

## THRU THE GREEN

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# From The President

## 2084 . . . . Golf In The Next Millennium

**A**s I awake this morning, January 2, 2084, I get ready to begin my workday as golf and grounds manager at Peacock Gap Golf and Country Club. I turn on my computer monitor at home, settle in with my morning cup of Postum (coffee and all caffeine drinks were regulated as addictive drugs years ago) and with a few key strokes I determine the status of work in progress at the club. Our club, as well as most others are almost fully automated these days. Mowing, irrigation, nutrient release, and pest control, are all monitored and adjusted 24 hours a day.

The greens, tees, collars and approaches, fairways, roughs and banks are all mowed at night with our global positioning guided mowers. Once these tasks were performed and programmed into our golf maintenance computer (GMC), these tasks are run at night. Our golfers hardly ever see a mower. What about the noise you ask? With the advent of the trisulfide battery and the improvement of the solar charger, batteries power most of our equipment. Permits to operate internal combustion engines are too difficult to obtain anyway. These mowers

have self diagnostic programs and automatically adjust as needed. I can see on my monitor how well the mowers performed, and if there is any maintenance required. In an emergency, there is sufficient battery backup that these mowers will transport to the maintenance facility to await servicing, or simply pull off to an out of play area and shut down.

The irrigation system is also run with our GMC. In fact, it is linked to the mower program and will shut down a section if the mowers are near. The system senses the water needs of the turf, and continually adjusts to provide a near-perfect scheduling coefficient of better than 1.1. The system is linked to a satellite with infrared technology to determine soil moisture levels and in fact, the system will print out a map of hot spots if daytime syringing is necessary. Of course the GMC is totally linked with the pump station for maximum energy efficiency and the growth management system to release soil microbes as needed for nutrient, pest control, and growth regulators. If needed, the system will inject nutrients or other additives through the irrigation system. The irrigation system uses reclaimed waste water and storm water runoff, as do all commercial turfgrass areas.

Turfgrass has finally been accepted as the best filtering material for pollutants, and many varieties of very low maintenance grasses are used along highways and other public areas.

Let me tell you a little about our course. It was renovated about fifty years ago to keep up with the latest in technology. The course was lengthened to just over 8,000 yards to keep up with the latest in golf clubs and balls. The average golfer can now drive the ball 400 yards, including about fifty yards of roll due to our average fairway stimpmeter reading of 8 feet (yes, it's still around). The improved varieties of bentgrass on our greens these days allow us to mow at 3/64" and achieve stimpmeter readings of 15 feet. The USGA, as they approach their bicentennial year, is still preaching to us to raise our cutting heights to produce better and healthier turf. The members still want faster greens; maybe because they see US Open greens rolling close to 20'. Will it ever end? Have a great year!

Rich Lavine  
CGCS

## Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

Happy New Year!!

I hope all of you enjoyed the Christmas Party as much as I. I would like to thank the Board of Directors, Members and especially Leon Snethen for presenting me with a new watch for Christmas. Now I have no excuse for being late!

With the New Year comes the GCSAA Annual Meeting.

I will be attending this year in February so the office will be closed from February 6, 1996 through February 25, 1996. I am taking this opportunity to extend an extra week to visit kids and grandkids. If you have questions which need an immediate answer, I suggest you contact one of the Board Members.

If you haven't renewed for

1996 by this time, you will be billed a late fee. This is a requirement of the Association bylaws and I cannot waive the fee so please don't ask. If you have a very, very good reason, I suggest you write the Board of Directors requesting consideration.