



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 GCSANC 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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