

GCSA OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SUPPORTS GET GOLF READY CLASSES

Free Ball Mark Repair Tools for Students Taking Up the Game

It's apparent that the GCSA of Northern California isn't just intrigued with growing turf, it's also interested in helping grow the game of golf evidenced by the chapter's recent support of Golf 20/20's *Get Golf Ready* program. The Nor Cal Chapter is supplying free ball mark repair tools to local facilities hosting this new player development program. Participating courses can be found from the North State Region to the Wine Country and from San Francisco to Silicon Valley and on to the Monterey Peninsula.

Through Golf 20/20's collaborative efforts (in conjunction with PlayGolfAmerica.com), the *Get Golf Ready* five-session program was designed for students interested in taking up the sport in comfortable style. The series of classes are set to instill confidence and excitement about the game of golf. Day 1 of the *Get Golf Ready Program* is about "Awakening the Golfer in You" while Day 2 addresses "Becoming One with the Course" which includes not just short game instruction, but how to care for the course through proper divot and ball mark repair.

"As course superintendents we favor the idea that folks are being introduced to the fundamentals of golf in five succinct sessions which also includes an on-course experience," stated Brian Morris, CGCS, golf course superintendent at Blue Rock Springs Golf Course, a 36-hole public facility in Vallejo, CA. "What better time to introduce proper ball mark repair than when folks are taking up the game for the first time." Morris will join PGA Teaching Professional Bob Miller during one of the *Get Golf Ready* classes, where he'll demonstrate how to correctly repair a ball mark. Thus, when the students are playing on the course in the future, they'll be prepared to leave the putting surface in better condition for those who follow.

Since this is the inaugural year for the *Get Golf Ready Program* it's also the first time tools have been distributed to class participants. However, the GCSANC has provided tools for other growth of the game initiatives/programs including: Women's Golf Month, The First Tee, LPGA-USGA Girl's Golf, and at Play Golf America Days where new players are introduced to the game and former golfers are welcomed back to the sport.

The ball mark repair education program began nearly a decade ago when chapter members distributed free repair tools at the PGA Senior Tour event at Silverado Country Club & Resort in Napa, CA. The senior tour has since changes its name to the Champions Tour and the tournament has left the Wine Country, but that has not stopped the GCSANC from putting ball mark repair tools and instruction cards into the hands of Nor Cal golfers.

Special thanks to all of the GCSANC members and staff who have dedicated their time for this worthwhile community outreach program.

