

OWN THE DRAIN*Continued from page 1*

not intervene to stop the pollution. The liability does not stop at the superintendent, but carries on to the club managers, directors, owners, and course operators if they knowingly allow this pollution to continue.

The solution is to determine what types of compounds are being washed off, then implement the proper removal technique, and, finally, divert the water to a sanitary sewer line. Constructing a wash pad (wash rack) is a viable solution as long as it is engineered properly. The only negative drawback will be the ongoing need to retrofit as environmental laws change in the future and become more demanding.

The bottom line is, we must get our "heads out of the sand NOW," and spend the dollars on remediation

before we are caught, fined, and forced to do the construction anyway -- or worse.

Institute Update

The brochure and registration form for the 4th Annual Golf Course Superintendent's Institute have been mailed.

If you have not received your application, please call Barbara at the office. Reservations must be made by October 29th.

The Pesticide Laws and Regulations seminar on November 3, will run from 1:00-5:00pm and will be followed by the tradeshow. Thursday offers a full day, with registration and trade show beginning at 6:30am, seminar series from 8:00am to 5:00pm, and dinner at 6:30pm.

Bubble Gum Sends Geese Packing

There's no accounting for taste: You may love the flavor of grape bubble gum or soda; some birds can't stand it. This fact may come to the rescue of landscapers, golf course managers, and anyone in charge of grassy expanses overrun by an exploding population of Canada geese. Graceful in flight, the goose is a loud, aggressive, voracious eater that can leave about a quarter of a pound of droppings a day.

The bubble gum flavor comes from methyl anthranilate (MA), a chemical that occurs naturally in Concord grapes and citrus blossoms. In synthesized form MA serves as a tasty food additive. Now it's proving to be a goose repellent.

Given a choice between untreated corn and kernels with MA, caged geese in experiments overwhelmingly rejected MA-laced kernels, says John Cummings, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Denver Wildlife Research Center.

Cummings is helping to develop an MA-flavored microcapsule that can be sprayed on grass and remain viable for 40 days, compared with today's limit of 15. Long-lasting MA is needed to ward off both resident birds and migratory geese that join them spring and fall.

**Tips from the USGA
Magic Beans**

*by Paul Vermeulen,
USGA Agronomist*

Stranger things have happened than the story I am about to tell. Two months ago I was in Phoenix visiting with a friend when I took a my first sip of 100% Colombian coffee, Yuban to be exact. If you drink as much coffee as I do to get through the first few hours of each day then you probably, like myself, are a connoisseur of fine coffee beans from around the world. If that is the case, the flavor of Yuban is just simply hard to beat.

Now having adopted Yuban as my coffee of choice, I noticed a small patch of hybrid bermudagrass just off the edge of my patio. Not that hybrid bermudagrass isn't wonderful to begin with, but this patch was especially dark green. (No, I do not own a female dog!) After some serious investigation I discovered, much to my surprise, that the dark green patch just so happened to be the direct result of a coffee spill. And not just any coffee spill mind you, but Yuban, 100% Colombian coffee percolated with Costa Mesa municipal water.

As it turns out, it seems that coffee beans grown in certain regions of Colombia contain a unique enzyme that breaks down the organic molecules of

ordinary thatch and, as a consequence, nitrogen is released into the soil. Many of you readers are probably already aware that the breakdown of certain humic acids is currently of intense interest to the scientific community, as it may be the key to lessening our dependence on fungicide applications.

Do you feel something starting to pull on your leg? You should, but if not, pick up the phone and call: 1-MAG-ICB-EANS. My partner is standing by for your order of PAUL'S MAGIC COLOMBIAN BEANS for just \$19.95. And remember our slogan: "If you can't sleep because you're losing your greens, then just be happy and spray, spray, spray with Paul's Magic Colombian Beans."

What's the point? The point is that it has been a long summer and I have watched several people take a "leap of faith." Like spraying magic potions that are supposed to cure greens of whatever ails them, as opposed to employing sound agronomic practices. Unfortunately, even though spraying magic potions may not cause any direct harm to the turf, such acts can erode our (mine included!) collective professionalism! As an example, can you even begin to imagine what

Continued on page 7

MAGIC BEANS*Continued from page 3*

must be on the minds of some Golfers when they listen to a Superintendent trying to explain the miracle of "Wonder-Gro", a natural formula of enriched enzymes and bacteria. I hope it's about the same thing that was on your mind as a **professional** Superintendent when you were reading about magic coffee beans!

If there is an answer to all of this, then what might it be? After all, I do happen to believe in miracles myself, I play Super Lotto every Wednesday and Saturday. I would not, however, shop for a miracle potion if I developed a cure for cancer.

Professionally, I believe the answer is to give our **professional** friends at the University of California the opportunity and the support they need to expose the true merits, if any, of new products before they are applied in an act of desperation. Let me finish by asking, "How else can we, as **professionals**, avoid the jokes about our fellow Superinten-

dents who spray because they are simply afraid of the "Bogeyman"?"

CALIFORNIA CLIPS*Continued from page 6*

We have booked the room for four nights and donations are now being sought to support the event. We have received a verbal commitment from Adams Publishing again this year for \$5-6,000 to be donated to the hospitality suite.

"What other people may find in poetry or art museums, I find in the flight of a good drive -- the white ball sailing up into the blue sky, growing smaller and smaller, then suddenly reaching its apex, curving, falling and finally dropping to the turf to roll some more, just the way I planned it."

Arnold Palmer

The One Constant is Change

Today's business decisions have to be made in a matter of seconds, says management guru Tom Peters.

How can most of us cope with this challenge -- without developing anxiety and burning out?

The suggestions should help:

- ✓ **Accept the fact** that "the one constant is change." If you fight it, you'll take a beating.
- ✓ **Prepare** yourself and your people to deal with change and to be ready for it. Treat it as an exciting challenge and a marvelous opportunity to show how good you are.
- ✓ **Get together** with your people and brainstorm ways you can all use to deal with rapid change.
- ✓ **Avoid** getting into turf wars with others in your organization. These battles will cut your speed drastically and doom you to catastrophic failure in today's world.
- ✓ **Allow** the employees closest to the problems to make key decisions when possible.
- ✓ **Appoint** someone to identify trends and issues that might have an impact on your organization -- especially as they relate to government rules and regulations, new technology, and industry trends.
- ✓ **Develop** campaigns to encourage all employees to suggest new ideas, procedures, techniques. Make it easy for them to present their suggestions -- and respond to all suggestions as soon as possible.
- ✓ **Keep in mind** that all of us must remain students for the rest of our working lives -- and make it clear that most employees will need continual training to keep up-to-date.

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