

THRU THE GREEN

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## Beverage Cart Raises Scholarship Funds

Thanks to O.M. Scott for sponsoring the beverage cart at the October 4th meeting. Unfortunately, it was a blustery, chilly day, so not many drinks were sold, but we raised \$54 for the Scholarship and Research fund. Sponsoring a beverage cart at the monthly meeting is a great way for suppliers to advertise...and to support the Scholarship and Research Fund. One or two suppliers can co-sponsor the beverage

cart. Alcoholic beverages do not have to be served. To reserve a month to be a beverage cart sponsor, please call Affiliate Rep, Chuck Dal Pozzo at 510/791-8985.



*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

A study at Ohio State University in Newark disclosed that:

☺ **Smart people** can do at least one dumb thing without others being likely to consider them stupid.

☹ **But moral people** can't do even one dishonest thing without others being likely to label them "immoral."

Dr. John Skowronski, who conducted the study, said it showed, "We assume that even smart people can do stupid things sometimes. But...we expect that an honest person will always be honest."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Environmental President  
Part I

What is an environmentalist? A simple definition comes from Webster's Dictionary which states that an environmentalist is a person working to solve environmental problems, as air and water.

As a working professional in the field of managing a specific environment, that of a highly manicured golf course, I'm discovering that being an environmentalist is not that simple.

After graduating from college and embarking upon a golf profession, I had a difficult time rationalizing how a concerned earth dweller, like myself, could work in a field that was notorious for using "lots of chemicals." I was determined that when I became a golf course superintendent I could be more conscientious and apply fewer chemicals; I would try to use

"the least amount of chemicals necessary." To a recent college graduate this is a nice simple philosophy. I soon learned that it was impossible to define "least amount necessary."

A case in point is in dealing with anthracnose. Is the solution to anthracnose to simply and routinely spray a pesticide? Or do you try to get to the "root" of the problem -- have your soils tested, improve drainage, overseed with bentgrass, reduce other stresses. And what do you do when you've done everything *but* apply chemicals and you continue to have disease problems? What is a tolerable level of anthracnose to a membership? You just may find out after it's too late.

Every summer I have what I call my bentgrass renovation program. Of

course, this is another term for allowing the poa to die from anthracnose or summer patch while promoting the bentgrass to fill in, either from existing bent in the greens or from overseeding. As the USGA suggests: switch your (large) chemical budget with your (small) seed budget. At the same time, consider switching your *reliance* on chemicals to an *alliance* with our environment by applying alternative methods of control.

I'll have more on this topic next month.

*"There's many a life of sweet content  
whose virtue is environment."*

Walter Learned  
(1847-1915)

Respectfully submitted  
Brian Bagley  
President