

Celebrating its 25th Year Golf Course Superintendents Institute Set for Aptos Seascap GC

Presented by GCSANC and UC Cooperative Extension

Tournament
Director
David
Witkowski
and
Mike
McGraw



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California is pleased to announce that the 2005 Golf Course Superintendent's Institute entitled Sustainability for Your Course and Career is set for November 14 -15, 2005 at Aptos Seascap Golf Course (Aptos, CA). Now celebrating its 25th year, The Institute continues to serve as an educational retreat for Northern California golf course superintendents, affiliate and allied members. This educational conference and trade show will host industry leaders speaking on topics pertinent to the operational and maintenance success of golf facilities.

The Institute is co-chaired by Ali Harivandi, Ph.D., an Environmental Horticulturist with the University of California Cooperative Extension and Brian Netz (CGCS) of the Presidio Golf Course. While Harivandi will serve as opening moderator, Netz will share knowledge about Sustainability in Practice at the Presidio. Other industry experts participating include Jim Snow, National Director with the USGA, whose presentation will focus on Trends in Sustainable Golf Course Management, and Frank Wong, Ph.D., of the University of California Riverside who will address Non-Synthetic Pesticides: Options for Disease Control. Covering the topic of compost tea are Joel Simmons, President of EarthWorks Natural Organic Products, Inc., Christa Conforti with the Presidio Trust of San Francisco and Jim Ferrin (CGCS) President of the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the GCSA.

A panel discussion targeted at developing successful partnerships in golf has attracted the following industry leaders serving as panelists: Bill Aragona with the National Golf Course Owners Association, Tom Schunn representing the Club Managers Association, Patrick Finlen (CGCS) with the California Golf Course Superintendents Association and Shim La Goy representing the Northern California PGA. The day will wrap up with an inspirational presentation on Bridging the Communication Gap conducted by PGA Member Anna McGrath, founder and CEO of McGrath Coaching and Consulting.

"We believe the attendees will draw plenty of practical knowledge from this 2-day institute," states GCSANC President Vince Keats (CGCS). "The quality of speakers and panelist participating in the program are superior, and are recognized leaders in golf."

The institute has the full planning support of the GCSANC education committee: Gary Carls (CGCS), Mat Dunmyer, Terry Grasso (CGCS), Dr. Ali Harivandi, Brian Netz (CGCS), Gill Stiles and Mike Vickers. Host Superintendent for the institute, trade show and golf tournament is Mike McCraw of Aptos Seascap Golf Course. The Institute is sponsored by Arborwell Professional Tree Management. Arborwell is a company committed to providing flawless execution of arboricultural services that enhance the beauty, health and safety of trees (www.arborwell.com). For more info regarding the institute please call (877) 942-7262 or visit www.californiagcsa.org.

Partners Fore Golf

By Cathy Glenn

When Golf Course Superintendent Greg Jetter (CGCS), and his brother PGA Professional Dana Jetter, took over operations of the Pleasanton Golf Center a year ago, they were immediately intrigued by the opportunities offered by the unique venue found there. With a nine-hole course and practice facility all within a driver's distance of each other, the Jettters recognized the site's potential. They could serve as host to a range of programs that could do far more than simply improve a player's game; they saw a chance to enhance lives.

"This facility is a perfect set up for those entering the game of golf from a variety of levels," explained Greg. In addition to the obvious need for quality junior programs, we have offered our facility to the Special Olympics golf program and the American Heart Association's 'Saving Strokes' program. The more possibilities we explored, the more need and interest we found."

Greg and Dana soon found they shared a common goal with a group of Pleasanton business leaders and golf enthusiasts. Dedicated to the idea that golf can serve as a vehicle for instilling life values in young players, the founders of the not-for-profit organization Partners Fore Golf discovered a tremendous opportunity waiting at the Jetter's facility. "The Jettters have spent their lives in and around the world of golf," explained Tim Angst, Board President of Partners Fore Golf. "They understand what the game can bring to the lives of those fortunate enough to be exposed to it. Their goals mesh perfectly with ours, bringing benefits to the youth of the Tri-Valley and beyond." Through the joint efforts of the two enthusiastic forces, the Pleasanton Golf Center was named a chapter of The First Tee Program in late August.

Partners Fore Golf and Jetter Golf recently celebrated the official kick-off of the First Tee of the Tri-Valley with a full field of supporters playing tournament golf at Castlewood Country Club. The inaugural fundraising event was a success, raising over \$50,000 to support the First Tee of the Tri-Valley and other programs including 'Saving Strokes', Special Olympic golf programs and local high school and middle school golf teams.

Greg expressed his thanks to all those whose efforts contributed to the outstanding results. "Without sponsors like Fremont Bank and Hap's Restaurant, without the many volunteers who gave their time and energy, without the vision of those who founded Partners Fore Golf, our opportunities to educate people about the benefits of golf would be very limited. We are looking forward to a long future of joint efforts as we share this game we love and all it has to offer."

GCSANC Director Chris Mains, who also serves as a GCSANC board liaison to The First Tee, commends the dedicated efforts of the Jetter's through Partners Fore Golf. "Greg and Dana have wrapped their arms around this worthy program to help develop the game of golf for the next generation," stated Mains. "What they're doing is not just about the game, it's much bigger than that. It's about helping to develop responsible community youth and instilling within them, valuable life skills that will last a lifetime."