassador for golf. He was a historian, an educator and a friend to golf course superintendents. It is going to be really difficult to go out East around Columbus Day and not be able to see him. The landscape will be beautiful, the leaves spectacular, but knowing I cannot visit with this grand gentleman makes me sad. I really miss him. **GCI**

"I love stories Rod Johnson tells from his time working with Geoff on a master plan for Pine Hills CC."