

# GCSAA Members Enlightened by Accessibility Experts



## **Tri Chapter Meeting & Davey Nor Cal Point Series Tournament**

Nearly 100 golf course superintendents and affiliate members from the Central, Northern California and Sierra Chapters of the GCSAA attended the 2012 Tri-Chapter Meeting at TPC Stonebrae in Hayward, CA, hosted by Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations Dave Davies, CGCS.

The educational seminar and golf tournament sponsored by John Deere, commenced with Fred Brattain, founder of The Disabled Golfers' Learning Foundation providing insight on ADA Compliance as it specifically relates to golf facilities. Brattain's presentation spanned from legal aspects to the economic benefits derived from improved course accessibility.

Part two of the presentation shifted to the driving range at TPC Stonebrae where Brattain was joined by international ambassador for adaptive sports, Anthony Netto, founder of the Stand Up and Play Foundation. Netto, who enjoys the game of golf, understands the importance of accessibility, as a veteran who is also a wheelchair user himself.

Surrounded by scores of GCSAA members, Netto demonstrated the use of the ParaMobile; a solo vehicle specially designed for indi-

viduals with disabilities, allowing them the ability to stand up and comfortably participate in the game of golf. Seminar attendees were pleased to learn the ParaMobile can travel throughout the course in a safe, efficient manner for golfers and without damage to the turf or green complex.

Throughout the presentation Brattain and Netto field questions from GCSAA chapter members and provided solutions on how golf facilities can enhance the recreational experience for golfers with disabilities. Brattain felt the time spent with GCSAA members was highly beneficial. "What was gratifying was the ability to allay some of the more prevalent fears that are associated with disability and wheelchair access," said Brattain. "Educating others on how to work with individuals with disabilities in tandem with ADA Compliance is highly rewarding for me, and for my colleague Anthony, too. We are committed to improving accessibility for golfers and pleased that GCSAA chapters are open to learning more about our initiatives."

To learn more about The Disabled Golfer's Learning Foundation please visit [www.DisabilityGolfer.org](http://www.DisabilityGolfer.org). For more information about the Stand Up and Play Foundation visit: [www.standupandplay.org](http://www.standupandplay.org).

**(L) A new kind of cart... (R) Host Superintendent, Dave Davies, CGCS demonstrating cart usage**

