

THRU THE GREEN

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Thru the Green

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Association of
Northern California.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Ken Schwartz, Roger Martinez, and Leonard

Theis to the Board of Directors of GCSANC. On behalf of our members, we extend to you a sincere thank you in advance for your commitments to our association. Good luck is wished to all board members in the success of their undertakings.

GCSAA has begun preparation for the 1995 conference in San Francisco. The Conference and Show Committee met on April 26th at the Marriott Hotel -- the conference headquarters. Attending were the new executive regime of Steve Mona and Joe O'Brien. I must say, I was very impressed in their expertise and member-directed emphasis. Early indications show two excellent choices have been made. Look further into the newsletter for a report on that meeting.

I would like to acknowl-

edge the accomplishments of Bill Davis of Peninsula Golf and Country Club in San Mateo. Bill was the first superintendent in GCSAA to earn a certificate in the Underground Storage Tanks (UST) specialization. This specialization involves about 70 hours of GCSAA seminars designed especially for environmental management programs. Congratulations, Bill.

Don't forget! Scholarship and Research Tournament at Castlewood CC on June 20th. Not only do you get to play a marvelous golf course, but you will be supporting necessary and worthy causes, as well.

Lastly, I would like to call your attention to the latest edition of *Landscape Management Magazine* (May, 1994). Jerry Roche, Editor in Chief, takes aim at the media, specifically Paul Harvey, for his on-the-air comment on February 8th, 1994: "Not only are golf course pesticides killing the birds, but they're killing

golf course superintendents, also." Harvey's comments were apparently based on Dr. Barton Kross' study commissioned by GCSAA. Mr. Roche's editorial deems Harvey's commentary so far off base it is irresponsible journalism. Even after being corrected by Dr. Kross, Joe Baidy (GCSAA President) and others, Harvey has yet to issue any public correction, apology or clarification.

Mr. Roche asks for a letter writing campaign to Paul Harvey, c/o Paul Harvey News, 332 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60601. If you feel strongly about this disservice to our industry, join me in sharpening your pencil and fire off a letter. Personally, I am tired of the media and the environmentalists bashing our business without justification. 'Nuf sed!

See you on the tee,
Randy Gai
President

Northern Cal Inches Central for Chapter Competition Win

Congratulations to Northern Cal chapter team #1 - Lou Tonelli, Dave Lewellen, Don Naumann, Jess Pifferini, and Ibsen Dow - whose combined score was just enough to squeak by central chapter team #2 to take first place in the DowElanco Chapter Team Competition at the state meeting last month. Played at the River Course at the Alisal in Solvang, the competition was part of the CGCSA Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament.

Chapter teams ranked as follows: Northern Cal, Central, Southern Cal, Sierra/Nevada, San Diego and Hi-Low. DowElanco is donating money to each of the local chapters' scholarship and research fund based on ranking in the competition. Our chapter will be receiving \$1500.

Job Listing

ASST SUPERINTENDENT

Contra Costa Country Club, a private club founded in 1925, is seeking candidates with a two or four year college education in turf management, horticulture or related field, one to three years of golf course maintenance experience, and an understanding of the game of golf. Must have or be readily prepared to obtain Q.A.C.

Competitive salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefit package includes health, life, dental, and daily meal. Responsible to head superintendent.

Send resume to: Anthony Steers, Contra Costa CC, 801 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 or call 510/687-9880 or 510/798-7135.

FYI

by Barbara Mikel

Twenty Five Years... And Counting

This year, the association awarded twenty-five year pins to three of our own:

Sohan Singh, CGCS
Diablo Country Club

Robert E. Livesey, CGCS
Class A Life Member

Alfred S. Norman
Retired Superintendent
Salinas Fairways Golf Course

Congratulations, and thank you for your support of GCSANC.

Job Bank Works

Lately we have been mailing a lot of job notices to our Class A, B and Associate members. If you have a position open that you would like to advertise, you can call the office for additional information and details on the procedure to use. It seems to work well for our members and their clubs. We try to get these notices to you within three days of our receipt.

Tips from the USGA Are You Listening to Real Golfers?

by Paul Vermeulen
USGA Agronomist

Sometimes you have to just sit back and wonder about some comments golfers make. For example, a couple of years ago I was riding around with a new member on one of America's top ten courses, and on the 14th fairway he started complaining about ballmarks. Not ballmarks on the greens, mind you, but ballmarks on the fairway! Furthermore, his belief was that if the maintenance staff could not keep up with things, the members were going to have to play Winter Rules. How would you even begin with a response to such a ridiculous statement?

Let me tell you what I wanted to say: "Hey mister, are you a real golfer, or are you just someone pretending to be a real golfer? Because if you're just pretending, then I'll pretend I'm your doctor and prescribe 10cc's of cyanide."

If you're not sure what a "real" golfer is, here is a list you can use.

Real Golfers:

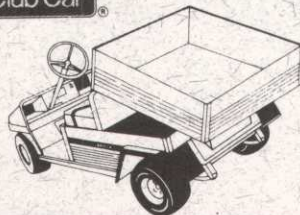
1. know that it is not always possible to find their ballmark, so they fix all the ballmarks they find. They would also never complain to the superintendent about unfixed ballmarks, they would talk to their fellow players, who are responsible!
2. know better than to clean their balls in their mouth. Not because they are worried about pesticide residue, but because they know better than to eat dirt!
3. never move their ball on the fairway, even if it is resting in a divot.

Continued on page 5

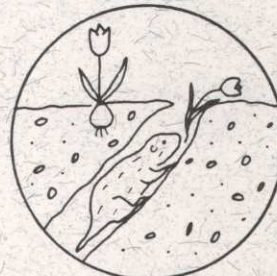
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Scholarship Report

by Joe Rodriguez

At the present time, scholarships are in place at Sonoma Community College, Foothill DeAnza College, and Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hills. We are also in the process of setting up a scholarship at Cal Poly of San Luis Obispo.

At Diablo College a scholarship of \$500 was granted to Reena Dhaliwal who is currently enrolled in the horticulture program. She will use the award to continue her education in the horticultural field at U.C. Davis in the fall.

It was also a great pleasure to award one of our own members a scholarship of \$1,500 for this year's tuition at Rutgers University in New

Continued on page 7

WELCOME TO THE GREEN

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:

ASSOCIATES - 30 day wait
Dave Meeker
Poppy Hills GC
Intern

AFFILIATES - 30 day wait
Vic Anderson
Vic Anderson Turf Supply

Dave Barcel
Target Specialty Products

Gil Mitchell
Able Tree Surgeons, Inc.

William Morelli
City of Stockton

Ron Seibel
Farwest Supply

Salvatore Sorbello
Reed Equipment

Ron Thompson
Animal Damage Mgmt

Mike Eisle
Farwest Supply

UPGRADES - pending test
John Rader
Tayman Park GC
to class A

Robert Wiggin
Meadowood Resort Hotel
to class B

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Ned Soso, long time member with the City of **Sunnyvale Golf Courses**, has retired after 30 years of dedicated service. Ned worked at both Sunnyvale Muni GC and Sunken Gardens GC prior to his retirement...**Ray Leyland** is the new superintendent at **Napa Valley Golf & CC**. Ray was the superintendent at Big Canyon CC in Southern California prior to his move.

He is replacing **Ron Forsyth** who moved to **Wolpers Vineyard Knolls Golf Course**...New construction seems to be the order of the day. Superintendent **Mark Francetic** and **Al Schlothauer** are building new greens, practice facility and range at **Deep Cliff Golf Course** in Cupertino.

Blaine Boccignone
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Dave Bingham - Manager - Member GCSANC

**1994
Superintendent - Professional Tournament
July 11, 1994**

Silver Creek Valley Country Club

Hosted by Nick Checklenis

Registration & Entry Information

- 2 man teams: Super and Pro - net and gross
Affiliate and Guest - net
- 4 man teams: net only
- Individuals: Superintendent - net and gross
Professional - Gross only (\$1,800+ purse)

Superintendent-Pro and four man teams: priority registration must be received by July 5, 1994. Openings available after July 5, 1994 will be filled *by completed entry* on a first come-first served basis. **At least one GCSANC member must be on each team.**

Applications must be accompanied by:

- 1 - A copy of each player's May index-handicap card
(maximum allowable index is 22)
- 2 - Team entry fees
- 3 - Completed registration form

All the above items must be received in order for entry to be processed. Confirmations will be mailed upon receipt of application and all listed items

Fees

*(includes driving range, lunch, tee prize,
cart and dinner for each player)*

Superintendent, Affiliates, Guests	\$100.00
Professionals	110.00
Dinner Only	50.00

Watch your mail

**Entry forms will be
mailed by June 1**

***Don't miss the
event of the year!***

REAL GOLFERS

Continued from page 3

4. play in the rain, but leave the course when lightning threatens their safety.
5. have a dream of playing Augusta National before they die. Video golf doesn't cut it either.
6. never drop their cigarette butts and other trash on the course.
7. know that Jack Nicklaus is the greatest golfer of all time. They can also tell you how many U.S. Opens, British Opens, PGA Championships, and Masters Tournaments he has won. By the way, he has also won both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Senior Open twice. If that isn't great golf, what is?
8. don't need yardage markers on all the sprinkler heads. They also don't need red, white and blue flags, and whiffle balls on the flagpoles.
9. don't drag their feet across the greens and leave spike markers all over the place.

10. always expect the course to be properly marked so they can play by the Rules of Golf.
11. always report their score and maintain an index, not a handicap.
12. really, really, really like golf.
13. play whenever time allows. Real golfers play in less than four hours!
14. use wooden tees and always remove them from the ground after they hit the ball.
15. don't have license plates that read, "I'm a real golfer."

If you're not listening to a real golfer, do yourself a favor and don't pay serious attention to their complaints. If they keep bothering you, give them this article and tell them not to come back until they have become a "real" golfer. Imagine, if you will, just how pleasant life would be if "real" superintendents worked for only "real" golfers.

An Open Letter to GCSANC and our Board of Directors

Dear fellow GCSANC members:

I want to thank you for the Merit Award and recognition bestowed on me last month. It was quite a pleasant surprise. To be singled out for an award from your peers is the most gratifying recognition one could receive. It will inspire me to live up to this honor.

To be honest, I find it hard to feel truly deserving of an award for turf excellence. Like most, the course or turf I maintain can be described as excellent only periodically throughout the year. But, I am not giving the award back, I cherish it too much. What I can honestly say is that I, again like most of us, deserve an award for the consistent effort and pride taken in my job and chosen career. Golf Course Superintendents play in integral part of this game. We produce a product that provides benefits ranging from recreation to the environment. We are entrusted with the opportunity to create a better world in which to live. Through our knowledge and hard work, people are provided with a healthy, enjoyable place to conduct business, support an active social lives, and develop friendships that last a lifetime. A claim few other industries can make.

I am proud to be a golf course superintendent and honored by this award. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mike Phillips

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State Meeting a Huge Success

Held on May 15 and 16 in Solvang, the 1994 Annual Meeting of CGCSA was bigger and better than ever. More than 175 people attended the Sunday conference on Golf Course Reconstruction, Renovation and Restoration that featured topics such as: Why Do It?, Estimating Costs,

New Turf Types, Hazards of New Construction, and Selecting Trees. In addition, two superintendents, Mike Scott from the River Course and Doug Weddle from La Cumbre, spoke on their own construction projects. A special afternoon seminar featured Joseph Baidy, CGCS, new president of

GCSAA who discussed the myriad of changes that are taking place at national and what they want to do for us.

Central Chapter hosted the two-day event that also included a post-conference barbeque at the Royal Scandinavian Inn and a golf tournament on Monday at the River Course at the Alisal.

Many members brought guests and families. Nearly 200 people, including several

children, socialized with and met colleagues, families, and friends at the barbeque.

Next year the Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament will be held in San Diego. Plans are currently under way to make next year's event just as memorable.

Special thanks to **John Beltz, Bob Tillema**, and the members of Central California chapter for putting on such a great event.

Tournament Winners

Superintendent flight

Gross		Point winners	
Corey Eastwood	38	Dave Sexton	+8
Mike Phillips	32	Lou Tonelli	+5
Sam Williamson	31	David Bermudez	+4
Bill Trasir	30	Jess Pifferini	+4
Keith Rogers	30	Mike Huck	+3

Commercial Flight

John Grund	38	Jim Lipari	+7
Dave Bingham	37	Leland Silva	+6
Mark Mallin	33	Bobby Daniels	+6
George Normandin	30	Al Reider	+6
Jim Davis	30	Tom Jackson	+6

Most Accurate Drive - Leland Silva
Closest to the Pin - Tom Baty

GCSAA Conference & Show Committee meets in San Francisco

by Rich Lavine

Most of our Board of Directors was volunteered to serve on the GCSAA conference and show committee. We attended a meeting on April 25 and 26, following our annual meeting.

I must tell you, when I was first informed of this committee assignment, I thought that we would just go through the motion of hearing what decisions had already been made by GCSAA, and then offering our approval. After attending this day-long meeting, my initial impression couldn't have been more wrong. I felt that the new management of GCSAA probably could continue to put on a very successful conference and show without our help. What the committee found, however, is that nothing that has been done in the past is sacred; everything is up for review. And, frankly, GCSAA *wants* our input.

The meeting started on Monday evening with a reception hosted by GCSAA president, Joe Baidy, CGCS. Early Tuesday morning we attended a meeting chaired by GCSAA director R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, and GCSAA Chief Operating Officer, Joe O'Brien. Almost all aspects of the conference and show were discussed and debated, including the admission policies and fees,

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COMMITTEE MEETING

Continued from page 6
the banquet entertainment, host booths and duties, exhibitors needs, conference hotels and rates, media involvement, spouses program, lost of misplaced badges, prayer breakfast, and allied association involvement.

I felt that our ideas were listened to, and many of our decisions will be taken back to the GCSAA board for approval. Our work is not done, however. Leading up to the show, the committee has various assignments to carry out. We will be looking to our members for help with

some of these assignments. In return, the GCSAA will be helping sponsor our hospitality suite at the conference.

SCHOLARSHIP

Continued from page 4
Jersey. P.J. Spellman, II, Assistant golf course superintendent at Poppy Hills Golf Course formally requested to the Board of Directors for scholarship aid to attend his second and final year at Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School. It was a wise choice. Last year, P.J. took two and a half months off work without pay and paid

his own tuition, plus another \$900 for lodging. He is also married and the father of two boys. P.J., the only west coast student in the class, ranked first scholastically, with a GPA of 3.97.

His dedication and professionalism make P.J. Spellman, II, a more-than-worthy representative from the GCSA of Northern California.

BLAKE SWINT

Continued from page 1
best conditions possible for the golfer. I'm sure we'll see evidence of that at our next meeting.

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