The Christmas Party at Monterey

Hosts Brian Nettz and Pat Finlen

Bish Slack, Beth Davies, Roger Robarge, Mike & Chris Garvale

Above: Albert Candeo, Dan Ramos, Mike Hill, Bob Lapic and Ross Brownlie
At Right: Georgianne Carls shows off her prizes.
Far Right: Trish Hill high fives Dave Baldasare after a good hand.
Below: Jim and Barbara Ross with Myrtle and Cliff Wagoner.

The Ramos Family
Weeds of all kinds are on our minds as we consider our year past and new year to come. Surprisingly many of the more challenging weeds are from the areas normally out of play on the golf course.

*Nicotiana glauca* also known as Wild, Indian, or Tree Tobacco is a plant found worldwide. University of California at Riverside botanist Andy Sanders says his colleagues find this plant all over the world. Tree Tobacco originally was an import from South America and is well adapted to most environments of the southwest. The plant reproduces only by seed and is found typically in disturbed sites as a classic opportunist. This is a plant that is drought tolerant but grows best when provided supplemental water from irrigation overspray. Reduce or eliminate any supplemental water and you save on water and stress the weed. Tree Tobacco is not frost tolerant so pray for a good frost if you want to get rid of this plant. Since our last frost was five years ago, other management methods are needed for control. Avoid disturbing the soil since this will allow seeds left in the soil to produce new plants. Occasional pruning to prevent seed formation is another way to avoid new plants from being produced. While it may seem that it grows like a weed, the plant is not very competitive with most other plants. Any mowing, pruning, or herbicidal treatment done during the year will keep the plant stressed and make it even less competitive. The deep green heart shaped leafed plant can grow over 6 feet tall under ideal growing conditions. Repeat Roundup™ treatments will knock it back but it will regrow so don’t count on herbicidal treatments to eradicate it. It typically takes 2-3 years of management pressure but diligence will be reward you as the plant becomes progressively less of a problem. Planting native plants will enhance habitat and also provide additional competition for the weed.

Another weed from the fringes is *Arundo donax*. The Spanish brought this plant to us during the colonial period. Many of the mission walls in the southwest were built using *Arundo donax* as reinforcement. The plant originally comes from the Mediterranean region and was imported to us without any natural enemies or animals that evolved with it. Water is needed for this plant to grow and it uses a lot of it. *Arundo donax* has been found to use three times the water of most other plants. Remove the water and the plant will not survive. When water is available, this plant will grow so thick that no animal can get through it or use it for shelter. The thick foliage is also very tough and no animals are known that feed on it. The plant spreads vegetatively and no seed is produced. Nelroy Jackson, retired weed scientist who has led the fight against *Arundo donax* in our region says Rodeo™ or Roundup™ is the best ways to control this noxious riparian weed.
Naumann's NorCal News

Kevin Hutchins has left the Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco and is now the Superintendent at Mission Viejo CC in Southern California. Replacing Kevin is Josh Heersink. Josh was the Assistant Superintendent at Washington National GC in Auburn, Washington. Sean Leahy is the new Superintendent at Dublin Ranch GC. Dublin Ranch is a new course that is presently under construction in the Dublin area. Sean was the Assistant under Mike Rothenberg at Sharon Heights G & CC in Menlo Park.

GCSAA Education

Brought to you by GCSA of Northern California

Employee Safety Training

Facilitated by Sarah Bundschuh
Tuesday, January 8, 2002
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Pleasanton
Pleasanton, CA

Continuing Education Units: 0.7
Member Fee: $120
Nonmember Fee: $180
Code: 02RS129-01

Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management II

Facilitated by Nick Christians, Ph.D.
Wednesday, January 9, 2002
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Pleasanton
Pleasanton, CA

Continuing Education Units: 0.7
Member Fee: $120
Nonmember Fee: $180
Code: 02RS129-01
Textbook:
Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management 11450890;
GSCAA Price: $54.00

This seminar introduces the basics of cool-and warm-season grasses, evaluates the environmental effects of fertilizer application, the function of essential elements in the plant, designing a sound fertility program, and the biology, control and management of annual bluegrass (poa annua).

Register
Phone: (800) 472-7878  website: www.gcsaa.org