

THRU THE GREEN

EDITOR

Brian Bagley

PUBLISHER

DJ King

King & Company
7150 Shoreline Dr., #3215
San Diego, CA 92122
619/558-4769
FAX 619/558-7387

PRESIDENT

BRIAN BAGLEY
The Villages Golf & CC

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CHUCK DALPOZZO
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DAVE WILBER

Wilber Turf & Soil

Office

Barbara Mikel - Exec. Sec'y
550 Main St., Ste G
PO Box 3360
Diamond Springs, CA 95619
PHONE: 916/626-0931
FAX: 916/626-5132

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Published monthly by the
Golf Course Superintendent's
Association of
Northern California.

Major Health Study to Examine Mortality Among Superintendents

A new independent scientific effort to study the causes of death among golf course superintendents is being underwritten by the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Program.

The study is designed to provide basic evidence about what links, if any, exist between long-term pesticide exposure and certain cancers and illnesses that have been previously identified as "pesticide-related."

"We're taking a giant step forward in research on the health questions surrounding golf course management,"

said William R. Roberts, CGCS, past-president of GCSAA and a member of the advisory panel that reviewed the proposed study. Roberts said that the study will provide a baseline for an ongoing study of mortality among GCSAA members. "The study also opens up the door for a whole new area of GCSAA-sponsored research programs," he said.

The study will have two parts. First, researchers will perform a thorough review of all scientific literature dealing with human exposure to the pesticides typically used on golf courses. Second, an independent team of epidemiologists will conduct a statistical mortality study of GCSAA

members who have died since 1970.

Earlier last fall, a special advisory panel including scientists, superintendents, federal regulatory officials and industry representatives met at GCSAA headquarters to review plans for the study and recommend qualified researchers.

In November, GCSAA S&R sent a request for proposals to a selected group of scientists.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Environmental President
Part II

Those of you who had the opportunity to attend the Christmas Party and tournament were once again offered a spectacular time. Thanks again to Pete Bibber for a great day of golf before our annual Christmas party down in Monterey. It's amazing that even though I'm a hacker and keep score by how many balls I lose per round, I always have a great time when I play at Old Del Monte Golf Course. Of course, this year the beautiful weather and fantastic condition of the course didn't hurt any.

Thanks also to Westar Distributing and Shelton Transfer for sponsoring the "refreshment" cart.

It's that time of the year

when we begin to reflect back on our challenges and accomplishments of the past 12 months. Now that we've had our first rains of the season and everything is hopefully looking greener, it's time to take a well-deserved deep breath after what has been, for some, a long summer.

The newsletter is doing great. We've gotten a lot of comments and compliments and we're continuing to improve with age. Next year should see our advertising support up. Thanks to the hard work of the newsletter committee, especially Randy Gai, Leon Sneten, Mike Basile, and Don Naumann, the content and newsworthiness of the newsletter is

exceptional. One of the disadvantages of having such a competent newsletter committee is that all the important news is covered elsewhere in the newsletter by some one else. But I'm not complaining, just signing off... Happy New Year See you in Dallas

"For 7 1/2 years I've worked alongside President Reagan. We've had triumphs, made some mistakes, we've had sex...uh...setbacks.."

George Bush

Respectfully submitted
Brian Bagley
President