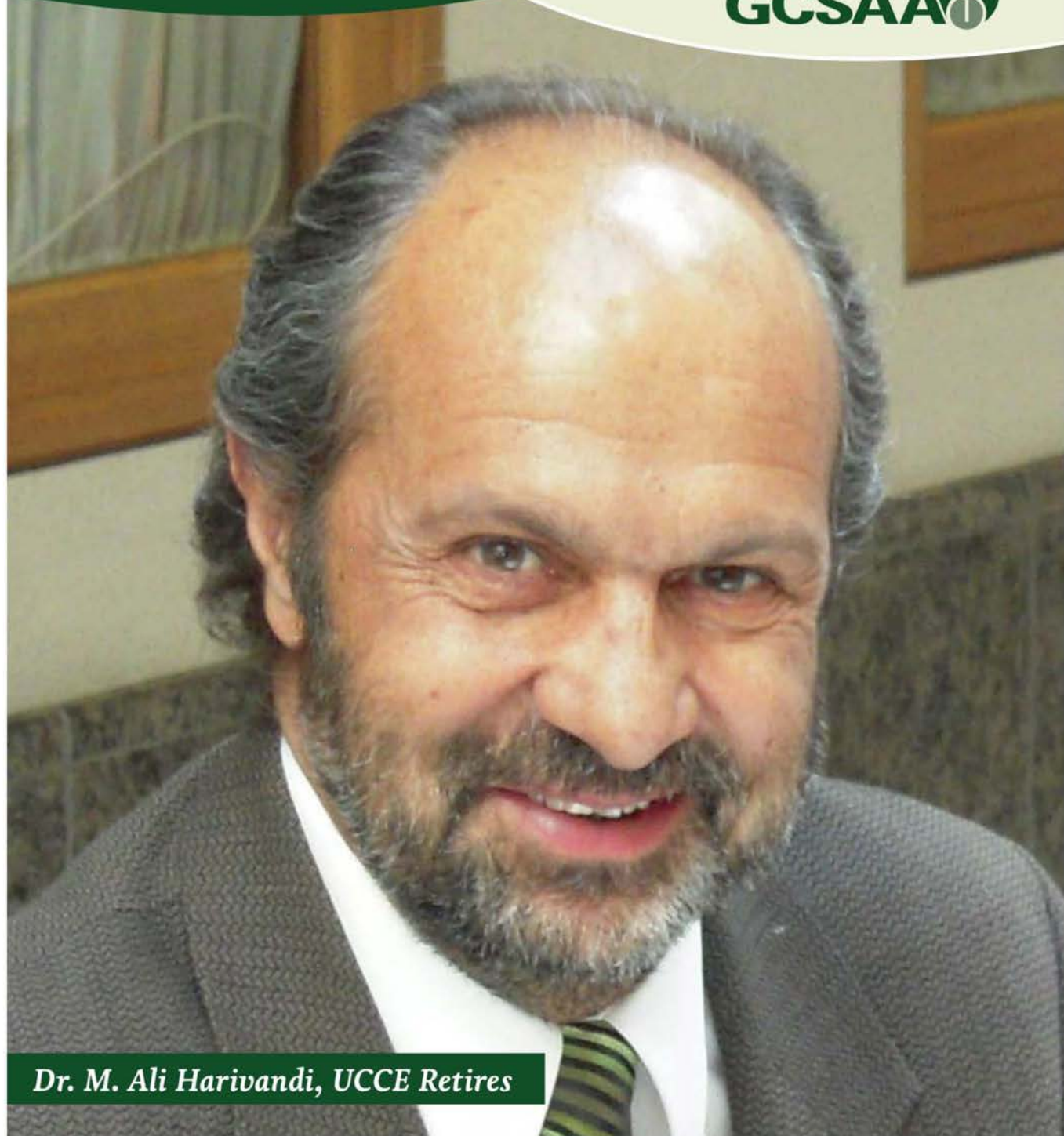


THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

JULY / AUGUST 2013

Northern California Chapter
GCSAA



Dr. M. Ali Harivandi, UCCE Retires

Officers & Directors 2013

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Inside

Office Notes	3
NorCalendar	3
New Members	3
President's Message	4
UC Cooperative Extension Turfgrass Expert Ali Harivandi Retires After 33 Years	5
Monte Rio Superintendent Renews Professional Certification	6
2012 Davey Tree NorCal Cup	7
Birdies For the Brave	8
Golf Course Superintendents Field Workshop	11
From the Field	12
The Heroes That Walk Among Us	13
Golden Age Innovations	15

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Office Notes

By **BARBARA MIKEL**



Thanks in part to a grant from GCSAA and GCSANC matching funds, three public service announcements were released in May. The video was filmed under the direction of Rodney Muller, Past President with Emmy Moore Minister interfacing with Sharp Park and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. They are posted on the GCSANC website (www.gcsanc.com) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GCSANC) as well. These will be provided to the SF Rec & Parks with an audio only format to distribute to the San Francisco & San Mateo golfing and recreation community. Take a look!

Go Green!

<http://youtu.be/7UmLf172Jes>

Golf and the Environment Go Hand and Hand

<http://youtu.be/y5CIHnRakas>

Passion for the Game

http://youtu.be/2_HuneB_7qA

Emmy Moore Minister

For the last 12 plus years the members of GCSANC had the good fortune to have Emmy Moore Minister working to enhance the profile of superintendents in the greater golf industry. Emmy's participation began in 2001 and continued evolving; serving in various capacities and lending talent and support to the association and its members.

Emmy has recently decided to move in her own direction. We support our friend in her decision and wish her luck and success. She will, I know, in her expanding and exciting future course, provide those talents to whomever and where ever the road will lead. Thanks Emmy!



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NorCalendar

AUGUST 5

Tri Chapter Meeting
Spring Creek Country Club

OCTOBER 21-22

Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp, Survive and Thrive
Monterey

DECEMBER 6

Holiday Party
*Del Monte Golf Course and
Monterey Hyatt Regency Hotel*

More Details?

Visit www.gcsanc.com/events/

New Members

Jacob Fawaz
Student

Kurt Frye
Summit Gold
Affiliate

Allen Lowe
Bayonet & Black Horse
Golf Course
Class C Assistant Superintendent

Michael Magnani
Cypress Point Club
Class C Assistant Superintendent

Thomas Huesgen
Frontier Golf
Class A Superintendent

Tyler Gillette
Pacific Coast Seed
Affiliate



President's Message

By **JON CHRISTENSEN**

Take a deep breath.

I am sure I am not alone wondering how half of the year has already passed. This is usually the time of year where we all need to sit back, gather our thoughts, re-focus, and take a deep breath. Before you know it we will be gearing up for aeration!

The GCSANC board will also be taking a deep breath as we approach a time of some SOP and By-Law reviews and revisions. As I have mentioned before, we will be turning to our members for some help. As we try to focus on the future in these ever changing times of our industry, some questions we ask ourselves as a board may be tougher than others, but with member guidance those visions may be clearer. Much of what we will be asking will come through as a Survey Monkey

in your e-mail, so when you see these please participate. Our survey participation is usually pretty good, but this time around I would challenge you to make it REALLY GOOD. These are important times as all associations face the same issues that we do with attendance and programs. The board wants to do what is right for our members. I know we all get bombarded with too many e-mails these days, but the board asks you to not hit the delete button on those coming from the GCSANC as we get into a time of planning for the future.

So, as we sit back and take a deep breath for the second half of our busy golf seasons, please take a deep breath and enjoy each and every day as you open those GCSANC Survey Monkey e-mails.

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UC Cooperative Extension Turfgrass Expert Ali Harivandi Retires After 33 Years



Ali Harivandi vividly remembers the day in 1979 that he interviewed to become a UC Cooperative Extension advisor for Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties. Dressing for the interview, he pulled on one sock while watching the TV news and as he reached for his other sock, the news anchor announced that the U.S. embassy in Iran had been taken over.

"I'm not going to get the job," Harivandi thought.

As he retires on June 27 after 33 years of providing turfgrass advice to Northern California golf course superintendents, managers of parks, sports fields and cemeteries and homeowners, Harivandi, who was born in Iran, is grateful to the University of California for having given him the opportunity to pursue work he enjoys.

"If I had written the job description myself, I couldn't have made it more perfectly match my qualifications," he said.

The UC Cooperative Extension advisor job required expertise in turfgrass, soils, salinity, irrigation and recycled water irrigation—the same subjects he had studied, first at Shiraz University in Iran, and then at Colorado State University where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in turfgrass science.

Over the course of his career, Harivandi expanded his research to include weeds, turf diseases, insect management, erosion control and water quality. He began to promote sustainability before sustainability became a popular topic, and is best known for his research and educational efforts in water conservation and the use of recycled water for irrigation.

When Harivandi came to California, water-loving grass varieties such as Kentucky bluegrass were commonly planted for lawns. He introduced tall and fineleaf fescue species that use less water as low-maintenance, environmentally friendly alternatives. More than 90 percent of Northern California residential lawns are now planted to tall fescue. No-mow, a type of fescue that rarely needs trimming, is now planted on slopes and rough areas of golf courses, road medians, cemeteries, and small areas that are hard to mow. Besides making maintenance of these areas much simpler, No-mow reduces labor costs and air pollution associated with mowing.

To help people avoid overwatering, he published a map that shows evapotranspiration estimates for regions of the Central Coast. Homeowners and landscape managers use the map as a guide for programming their sprinkler systems.

Harivandi is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert on recycled water use on golf courses and other landscape sites. In the Southwest, 35 percent of golf courses are irrigated with recycled water; nationally, the number is closer to 15 percent.

"I have consulted with Ali on recycled water use at three of the courses where I have worked, including Shoreline Golf

Links, San Jose Municipal Golf Course and Sunnyvale Golf Course," said Gary Carls, golf operations supervisor for the City of Sunnyvale.

"I first met Ali when we were building a new golf course in Mountain View, Shoreline Golf Links," said Carls, who has worked with Harivandi since 1981. "Ali helped us with several issues we were facing, including methane gas concerns, salinity issues and recycled water concerns. Over the years, I know he has worked with hundreds of superintendents facing similar issues."

"Without a doubt in my mind, his greatest contribution to the golf industry has been helping to create strong educational programs for golf course superintendents both nationally and locally," Carls said. "Ali was an instructor at the GCSAA's (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America) national conference for most of his career."

In the 1990s, the state Integrated Waste Management Board launched a campaign to reduce solid waste disposal in order to extend the useful life of landfills. Harivandi's research showed that leaving grass clippings on the lawn did no harm—in fact, the decomposing grass naturally fertilized the lawn. He began to encourage homeowners and landscape maintenance professionals to practice "grasscycling" instead of bagging up lawn clippings to send to landfills. Grasscycling is now standard practice.

On weekends, Harivandi referees soccer games at high school and collegiate levels to stay fit and to serve his community. "I get to see a lot of sports fields," he added. While refereeing soccer games, he noticed that the turf didn't recover well from the damage inflicted by people playing on wet fields, so he began to recommend that sports fields be closed following rain. It has become a common practice.

Aside from his wife Sue, Harivandi credits much of his career success to UC Cooperative Extension. "It probably wouldn't have worked as well for me at any other university. The ambience, the environment, the culture allow a person to do as much as you want to do," he explained. "People help you to get things done."

Harivandi has served as a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Technical/Resource Advisory Committee and currently serves on the International Sustainability Council and U.S. Golf Association Turfgrass and Environmental Research Advisory Committee. UC has granted Harivandi emeritus status so he plans to continue his research and to accept speaking engagements with interested groups, including UC Master Gardeners. He also looks forward to "a lot" of traveling with his wife Sue.

The University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources is the bridge between local issues and the power of UC research. UC ANR's advisors, specialists and faculty bring practical, science-based answers to Californians. Visit ucanr.edu to learn more.

Monte Rio Superintendent Renews Professional Certification

Edwin D. Bale, GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Northwood Golf Club, Monte Rio, Calif., has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).



Bale has been at Northwood Golf Club since 1980. A 27-year GCSAA member, he initially achieved his certification in 1988. Approximately 1,600 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold "CGCS" status.

According to GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans, "25 percent of GCSAA's Class A members have elected to earn the highest level of recognition through the professional designation "CGCS" by completion of the GCSAA Certification Program. This program requires their demonstration of a higher set of competencies in golf course management through testing and practical application. Employers can be confident they employ a career professional who will increase their chances of having consistently superior course conditions."

GCSAA was among the first associations to institute a professional certification program, establishing its program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. In 2005, GCSAA completed a restructuring of its certification program in order to raise the level of documented professionalism through

comprehensive continuing education. The restructured program was recognized by the National Certification Commission as "one of the most extensive and comprehensive certification programs for any profession."

To qualify for GCSAA's new competency-based certification program, a candidate must have at least three years experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet post-secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education points. The candidate's knowledge, skills and abilities are validated through the development of a portfolio consisting of their responses to skill statements, case-study scenarios and submission of work samples; an on-site inspection of their golf facility; and a rigorous six-hour examination covering: equipment, irrigation systems, materials and technology; golf course and grounds; human resources, rules of golf, financial and administrative systems, regulatory and programmatic systems, crisis management, project management and ethics and values.

Maintaining certified status requires renewal every five years after the initial date of certification. To fulfill certification renewal requirements, a candidate must participate in 150 hours of continuing education and professional development.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on Facebook, follow GCSAA on Twitter, and visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org. The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, and has as its mission to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit www.eifg.org. For more information, contact Bale at (707) 799-9396 or ebale@comcast.net.



2012 Davey Tree NorCal Cup

Due to some serious super computer math crunching, the 2012 Davey Tree NorCal Cup results are in.

Gross Winners	Gross	Gross Average
Dale Simpson	152	76.0
Fernando Villagran-Costello	161	80.5
Mike Garvale	166	83.0
Dale Engman	258	86.0
Net Winners	Net	Net Average
Dale Simpson	141	70.5
Fernando Villagran-Costello	150	75.0
Russ Mitchell	150	75.0
Pete Bowman	154	77.0

All the winners listed above will be awarded GCSAA dollars through Davey Tree Expert Company's kind sponsorship of the 2012 NorCal Cup.



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Birdies For the Brave By DAVE DAVIES. CGCS, TPC Stonebrae

On June 28, TPC Stonebrae hosted its 5th annual Birdies for the Brave event. Birdies for the Brave is a PGA Tour Charity originally established by Phil Mickelson to provide aid and support to a variety of Military Support Foundations www.birdiesforthebrave.org. Through a wide variety of outlets, this program supports scholarships and education funding for dependants, post military training for wounded veterans and reading programs that allow deployed personnel to connect with their children through videotaped book reading. Foundation representatives are invited to share details of their programs at stations on the course while paid attendees participate in a golf event that pairs them with invited military guests. In addition to all the golfers there is always a group of uniformed military personnel on hand to "press the flesh" and accept a steady stream of thank you's from everyone in attendance. This year 112 paid players joined forces with 35 military guests and 15 uniformed volunteers from Camp Park in Dublin and the 23rd Marines from San Bruno. The Wounded Warrior Foundation sent 3 three young men who played and we were proud to welcome back two previous participants, Matt Sheedy and Silver Star recipient Sgt. Vic Thibeault. Vic spoke about the Combat Wounded Amputee Network and their programs that promote hiking and climbing expeditions for injured vets. To see Vic and hear him speak is to truly understand the word determination. For more information on Vic's work, check out parrfoundation.org or www.GoFundMe.com/combatwoundedamputee.

This event has a close personal attachment to me and has become a year round activity in securing sponsorships and donations from anyone I can. I'm proud to say that the Bay Area golf community again showed their great character by having virtually every course I reached out to donate in some way. It continues to prove to me that golf is more than just a game. Pat yourselves on the back for all the things you do to facilitate this and the hundreds of other causes that host fundraisers at our courses. Sometimes in the heat of the summer it may be hard to have a bigger picture perspective. I can assure you when you watch a group of uniformed soldiers gathering to share experiences or a Marine Color Guard present the colors or a young man with one leg out hitting a golf ball it might just put the heat and turf quality into perspective...I know it does for me.





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Golf Course Superintendents Field Workshop

Creeks & Crawlers: Stream and Habitat Restoration in the 21st Century

On May 20th Jay Neunsinger hosted a very informative and enjoyable discussion and walk of recently completed restoration project at his course. The project, from inception to completion, took almost 5 years and three superintendents. Not only was the permitting, design, and monitoring team in attendance to explain the project during the morning session during our walk, but GCSANC superintendents Rodney Mueller, Luke Bennett and Jay Neunsinger contributed their insight into the project. We took a stroll through the beautiful East Bay Regional Park Golf Course looking at plantings, grading changes, and rock outcroppings that created pools for natural habitat populations to thrive. The management team and Jay did a wonderful job of explaining the goals, expectations, challenges, and successes that this project possessed. It was a wonderful chance to evaluate what is now required to complete a successful 21st century environmental restoration project.



▲ It was a very warm day so we carry plenty of water as we walk through the beautiful Tilden Park Golf Course.

▼ A hands on look and explanation from the management team overlooking the creek restoration project.



▲ Lunch and discussion were at the unique 1939 World's Fair Brazilian Room adjacent to Tilden Park Golf Course.



▲ Jay Neunsinger checking Dry Water packets which are used to provide moisture to the plants during initial grow in. Thanks Jay!



From the Field

By **JEFF JENSEN**, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

I hope this finds all of our Northern California GCSA members doing well and getting a respite from the early heat that hit the area this year.

I recently had the opportunity to participate as an instructor at a First Green field trip hosted by Metropolitan Golf Links in Oakland, CA.

For those of you who may not be aware, First Green is an innovative environmental and educational outreach program using golf courses as environmental learning labs. Golf course superintendents host students on field trips where they may test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, design plantings, assist in stream bed restoration and are involved in the ecology and environmental aspects of the golf course. The students, many of whom have never stepped foot on a golf course, are also introduced to other benefits and aspects of the game including history and the rules of golf.

This particular field trip marked First Green's initial entry into the California market. Previous events had been conducted in Oregon and Washington and this trip was held in conjunction with the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative (OTEI) which is headed up by Sunnyvale superintendent Gary Carls, CGCS, and Metropolitan superintendent Gary Ingram, CGCS.

Several superintendents from Northern California including GC-SANC board members Kyle Marshall and Jay Neunsinger attended the event to learn more about hosting a future field trip at their facilities. I found the event to be a great opportunity to interact with kids and show them the benefits that the golf industry has on our local communities.


For more information on hosting a First Green event, visit the website at www.thefirstgreen.org or contact Dr. Karen Armstead at (425) 444-2618.

In other news, entries are being accepted for Lebanon Turf's 2014 Dog Days of Golf Calendar and Dog of the Year contest. Enter a picture of your golf course canine companion today. If selected for the calendar your dog will also have a chance to be crowned 2014 Dog of the Year, garnering a \$3,000 prize for your affiliated chapter, a \$500 donation to your local Humane Society, and a \$500 prize for you.

Lebanon Turf's 2014 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be delivered to your doorstep with the November issue of Golf Course Management magazine. Submit your entry at www.gcsaa.org/dogcalendar, or email a high resolution photo to lebturfdogcalendar@gcsaa.org.

I hope you all have a great summer and look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event. If I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to email me at jjensen@gcsaa.org.

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The Heroes That Walk Among Us

By **BRIAN NETTZ**, GCCS

Even though Memorial Day is over, I wanted to reflect on the meaning of heroism as it relates to my staff. Recently I had an employee die. Mesothelioma. As many of you know, its lung cancer from exposure to asbestos and asbestos was commonly used in the Navy during the fifties; asbestos was at that time the "wonder material". Chuck was an assistant equipment tech. He was in his late seventies when he "retired" here but he often came by and did welding for us. He looked like he was in his mid fifties. He was a former Navy deep sea diver, rodeo clown, rodeo rider, welder, alcoholic, and hell raiser. He was a neat guy.

We never really understood the significance of Chuck's armed forces services. He didn't talk about it, but we did know that Chuck went to a support group once a week on Thursdays and that Chuck was monitored for radioactivity weekly as well. You see, Chuck was in Operation Crossroads- the tail end of the nuclear bomb testing in the bikini atolls. He dived for a salvage ship examining the wreckage underwater

to submarines, ships, etc. that had been placed within the blast radius. It was dangerous work. The ocean floor was sandy, the dust kicked up and reduced visibility and they cut and welded alongside heavy naval chains and ship hulls.

As if all that was not enough, the salvage ship was so "hot" radioactively, that they were not allowed into harbor. They had to anchor outside of Tokyo harbor for two weeks washing the ship and themselves constantly with a special soap to remove the radioactivity. I asked Chuck if it upset him that he had to deal with all this stuff based upon his service to our country. Like nearly everyone in his generation he replied very matter of factly, "We were full of piss and vinegar at the time. We knew it was important work. It meant something important to our country and we'd be damned if we were gonna let the Russkies beat us."

So for me, Memorial Day hit just a little closer to home.

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Golden Age Innovations By SEAN TULLY

As I continue to dig into the old golf magazines like the USGA Green Section, Golfdom, and the earlier versions of GCM I have been pleasantly surprised by some of the ideas and issues of the day. Little has changed and some of our new ideas are only being recirculated!

Take for instance the underground hose reel that came out from Rainbird some years ago. This is an idea that first appeared back in 1928 by the Philadelphia Toro Company!! This photo is from the November 1928 issue of Golfdom.

In some cases, like with any invention, it takes time for technology to catch up with the idea. Frostbite® is just one example of technology catching up to a pretty novel idea. In the question and answer segment of a USGA Green Section record for 1923 they are asked, "has anyone tried to bring about an artificial result similar to frost with a view to killing crab grass?" There was mention of some experiments with an ice and salt mixture and some early refrigeration devices that were unable to get cold enough temperatures to damage the crabgrass. Artic Inc., a company out of North Carolina has finally brought the idea of using "refrigeration" as a possible tool in controlling crab grass. The device uses compressed carbon dioxide to mimic the effects frost has on crabgrass and other weeds that are susceptible to cold weather injury.

In an effort to measure turf sponginess Charles H. Allen developed a device that used a 150 pound weight that he dropped on the green to measure the degree of sponginess. Allen was trying to determine the benefits of different applications of lime and compost in reducing the sponginess on velvet bent greens. This photo is from Golfdom's January 1947 issue.

The USGA using a similar idea developed the TruFirm to measure firmness of the green that helps to prepare greens for tournament golf and can also be used measure the firmness of greens in wetting agent studies currently being done by Jim Baird here in Northern California.



Invisibe Hose Reel provides convenient storage and lowers labor and hose costs.



Charles H. Allen demonstrates compressometer which he designed at R. I. Agricultural Experiment station to measure springiness of turf.

