

## NCGA Golf Course Superintendent Internship Program Announces Four Openings

The Northern California Golf Association is taking applications for four openings in the highly regarded Golf Course Superintendent Internship Program. The internship program, the only one of its kind in the nation, can be up to two years in duration. The paid internship requires participants to complete ten blocks of instruction that include managerial skills, irrigation system management and equipment maintenance to name a few.

Applicants must have at least two years of college with course work that includes

agronomy, horticulture or turf management. Several of the recent interns have had four-year degrees. Prior work experience on a golf course is highly recommended. The applicants must also understand the game of golf. Courses that will host an intern will be in the East Bay, North Bay, San Joaquin Valley and Monterey Peninsula areas. Applications can be obtained online at [www.ncga.org](http://www.ncga.org). All applications must be postmarked by May 10, 2002.

For more information contact the NCGA at 831-625-4653.

### Ed Bale (Cont'd)

pretty poor shape. "At that time, I was playing rock and roll from SF to LA, but still not getting rich." Steady money finally lured him back full-time to Northwood. Ed joined GCSAA in 1985, GCSANC in 1987, and became certified in 1988. States Ed, "Funny though, even after 22 years in the business, I still can't get used to the early hours."

Northwood has continued to improve over the years and now hosts about 60,000 18-hole rounds annually. It has come a long way since 1980 when Ed spent those first few years working alone, piecing together the now-abandoned quick-coupler irrigation system, and of course, dreaming of rock and roll.

## Tips for Managing Winter Salt Problems

By David Wienecke, agronomist, USGA GREEN SECTION, Southwest Regional Update

Precipitation throughout much of the lower elevation zones of the Southwest Region has been well below normal for the past three months. Ordinarily the winter months of November, December, and January can be counted on to provide golf courses in the southwest with two to six inches of rain showers. These showers, combined with milder temperatures, provide turfgrass plants the conditions needed for enhanced root growth and recovery from the stresses of summer heat and the maintenance required for tolerating heavy golf play. Additionally, these deep root zone soakings help cleanse the soil of potentially toxic salt accumulations by leaching the salts into the deeper soil profiles and well away from roots. The rainwater flushing also dramatically enhances soil infiltration and percolation potentials making subsequent irrigation much more effective for deep soil penetration.

So far this year, the deep water precipitation flushing has not occurred and we need rain! We are also seeing light rainfall resulting in salts wicking up into the root zone and causing yellowing in some turfgrass areas.

Until we get more rainfall you may wish to consider the following recommendations for making the best of the winter of 2001 - 2002.

\* Irrigate your turfgrass - If rainfall of less than 1/4" is forecast, enhance the flushing and penetration effects of any rainfall by irrigating either during or immediately following rainfall with a heavy irrigation (i.e. 15 - 30 minutes minimum or to the point of saturation). Not only will you improve water penetration you will ultimately use less irrigation water than if not coupled with natural rain due to enhanced surfactant action of the rain. If you get heavy rainfall, supplemental irrigation is not needed.

\* Flush salts - Irrigating concurrent to natural rain enhances salt flushing action well below root levels. Use an Electrical Conductivity (EC) meter to monitor salt movement down through the soil profile. EC meter readings are a good gauge to show how much flushing is needed to get salts below the root zone. For Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) greens, the goal is to keep the EC below 2.7 dS/M.

\* Aerate - In cases of extremely dry conditions, you may want to spike or aerate monthly using 1/4" solid core tines to enhance water infiltration. This should not be done to dormant grass. Aerate only into actively growing turf.

\* Use turf penetrant surfactants - In absence of the surfactant effects of rainfall, application of soil penetrant surfactants can also help get water moving through the soil.

\* Educate golfers, crew, and club officials. Head off criticism by explaining the reasons for irrigation and other practices employed to compensate for less than adequate rainfall. You are enhancing water penetration while concurrently flushing salts farther away from the root zone.

Ideally we hope for higher precipitation amounts in February, March, and April to recharge our soils and flush salts as we get ready for our summer season. In case it doesn't happen, using these stopgap procedures will improve your turf health and vigor.