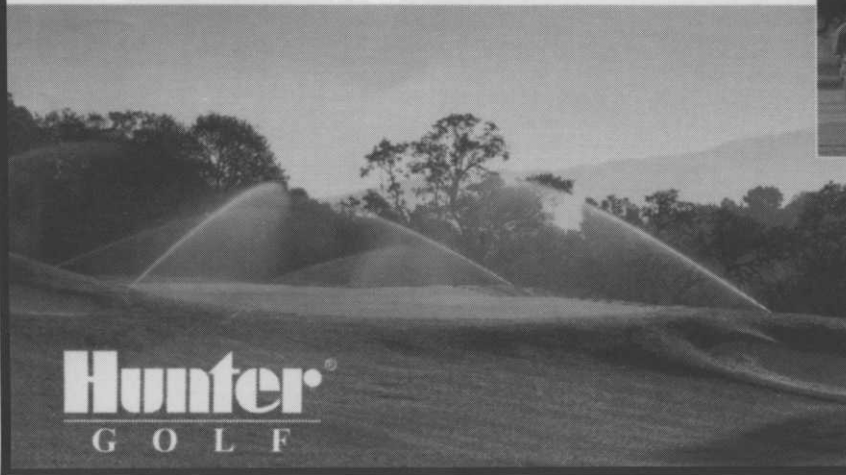


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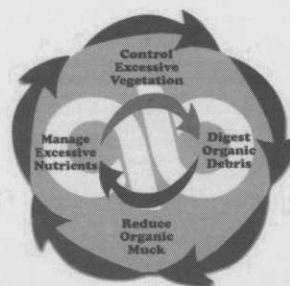
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THRU THE GREEN



## November Marks the Return of the Institute

By Bob Costa, CGCS

For NorCal Superintendents, fall represents the time of year when the word relax can be reintroduced into their vocabulary. Slowly, the focus begins to shift from the daily demands of summer into thoughts of winter projects; the holidays and some much needed time away. It also represents, the return of the GCSANC's premier educational event - The Golf Course Superintendent's Institute. The annual event, which is developed in conjunction with the UC Extension Service, returns this year to the popular Santa Rosa

Hilton.

This year's two-day program unfolds on Monday November 5th, with the educational session, trade show and reception. The educational program, will feature a series of practical discussions on equipment. With a wide range of knowledgeable, local speakers, complete with trade show, the conference promises to be highly educational and entertaining. Tuesday concludes the event with the annual golf tournament hosted by Ed Bale and Northwood Golf Club.

Because of the nature of this

year's program, superintendents are encouraged to take advantage of a special registration fee that will allow their Assistants and Equipment Technicians to attend at a reduced fee. "One of our objectives last year was to increase the participation level of Assistant superintendents," said Bob Costa who has served on the Institute's Education Committee since it's inception. "The reduced fee proved to be highly successful, with a record number of Assistants attending. We're hopeful that in November, along with their Assistants, Superintendents will be joined

by their Mechanics."

Lodging for this year's Institute is available at the Santa Rosa Hilton (formerly the Doubletree). For more details look for the Institute program, which should be arriving in late September.

### Discount Rate Offered for Institute

Superintendents attending this years Institute, can bring along their Assistant or Equipment Technician for a special reduced price of \$85 dollars. The special rate represents a \$50.00 savings over the regular registration fee.

## Turf Star to Sponsor Joint Meeting

Less than one year ago, a new name showed up in our territory - Turf Star. Turf Star came about as the merge of two of Toro's leading distributors - West Star Distributing and California Turf. Turf Star is jointly owned by the principals of West Star and California Turf with Gene Warne serving as CEO and Leonard Gregory as President. The purpose of the merge was to create a company that can better compete in the California market and provide the best opportunity for golf courses, contractors, and dealers to purchase turf equipment, irrigation equipment, contractor equipment, and consumer products. One of the first and most important benefits to our customers was the addition of a larger parts depot in a new Turf Star facility in Fresno, California. This operation continues a tradition established by West Star of providing better than 95% fill rates for customers needing parts by the next day—to the entire state of California. The ability to provide parts

service at this level and to provide customer service in the time frame that golf course superintendents require is driven by the investments in equipment that Toro Distributors have made over the years. From state-of-the-art computer systems to being among the first to use pagers and cellular phones, Toro distributors have maintained a competitive advantage through technology. As important as that technology is, however, the sales people that you work with are the key to maintaining a golf course to today's standards. While new in name, Turf Star brings a sales staff with a level of experience that is unmatched. While you may be very familiar with your individual sales rep, the following short "bios" will give you an idea of the resources that each salesman has within our team in Northern California

**Chuck Talley** - Turf Equipment Sales Manager - Sacramento - Chuck started working for a Toro Distributor (Brady-Holmes) 26 years ago. Chuck

started out as an equipment mechanic then switched to sales and promptly won Toro's national Rookie Salesman award. In the early 80's Chuck worked with superintendents from Sacramento south to Fresno winning another national Toro award - the "Green Blazer". While working at Duke Equipment, Chuck became the Sales Manager for Turf Equipment. When asked to reflect on his years in the business, Chuck says he is proudest of the people he has trained to follow in his footsteps - a group that includes 4 Toro Rookie of the Year winners and 3 Toro Green Blazer winners.

**Don Kittleson** - Turf Equipment - Reno, Nev. - Don started out working at El Dorado Hills GC at a very young age in the summers so that he could play golf for free the rest of the year. He continued working on the golf courses and spent 5 years as a golf professional. His love of the game kept him in the industry when he started working for West Star 6 1/2

years ago.

**Matt Engleman** - Turf Equipment - Elk Grove - Matt has been a commercial sales rep with Turf Star for 3 1/2 years. He has been involved in the golf industry for over 14 years - since his high school years in Southern California. He played golf for Clemson University before returning to California. Whenever time permits you can find him fishing for bass on the California Delta.

**Mike O'Barr** - Turf Equipment - Fresno - Don't be mistaken by the Michael on his business card, he's Mike. After working in customer service for 16 years, Mike credits the good people he's met and working outdoors as the reasons he loves this job so much. He's been working the Central Valley and foothills for Turf Star for almost a year.

**Mitch Frasier** - Turf Equipment - Napa - Mitch started working

Continued on page 6





## Final Thoughts . . .

By Bob Costa, CGCS

### No Place Like Home

As some of you may be aware, I had the fortune of taking an extended vacation during the month of July, 17 days to be exact, to travel to Israel with my wife and children. It was an experience I will not soon forget with one of the greatest rewards being, uninterrupted time with my family. Being so far from home, it was easy to forget the daily pressures associated with maintaining a golf course and once you let go, it feels pretty good. In spite of my short lived freedom from golf I did manage to locate and visit the only golf course in the country. Although the maintenance standards did not compare with most courses in America, I've seen worse. Remarkably, the golf professional, who was off the day we visited, was from none other than San Jose, California.

Once I had settled back in I was pleased to hear that the inaugural Assistant Superintendent tournament was a huge success and by all accounts will likely be inserted in to the annual meeting schedule. Like all of our events throughout the year, its success resulted from the collective efforts of many. First and foremost the trio of Steve Woodruff, Mike Sousa and Jason Green must be recognized, as should our host superintendent Don Paul and his staff. Likewise, I would like to personally thank our meeting sponsors, Anderson's Golf Products and Sierra Pacific Turf Supply for their support.

### Here's to Good Health

I was also pleased to hear that two of long time members Cliff



Wagoner, CGCS and Frank Barberio are enjoying improved health. Cliff underwent open-heart surgery in late June and is well on his way to recovery. Frank, who was involved in a serious ATV accident also in June, has made a miraculous recovery of which we are particularly thankful.

### So Far It's Been a Great Ride

I think most would agree, that of the four events GCSANC has sponsored this year, each has been a huge success. I would like to again acknowledge the efforts of Jeff Shafer and Roger Robarge who serve on the board as Program Cochairman. Roger and Jeff deserve a great deal of credit as do our each of our host superintendents. Speaking of success, how about that Scholarship event? In spite of a late night for those who hung around, it was truly an event to be remembered. The staff at Cordevalle could not have provided better service, and the course lived up to its advanced billing. Although we officially recognized Jim McPhilomy at

the meeting, congratulations are also in order to course superintendent Joel Erikson. And where would we be without the contributions of our affiliate sponsors, whose financial support is vital to the funding of future scholarships, research and education. Finally, thanks to Rex Gentry who truly made it all happen.

### Fall Preview

Although it may not rival the networks fall lineup, the remaining four events of 2001 offer a bit of everything. In our version of survivor, we offer a family day at the A's game on Saturday September 22nd, for those who have survived the summer season. On October 1st, our Sierra Nevada brethren will join us as Roddy Ranch hosts the Joint meeting. November 5th, and 6th marks the return of the Institute in Santa Rosa and in December, we return yet again to the Monterey Peninsula to celebrate the Holidays at Fort Ord's Bayonet/Blackhorse and the Bay Park Hotel.

## Office Notes

Barbara Mikel

The Bert Graves Memorial Scholarship Research Education Tournament is now history. It was a beautiful day with great attendance and excellent food. All in all it was a well-coordinated tournament. Rex Gentry, H.V. Carter Company Inc. and the Affiliate Committee consisting of Andy Slack, Spot Water Management, Gary Ingram, CGCS, LESCO, Bob Whittaker LESCO are to be congratulated on a great tournament. All were busy with sponsorship soliciting, dispensing shirts, selling raffle tickets, and distributing auction items so successfully auctioned by Jim Lipari of Speedy Enterprises. I certainly appreciated the help! Food and beverages were abundant and we didn't have to fight commute traffic on Highway 101! Final financial data is not available at time of writing, but it will be a very successful year for funding the scholarship program!

I hope everyone has received a membership directory by this time. If not, give the office a call and we'll mail one out to you. I had one member call wondering where some middle section pages went? If you have the same problem, please let me know. The printer is ready to replace those unsatisfactory ones! Each year the time and money on this directory seems to grow. I am somewhat frustrated (bet some of you are too!) with the inaccurate data. The process begins with you. I need current information to place in the directory. This year as late as March 30, I was requesting updated information from some members. I have a long list of members who never responded to requests for up-to-

Continued on page 9





## A Look Back At Stanford Golf Course and Mr. Ellis Van Gorder

By Gary K. Carls CGCS

As we continue to look back at the history of GCSANC, we need to take a look at some of our founding fathers and their roles in the evolution of our chapter. A critical time in the evolution of the chapter was in the time period surrounding World War II. Most chapter activities stopped during the war and it took some hard work by some dedicated members to get things rolling again after the war ended. One of members who help lead the chapter through that period was Mr. Ellis Van Gorder.

Ellis Van Gorder graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a degree in Agriculture. Following college Mr. Van Gorder was involved in construction at Castlewood C.C. from 1926-1929 with architect William Bell before moving on to supervise the construction of Stanford Golf Course with Bell in 1929. Throughout the years the Stanford G.C. has maintained a reputation as one of the finest University golf courses in the world. Mr. Van Gorder was a charter member of the chapter and during 1932, Stanford G.C. was the host of one of the first local meetings. He was also a member of the chapter's first board of directors in 1932. The first Public Relations effort of the chapter began when Mr. Van Gorder sent a letter to the San Francisco News in September

of 1932 about the superintendent and his role in the upkeep of golf courses. In 1935 he was elected to serve as chapter president the first time.

Mr. Van Gorder was in charge of the local Victory Garden at Stanford during World War II and was very proud to be involved in the war effort at home. After the end of World War II Mr. Van Gorder took an active role in getting the chapter back on its feet and returned to the board of directors in 1949. Eventually Mr. Van Gorder served as chapter president two more times in 1952 and 1961. He was also Vice President of the State Wide Federation Turf Council in 1956.

The family, with two daughters and a son, lived on the family farm and in the old house that is still used by the course superintendent today. They had cows and chickens and raised vegetables on the family farm. His son, Terry Van Gorder, who helped me in researching this article, worked in the golf course design and construction business for many years before moving on to a successful career in the theme park business at Magic Mountain and Knotts Berry Farm in southern California. Among other courses, Terry and his father worked together on Peacock Gap G.C. in Marin County in 1960 and did a presentation on the development of the course at a chapter

meeting in May of 1961.

Mr. Van Gorder enjoyed walking and it is reported that he walked the entire golf course twice a day during most of his years at Stanford. He truly loved the outdoors and his time away from the course was often spent with his family on fishing trips or backpacking excursions in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Despite his many activities he always knew the importance of spending quality time with his family and enjoyed his time away from the course.

During his tenure at Stanford he loved to do a lot of his own research on the golf course. He had a wide variety of test plots on the course related to anything new he wanted to try. This interest in research led to a long career in many areas of the golf world. Besides remaining as superintendent at Stanford until 1965, Mr. Van Gorder also became involved in golf course design and construction throughout the west and was involved with many courses in the area including Crystal Springs G.C. and several courses in Idaho. He also acted as an agronomic consultant to many of these facilities. He did several projects with Robert Trent Jones and William Bell over the years. Later he developed a great friendship with Bill Bengeyfield of the USGA and

was very involved in the formation of the Western Region Green Section. After leaving Stanford Mr. Van Gorder continued to do consulting work in golf course design and construction. He also started a landscape construction company. Eventually he retired to Guaymus, Mexico.

Despite his many years of service to his chapter and other professional pursuits, Mr. Van Gorder remained humble. He didn't seek the spotlight. He just wanted to help others become the best that they could be. He took a great deal of pride in being able to help out younger superintendents. Many of the problems he faced at Stanford are the same problems Ken Williams faces today. Despite all the new technology of the past 70 years, some things never seem to change. It just demonstrates how much our jobs are influenced by factors such as climate or nature, that we cannot control. Terry Van Gorder said his father would be very proud of the Stanford Golf Course today and the great job Ken and his staff do.

I hope this article has helped give us all some insight into one of our early chapter leaders. Let's all hope that as we look back on our careers that we can leave a legacy such as Mr. Ellis Van Gorder did at the Stanford Golf Course.

## Max Slack Tournament to be Held at San Juan Oaks GC October 29, 2001

Please join us on October 29th for the Max E. Slack Memorial Golf Tournament to be held at San Juan Oaks Golf Course. This one time only event is being held to raise money for an endowment fund for students in the Turf Science program at Purdue

University. This endowment will provide scholarships for future turf students who plan to work in the golf course maintenance field.

Details of the Max Slack Tournament are —  
7:30 am registration  
9:00 am shotgun start -

scramble format w/ 4 man teams.  
Cost - \$150/person includes golf, cart, range balls, BBQ lunch, all nonalcoholic drinks,

Prizes  
1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes for low gross teams, closest to pin & longest drive.

If you have questions, or would like information, please contact Andy Slack 408-288-8153, or email - [aslack@spotwater.com](mailto:aslack@spotwater.com).



## Turf Star to Sponsor Joint Meeting

for West Star in May of 1985 as the commercial sales rep for the Solano, Sonoma, Napa, and north counties. While he enjoyed his work in the Ag market, his love of the game of golf brought him to West Star. By focusing on customer service through the years, Mitch has been able to create many relationships that extend beyond work.

**Kevin Castle** - Turf Equipment - Newark - Kevin is the commercial sales rep for the San Francisco peninsula and east bay region. He originally started working for West Star in 1997 as our "El Nino" irrigation representative. After a brief time away from this industry, however, he realized how much he missed the relationships and enjoyment of this business. We are happy to welcome him back to the Bay Area golf scene.

**Marc Barrientos** - Turf Equipment - Salinas - Marc is a single guy from out of state - his reasons for coming in - the weather in California is incredible and the golf courses speak for themselves. Marc has been in the Turf business for 10 plus years. His background includes managing a lawn and garden store for two years, then selling fertilizer, seeds, and chemicals in Indiana for 3 years. Taking on the big city in Chicago, Marc was a turf rep for Jake, Ransome, Cushman, and Ryan.

**Michael Ginelli** - Irrigation Sales Manager - Martinez - Mike started working on golf courses while still in high school, learning how to water with a quick coupler system on moonless nights. While going to school at Cal Poly in SLO, he had a great summer job at Avila

Beach on the golf course. That led to full time work and part time school. After graduation, a short stint at Pleasant Hill GC was followed by a few years with Ewing Irrigation. Mike joined West Star in March of 1983 and still finds that golf irrigation is the most challenging and enjoyable aspect of golf operations.

**Kevin Eppich** - Irrigation Sales - Alamo - Kevin's experience on golf courses is also varied and lengthy. Prior to joining Turf Star, Kevin had worked as an assistant superintendent, aquatic specialist, and fertigation representative. He has been with Turf Star for 3 years and seen tremendous improvement in his golf game and his territory. Kevin's success in working with golf course superintendents earned him Toro's 2000 Irrigation Rookie of the Year award.

**Bob Sylvester** - Irrigation Sales - Sacramento - Bob has also been with Turf Star for close to three years. While now specializing in irrigation, Bob's first golf course work was as a subcontractor during construction on projects such as Silver Creek GC and Paradise Valley GC. Bob's territory takes him from the south end of the San Joaquin Valley to Reno north to the Oregon border.

With an experience level in the golf business that averages over 13 years per person, Turf Star provides our customers with sale representation based on hands-on experience. We bring an understanding of the opportunities you face every day to make your golf course better. So while our technology makes your job easier, our hope is that our people make it more enjoyable. /



*Hosts Jim McPhilomy and Joel Erickson with David Karp*



*GCSANC Members enjoy the evening at Cordevalle*

## Condolences To the Lavine Family

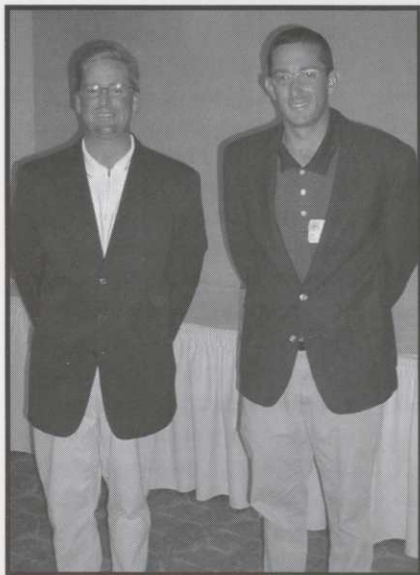
The young son of Rich Lavine, CGCS, of Peacock Gap GC tragically fell from a second story window recently. The accident happened in a house the Lavine's were vacationing at near Donner Lake. The boy suffered severe head injuries and is fighting for his life at a hospital in Reno. Rich and his wife have been staying at the Ronald McDonald house near the hospital. We are sending our prayers and wish the family the best during this time of crisis.

If you would like to send a card, the address of the Ronald McDonald house is 323 Main St. Reno, NV 89502. They may also be reached there by phone at (775) 982-4680.





Scholarship Tournament - Cordevalle Golf Club



2001 GCSANC Scholarship winners  
John Smurthwaite and David Karp.



Roberts & Robarge won the gross flight at Cordevalle.



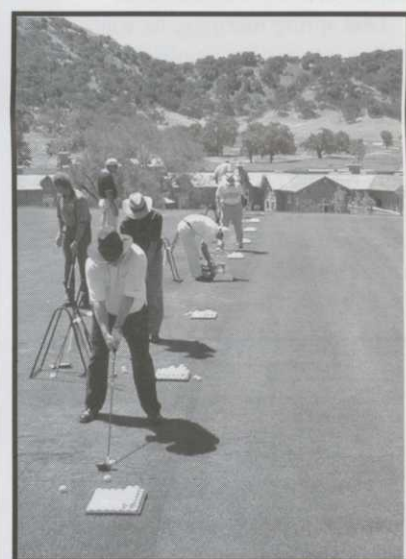
Jim Lipari won the net flight  
with Jess Pifferini (not shown).



Affiliate Reps Rex Gentry and Andy Slack



Brownlie draws for a winner



Warming up on the range



Speedy Lipari working the crowd at  
the auction



Members checking in at the sign in desk





## From An Old Friend of the GCSANC

Over twenty years ago, a fresh young sales representative for an irrigation and landscape distributor dreamed of the chance to call on golf course superintendents. Being new to the distribution industry, his boss initially made him responsible for calling on cities, contractors and park districts. Being an avid golfer, his natural interest led him to read about the trials, tribulations and successes of the golf course superintendent with their day-to-day challenges of keeping the grass healthy and green. The articles he read drew him closer to his desire to one day be a part of the golf course superintendent's association.

One spring morning, he was called into his boss's office to be informed that the company was expanding and the need for golf representative was needed. Not only had he been chosen to fill the position, but his boss also informed him that one of the key responsibilities was to join

the regional golf course superintendent's chapter and to attend each and every meeting. His dream had come true. About a month later, he attended his first meeting. Not knowing what to expect, he anticipated the group of superintendents that would be attending the meeting to be hard nosed, arrogant and egotistical professionals boasting of knowledge, pride and righteousness. As entering the room, he immediately found that his assumption was somewhat correct. The only difference was that the majority of the individuals in the room were not golf course superintendents, but other vendors just like him.

In all seriousness, his first meeting exceeded every expectation about what golf course superintendents and the people who service this trade are all about. Everyone whom he met that day, even his competitors, accepted his ignorance, curiosity, desire and willingness to be part of the local group. He was able to play a great golf course that

day and even was suckered into the skins game. He could not have been more impressed and enthused about the association he was now a part of.

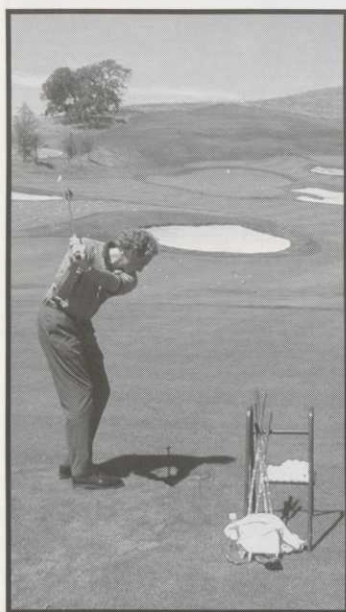
As the years went by and his duties and job responsibilities changed, he graciously had the opportunity to join other chapters in the state. He became more involved with various boards of directors and assisted whenever possible with different committees and events. He always looked forward to the next meeting followed by a round of golf with his fellow colleagues, competitors and most of all his friends.

One day, he decided to accept a position with another company. He was informed that his responsibilities did not include working with the superintendents association. At first, it appeared to be no big deal. Several months later while reading a chapter newsletter which featured a scholarship tournament, he realized how at

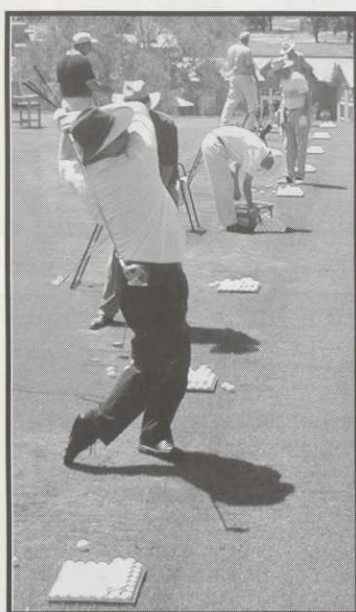
one time, he was extremely lucky to be part of such a wonderful family. He missed the camaraderie, laughs, teamwork, education and energy that each and every meeting he had attended in the past represented. Once again, he dreamed of being part of the golf course superintendent's association. This memo is not intended to be part of a membership drive or meeting attendance builder. It is to simply say thank you for accepting one another at your meetings and for the professional attitude and the desire to become better as individuals and as a group. You have proven to me that there is no better group of people in the green industry. One day I hope to be back and I will graciously give up my five-dollar skin money to you sharks I consider my friends.

Sincerely,

An anonymous friend /



Mike Hill working his wedge



Ross Brownlie's finish



Check in at Cordevalle





**Office Notes** (Cont'd)

date information. I will be suggesting revisions regarding the process to the Board of Directors. Your suggestions regarding YOUR DIRECTORY should be expressed! Please call me or call a board member.

Please inform the office of any changes in your information. The longer you wait the more likely your information will be inaccurate. The longer you wait the more likely you will miss the cutoff deadline. The longer you wait, the longer it will take to get other mailed information to you, i.e. newsletters, California Fairways, etc. This process reminds me of Russian dolls. A large doll begins the process and is actually a "container" for the others hidden within. Each opening reveals a smaller doll. Each doll is progressively smaller and rests inside the one before. You can't get to the final doll without following each step along the way.

Looking forward to rain!

Barb

**A's Family Day Planned for September**

Are you looking for an opportunity to relax with your family after a long summer in the trenches? Well the GCSANC September meeting might just be the ticket as we move off the golf course and into the Networks Associates Coliseum to watch two of baseball best, the Oakland A's and Seattle Mariners.

Here is your invitation to join your association members and their families, on Saturday, September 22nd at 1:05 pm and relax in the September sun.

With the assistance of Clay Wood,

The Head Groundskeeper at the Coliseum and a friend to many NorCal Superintendents and Affiliates, a block of tickets has been reserved on the first level and can be purchased through the GCSANC for \$12.00. Tickets will be available on game day at Will Call.

Please feel free to bring your family and join us, in what promises to be a day of camaraderie, family fun and great baseball - these guys are good.

**Seating is limited at this special price so don't delay! Contact the GCSANC office for more details.**



*Left: Mitch Frasier shows off his prize (a putter).*



*At left: Patrick O'fee with a new driver.*



*At right: Patrick O'fee won big at Cordevalle*





## Positions Available

### Assistant Superintendent

#### The Golf Club at Genoa Lakes

The Golf Club at Genoa Lakes is seeking a motivated individual to assist the Course Superintendent with the daily operations of maintaining a high-end public resort golf course. The Assistant will be required to apply fertilizers, pesticides, and coordinate several cultural practices. Individuals should possess an understanding of irrigation systems operations, equipment repair and maintenance and strong turfgrass applications.

This is a year round full time position, located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains just East of Lake Tahoe. Salary is commensurate with experience, along with a competitive benefit package. Please send or fax resumes to the following.

### Golf Course Superintendent

**Phil W. Brown**  
**Golf Club at Genoa Lakes**  
**P.O. Box 350**  
**Genoa, NV. 89411**  
**Fax (775) 782-5899**  
**www.genoalakes.com**

Rainbird pedestals grey in color (7)  
 Rainbird SBM 12 station timing clocks (17)  
 Rainbird sprinklers full circle 5100 (220)  
 Rainbird part circle sprinklers 4700 (60)  
**Call Bill Davis Sr. for price and availability @650-638-2279**

**For Sale**

## Positions Available

### The Roddy Ranch Golf Club Chemical Technician

The Roddy Ranch Golf Club is looking for an ambitious individual who possess a California Applicators Certificate or is willing to obtain the certification in the near future. The chemical technician will be under the supervision of the superintendent or the assistant superintendent in performing chemical applications on the golf course. This individual is responsible for reading, understanding and keeping current with MSDS and compiling preliminary reports of pesticide usage for the golf course superintendent.

Experience in chemical application, mechanically pressurized spray equipment, hand operated spray equipment, and certification is recommended however is not required. The position is an hourly wage of \$10-\$15 an hour including benefits. This can be a golden opportunity for an individual looking to further his/her career in the golf course industry.

Please Contact:

**Ryan Zuehlsdorf**  
**Golf Course Superintendent**  
**The Roddy Ranch Golf Club**  
**HI Tour Way**  
**Antioch, CA 94509**  
**(925) 706-2255**

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## Did You Know That...????

- In 1935 there were 85 golf courses in Northern California.
- In 1951 GCSAA dues were \$20 per year.
- In 1951 there were 4,900 golf courses in the United States.
- In 1952 the GCSANC BOD passed a motion to hold 4 senior member meetings per year. Due to poor attendance that number was changed to 3 later that year and by 1953 it was to be at the request of the members.