President's Message by RODNEY MULLER



Research Fundraising Finds New Life in California

Nor Cal recently had an impressive showing of support and fundraising efforts at the Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament. Thank you, to all of our members for your donationsyour generosity, once again, set the bar for this

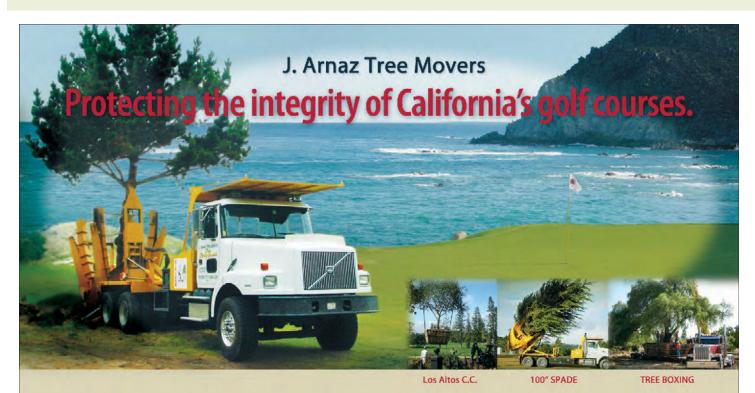
event. The result will not only help our turf students and legacy scholarship award winners, it will also allow our association to secure two twelve-month research studies through Dr. Baird at UC Riverside.

You may remember the GCSANC research topics survey you submitted not long ago. The Board of Directors used the information gathered from our survey to help select local research to implement over the course of the year. Based on your suggestions, the Board chose the following two studies: 1) colorant/pigment, and 2) wetting agent. Both research studies will be held at two locations with drastically different weather and turf type in Northern California. Concurrently, Dr. Baird and his team will conduct ongoing Poa and salinity research trials. We are excited to fund the colorant and wetting agent projects through the Wagoner S&R Tournament proceeds, which leads me to a new fundraising opportunity available through the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG).

We have been asked to support a GCSAA and EIFG initiative, Rounds 4 Research (R4R). This program has been successful in the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendent Association and has now reached the national stage. Rounds 4 Research uses an online auction site (BiddingForGood.com) to award a foursome of golf to the highest bidder. The service has over 650,000 registered bidders, and rounds of golf are its top-selling item. As a Board we have been discussing how Nor Cal fits into this effort.

Our key responsibilities would be: 1) solicit and obtain donated rounds to give to the EIFG for auction; 2) promote the program to golfers, allied associations, and media and members of our organization; and 3) provide an annual summary of how the money was used. Due to the high time and staff requirements of these responsibilities, our proposed solution is as follows:

We are proposing to State chapters that we centralize the administration and marketing of securing golf rounds with the California State Association by designating donors (clubs) based on regional chapters. To this end, each regional chapter that participates will only solicit rounds for donation exclusively for the CGCSA. There is obvious overlap between chapters, and a single golf club could



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likely get requests for donations from two or more associations. By using the CGCSA as a central donation clearing-house, we believe this effort will evenly distribute each chapter's workload, provide a single reporting entity, and help reduce competition between allied associations. California needs a national presence in turfgrass research and R4R can help establish this.

If the track record of R4R is as successful in California as it has been in the Carolinas, it will help propel turfgrass research, education, environmental programs and scholarships state-wide. In the upcoming months when you receive a donation request from the CGCSA, please know that this is a worthy cause and we would appreciate your support.

Thank you, Rodney Muller

BARONESS

Golf's Purest Striker Rarely Missed A Fairway

Reprinted with the permission of Bruce Selcraig, published in USA TODAY September 28, 2004

America's sports pages barely acknowledged the fatal heart attack September 4, at age

75, of eccentric Canadian golfer Moe Norman-a supernaturally gifted yet cruelly misunderstood athlete. Norman was a stocky cartoon character with thick Popeye arms and wispy Einstein hair who generations of golf superstars-from Sam Snead to Lee Trevino to Vijay Singh—have said was the purest striker of a golf ball they had ever seen.

In 50 years, Moe Norman had 17 holes in one, nine double eagles, won more than 50 tournaments and set more than 30 course records.



1968 Canadian Press Photo

Not the farthest hitter. Not the greatest trick-shot artist or putter—putting bored him.

Just the most stupefying accurate golfer on the planet. Norman played competitive golf more than 50 years, and witnesses say he played 11 of those years-that's (Continued on page 7)

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