

# ThruTheGreen

The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Northern California

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**EDITOR**  
 Kenneth D. Williams, CGCS

**PUBLISHER**  
 Patricia Hill  
 Hill Design, Advertising Agency

**MEDIA**  
 Emmy Moore Minister  
 GCSANC, Public Relations Consulting

**ADVERTISING SUPPORT**  
 Barbara Mikel  
 GCSANC, Association Manager

# Board Room Briefs

By Vince Keats

## State Meeting

GCSANC will be hosting the CGSCA annual meeting this year. P.J. Spellman reported that the site selected for the Annual CGSCA meeting will be the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Headquarters hotel will be the Double Tree. The Monterey Beach Resort will also be available for accommodations.

Jim Irvine has contacted potential speakers for the educational sessions. The candidates are: Dave Wienecke, USGA, Mike McCulloch, NCGA, Frank Wong, UC Davis, Larry Stowell, PACE and Mark Mahady. A sub committee was formed to include Jim, Pat, P. J. and Greg. The committee will make a progress report at the next meeting.

## Spring Workshop

Jim Irvine formed the Workshop Educational Committee to include Ali Haravandi, Gary Ingram and Dave Kaplow from Pacific Coast Nursery. Bob Lopic requested Jim to add Terry Grasso and Emmy Moore Minister. Location for the workshop will be Metropolitan Golf Links on Monday April 28th.

## National

Pat Finlen will be the GCSANC representative at the National Conference. Pat wanted BOD input on voting at the Conference. The BOD made the following recommendations for Pat:

**Candidates for Director:**

Gary Carls, Ricky Heine

**Candidate for Secretary Treasurer:**

Tim O'Neal

**Dues increase:**

Vote yes

**By Laws Change:**

Vote in favor of Articles of Incorporation

## STRICTLY BUSINESS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Bob Lopic, CGCS**  
Orinda Country Club

I am deeply honored to serve this association. I thank you for this opportunity and am confident that I will not mess it up beyond repair. I've inherited a great group of Board members and I know they will keep me under control.

You are all aware of both the financial and service issues that our association has had to deal with in the past year. This year presents many of the same issues, but I want to thank you for providing one of the answers. Your overwhelming support of the modest dues increase, as shown by your vote at the Annual Meeting, is greatly appreciated.

While the economy is hard to forecast (and gloomy at best), the strength of this association is easy to realize. Our true power is in each and every one of our members. It is our passion and desire that helps all of us succeed as a group of dedicated and committed professionals.

Please reach out to a member who is not sharing in our association. Call someone, take him or her to a meeting and make sure that they feel the power of our group by introducing them to others. Given the choices of increasing fees, reducing services, or increasing our participatory base; increased participation is the best option. Be a part of the "outreach" program. You have the power.

At the time of this writing, our country is facing problems that in many ways make our challenges, as members of this association seem trite. Men and women from our communities are preparing to place themselves in harm's way so that we can go on with our daily life, as we know it. Doesn't that make growing grass seem as little less significant? Without taking a political stance, I feel safe in asking all of you to pray for their safe return. Travel in peace.

Bob

## Passing Of The Gavel!



Last year's President, Jeff Shaffer accepts his award for a job well done by this year's President Bob Lopic.



OFFICE NOTES

**Barb Mikel,**  
GCSANC Executive Secretary

This issue of "Thru the Green" represents a milestone. Published monthly since 1932, it is now bimonthly, expanding and enhancing the association. I really look forward to the new format.

The membership renewal process has been a challenge this year. Most of you have taken it in stride. That is a superintendent's best asset! Some members have returned the membership questionnaire with changes to Classifications. While we are happy you are upgrading and reclassifying, we need to have a formal signed application to make the change. You may have contacted GCSAA but you need to tell GCSANC too! Applications have been mailed to those members indicating a change. Please take a moment to fill it out and return to the office. NO MONEY is due for membership changes. If you would like those changes made before directory publishing (April), please fax them to the office ASAP. The deadline is March 10.

Hope all of you are planning to attend the May 2003 California Golf Course Superintendents Association Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament in Monterey. It has been along time since the meeting was held in the Northern part of the state so take advantage of this opportunity. A great education program and great golf course. And a great opportunity to meet "southern" superintendents & families.

Congratulations to all those players at Hilton Head Island. The golf results have California well represented, particularly the North Bay. Congratulations to Mike Clark, CGCS, Howard Fisher, CGCS and John Grant who must have enjoyed the course & the scenery! All the scores are posted in the GCSAA web site [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) "Atlanta 2003 Tournament Results". Some pretty "close encounters" were experienced by lots of NorCal golfers.

On a sad note, we all offer our sympathy to the families of Sam Singh, CGCS and James Donohue. Both longtime members who passed away this year.

Sam joined GCSANC in October of 1963. From Peachtree Golf & CC to Hawaii, Placerville, El Dorado County, Sacramento, Rohnert Park to Tilden Park.

James served as Director of Parks for the city of San Fernando from 1951 to 1957 and retired as Director of Recreation for the City of Salinas in 1984.

## NorCal Elects 2003 Board of Directors

The GCSANC held its Annual Meeting on January 13 at The Course at Wente Vineyards in Livermore. The new President for 2003 is Bob Lopic of Orinda CC, Vice-President is Pat Finlen, CGCS of The Olympic Club, and Secretary-Treasurer is Vince Keats of Napa Valley CC. The new GCSANC Directors are Mike Hill of Moffett Field GC and Terry Grasso of Sequoyah CC. The new Affiliate Representative is Greg Fernald of Target Specialty Products. In addition, a Bylaw change was passed increasing the Class A and B annual dues to \$125.

The Annual Meeting provided the GCSANC a forum to recognize its Past-Presidents, 25-year members, and those receiving GCSAA Certification in 2002. The 25-year members recognized at Wente were Frank Barberio, Robert Duhr, Rich Lavine, CGCS, Philip Laret, Gale Love, Roger Martinez, and Don Naumann. They were given a beautiful GCSANC 25-year pin. The Past Presidents were recognized and given an embroidered GCSANC Past-President pocket crest to adorn a blazer. Also recognized were Jessie Crenca, CGCS; Steve Fackler, CGCS; Bruce Olsen, CGCS; and Roger Robarge, CGCS; for their achievement in attaining GCSAA Certification in 2002.

The association also gave out its annual awards. Winning the George Santana Distinguished Service award was Jim Ross, retired from Santa Teresa GC. Superintendent of the Year went to Ken Williams, CGCS of Stanford University GC. Affiliate of the Year was given to Andy Slack of Spot Water Management. Turfgrass Excellence in the Private category was Lou Tonelli of Lake Merced Golf & CC and Brad Langley of San Juan Oaks Golf Club in the Public category. Congratulations!

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# GCSANC Announces Award Winners

By Emmy Moore Minister

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) is pleased to announce its 2003 award winners. These individuals were recently honored for their contributions and accomplishments at the GCSANC Annual Meeting held at The Course at Wente Vineyards in Livermore. Nearly 100 Association Members attended the awards ceremony.



Award recipients from Left to right: Lou Tonelli, Brad Langley, Andy Slack, Jim Ross and Ken Williams

The **Superintendent of the Year Award** was presented to **Ken Williams**, Superintendent at Stanford University Golf Course. A Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 1993, Williams' contributions include previous service on the GCSANC Board of Directors, as well as his continuous promotion of the profession and his peers throughout the industry and in local communities. Since 1999, Williams has served as editor of *Thru the Green*, the official monthly publication for the GCSANC. He has written numerous articles and profiles for the *California Fairways Magazine*. Supporting these efforts, Williams has also been the lead photographer for the chapter, attending nearly every event and seminar hosted by the GCSANC.

"This is the highest honor bestowed on a golf course superintendent and we are pleased to have Ken Williams as the recipient of this award," states GCSANC Awards Chairman Bob Costa. "His contributions to the Association and to the game of golf are admired by many of us in the profession." When Williams was asked about the honor, he responded, "I am thrilled, yet taken back to receive such a special award. There are so many qualified candidates within our chapter, and to have been the one chosen by my peers, is by far, the highest honor of all."

The **George Santana Distinguished Service Award** was given to GCSANC Member **Jim Ross** of Santa Teresa Golf for his long time commitment and service to the Association. Ross served as president of the GCSANC in 1973 and 1981. In 1982, he was the recipient of the prestigious Superintendent of the Year Award. Ross, whose tenure at Santa Teresa Golf Club spans twenty-two years, spent nineteen years as Golf Course Superintendent. Prior to that, Ross served fourteen years at the Villages Golf & Country Club and four years at La Rinconada Country Club. He began his career at Fort Washington Golf Course in Fresno, CA. Ross is known by his peers for his passion toward the business. He prides himself in setting high standards, and has helped instill the same positive qualities in others that have worked with him or for him, over the past four decades.

## Ken Williams Superintendent of the Year

*"I am thrilled, yet taken back to receive such a special award. There are so many qualified candidates within our chapter, and to have been the one chosen by my peers, is by far, the highest honor of all."*



## Lou Tonelli Turf Grass Excellence

*Tonelli's overall expertise is evidenced by the fact that he is a two-time winner of the GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award.*



## Brad Langley Turf Grass Excellence

*Langley has consistently maintained his course to the highest standard.*



## Jim Ross George Santana Distinguished Service Award

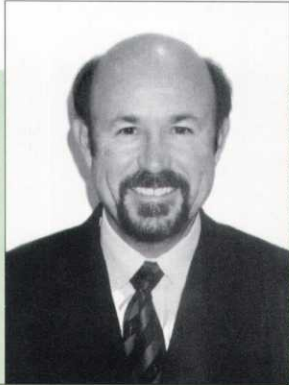
*Ross, whose tenure at Santa Teresa Golf Club spans twenty-two years, spent nineteen years as Golf Course Superintendent.*



## Andy Slack Affiliate Merit Award

*Slack received this award for his numerous contributions to the Association.*





**Don Naumann**  
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

**Roger Robarge**, CGCS is leaving the California Golf Club of San Francisco to become the Superintendent at the Valley Club of Montecito near Santa Barbara.....**Joel Ahern** has left San Jose Country Club. He is being replaced by former SJCC employee **Jason Green**. Jason was most recently at Los Altos Golf & CC.....

**Gary Skolnik** has left his position as Director of Golf Maintenance at Fountaingrove CC. **Andrew Trinkino** is remaining as the Superintendent.

**Mike Garvale**, CGCS at Palo Alto Hills CC is finally enjoying life in his new maintenance facility. The old shop has been destroyed and in its place lies a new state-of-the-art building.....**Nick Checklenis** has recently completed rebuilding the majority of the golf course, including irrigation at Silver Creek Valley CC in San Jose.

**Manny Sousa** of Poppy Hills GC suffered a major heart attack on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, just prior to the AT&T tournament. At last report he was going to be OK but was at home resting. *We wish him all the best including a speedy and full recovery.....*



### MIKE CLARK & KODI

GCSANC Member Mike Clark, at Oakmont Golf Club (Santa Rosa, CA) does not start his day at work without his companion "Kodi" close by.

Continued from Page 5

## GCSANC Announces Award Winners

By Emmy Moore Minister

The **GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award** was presented to two individuals exceptional in their field. In the Private category the Turfgrass Excellence Award was bestowed upon **Lou Tonelli** of Lake Merced Golf & Country Club. During Tonelli's 37-year tenure at his club, he has established a premier venue, one that adds to the positive golf experience of club members and their guests. Tonelli's overall expertise is evidenced by the fact that he is a two-time winner of the GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award. The first time was in 1991. Tonelli has utilized current technology to efficiently enhance the condition of his course. He has also developed a strong and loyal staff, and has served as a mentor to many in the profession.

Receiving the **Turfgrass Excellence Award** in the Public category, is **Brad Langley**, Golf Course Superintendent at San Juan Oaks Golf Club. According to the GCSANC Awards Committee, Langley has consistently maintained his course to the highest standard. He has instituted a successful Poa annua eradication program, while maintaining the facility in an environmental friendly manner. Prior to his eight-year tenure at San Juan Oaks GC, Langley was an Assistant Superintendent at the California Club. Langley enjoys giving back to the Association through serving as host superintendent for GCSANC tournaments.

The **GCSANC Affiliate Merit Award** was bestowed on **Andy Slack** of Spot Water Management. Slack is President of Spot Water Management, a company that provides service to central irrigation systems and specializes in water management and irrigation efficiency for golf courses. Slack received this award for his numerous contributions to the Association. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Association, has chaired the Scholarship & Research Tournament, served on the Superintendent's Institute Committee and chairs the GCSANC Sponsorship Committee.



## The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California Membership

### UPGRADES

|                        |                               |                                |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Chris Dubas</b>     | <i>Santa Teresa Golf Club</i> | Class B to A                   |
| <b>Robert Rafferty</b> | <i>The Olympic Club</i>       | B to A                         |
| <b>Donald Paul</b>     | <i>Los Lagos G.C.</i>         | C to B                         |
| <b>James Mannion</b>   | <i>Lincoln G.C.</i>           | A to A Retired                 |
| <b>Thomas Nowak</b>    | <i>City of Stockton</i>       | A to A Retired                 |
| <b>Frank Hicks</b>     | <i>Associates Tagline</i>     | Affiliate-to-Affiliate Retired |

### NEW MEMBERS

|                         |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Thomas Neadeau</b>   | <i>Northstar at Tahoe</i>           | A                  |
| <b>Matthew Schwartz</b> | <i>Peninsula Golf &amp; C.C.</i>    | NCGA Intern Assoc. |
| <b>Terry Brown</b>      | <i>Sportsturf Irrigation</i>        | Affiliate          |
| <b>Gary Luiz</b>        | <i>Bark &amp; Stone World, Inc.</i> | Affiliate          |

# USGA Green Section

SOUTHWEST REGION

## Dealing with the Economic Downturn

By David L. Wienecke, Agronomist

The golf industry is experiencing serious challenges due to recent economic factors. Since September 11, 2001 there has been a decline in tourist travel, which has caused a slump in golfing rounds at many southwest golf courses. The impact has been felt by most golf courses and is now affecting superintendent associations as well as university turfgrass education and research programs. Since research and education are vitally important to maintain the high standards expected at modern golf courses we must find ways to continue meeting the educational needs of golf course operations. Here are some ideas that are working in our region.

Superintendent associations indicate they are finding it more difficult to make ends meet due to the increasing costs they are charged to put on meetings and training seminars. One innovative method of dealing with this situation involves partnering with related industry groups. One proposal is for superintendent association chapters to coordinate events with the Club Manager's Association of America (CMAA) and the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and rotate monthly meetings between different clubs in a region so that a club hosts a meeting no more than once every five years. This reduces the financial impact experienced by any one club and allows the superintendent association to plan ahead for meeting locations.

Another innovative method to reduce expenses is to host joint meetings with other chapters or professional groups and share the cost of speakers as well as organizational responsibilities. We have seen very successful educational programs that also made money with this approach. Here are a few examples:

- The University of California at Riverside partnered with the Southern California Turf Council in putting on educational seminars that provided research results, professional recertification credits, and education for most aspects of the green industry.

- The Southwest Region of the USGA Green Section recently partnered with the Sierra Nevada Golf Course Superintendent's Association to offer an 8-hour training program involving GCSAA credits for those unable to travel to Atlanta, Georgia for this year's conference.
- The Cactus and Pine Superintendent's Association is planning a bermudagrass conference in March partnering with the USGA and the University of Arizona to be held in the Phoenix area.
- The University of California at Riverside formed an advisory board with representatives from each of the turf related organizations in Southern California. The group funds the salary of the turf research agronomist who in turn obtains grants to address the research agenda set by the advisory board. An outgrowth of this effort is the creation of the new UCR turfgrass research website, which is available to anyone at: <http://ucrturf.ucr.edu>. This site does a great job of reporting timely research results related to specific concerns of Southern Californian golf courses.

Regional Green Section Conferences - There are still a number of good turf conferences available before we begin our summer season. Look for one of the following in your area:

- March 17 USGA/NCGA Regional Conference**  
Castlewood CC, Pleasanton, CA
- March 25 Colorado Regional Conference**  
Lakewood CC, Lakewood, CO
- April 1 Nevada Regional Conference**  
Spanish Trail CC, Las Vegas, NV
- April 3 Arizona Regional Conference**  
Phoenix CC, Phoenix, AZ

If you have any questions about upcoming conferences, please contact the Southwest Region office at (714) 5422-5766.

*David Wienecke works in the Southwest Region of the USGA Green Section, providing agronomic expertise to golf courses in California, Arizona, and Nevada.*

## CGCSA Government Relations Network Update Status of the Triploid Grass Carp Program

By Jim Husting, CGCS; Chairman, CGCSA Government Relations

On Tuesday February 4, Tim Howe (representative from George Steffes' office) and myself met with Deputy Director Dirk Brazil and Chief of Inland Fisheries Edmund Pert of the Department of Fish and Game to discuss the California Triploid Grass Carp Program.

We followed many of the network members letters and e-mails concerning the grass carp program. At this meeting we were informed that the California Grass Carp Program was not going to be eliminated but only re-organized. The program administrator, located in San Diego, will be reassigned elsewhere and the administration of the program will shift to Sacramento. Each departmental region of the Fish and Game will now be in charge of implementing the program in their own districts/regions.

Although details of this arrangement have not been worked out, Mr. Edmund Pert will probably oversee the entire program and delegate regionally to the necessary individuals in each Fish and Game district.

The CGCSA expressed their concerns regarding this reorganization and the potential for individuals in the department in certain regions to improperly administer the Triploid Grass Carp Program. Mr. Pert acknowledged our concerns and promised to work with the CGCSA in whatever way possible to make the program better.

In essence, each property that now has the grass carp, through the program, will now deal with the regional officials of the Department of Fish & Game in their particular district. Once the CGCSA gathers more information, we will post the contacts on our web site. Once these contacts are established all new applications for grass carp will go to those respective regions for approval or denial respectively.

For all of those individuals in the Network that responded to this issue (and there were many,) thank you! This type of grass roots campaigning does work and you can and do make a difference. Stay tuned for more on this issue and other issues as they arise.



# Wente Vineyards

## Our Host Of The Annual Meeting & Golf Event



Arel Wente addresses the GCSANC members.



Gracious hostess Arel Wente welcomed members to her families scenic golf course nestled in the foothills of Livermore. Jason Green practicing his putting skills before the Shotgun Tournament.

### GOLF EVENT SCORE BOARD

Wente Vineyards  
January 13, 2003

#### Closest To The Pin

- #7 Mike Clark
- #14 Bruce Olsen

#### Long Drive

- #9 Mike Garvale

#### Putting Contest

Chris Manfrin

#### Low Net

- 1st John Flachman 65
- 2nd Mr. Feil 65
- 3rd Jeff Shafer 65
- 4th Terry Grasso 66
- 5th Mr. Colletta 66

#### Low Gross

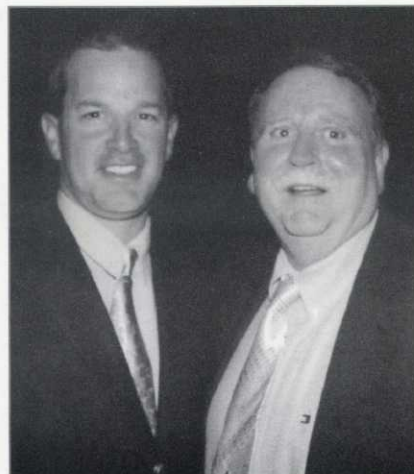
- 1st Ross Brownlie 72
- 2nd Jeff Shafer 74
- 3rd Mike Ligon 74
- 4th Chris Manfrin 75
- 5th Terry Grasso 77



A little break time bantering!



Our host, Jeff Shafer!  
WELL DONE JEFF!



Brad Langley and Bob Lopic dressed for success.



Vince Keats and Bruce Olsen at the GCSAA Sponsored Seminar in Pleasanton.

# GCSANC Annual Election Meeting

## Congratulations To All Our Award Recipients!



Bob Costa Presents Achievement Awards to: Jim Ross-George Santana, Lou Tonelli-Turf Grass Excellence, Brad Langley-Turf Grass Excellence, Don Naumann-25 Year Pin, Rich Lavine-25 Year Pin and Andy Slack-Affiliate Merit



Mike Hill with '02 Host Supt. P.J. Spellman, Tim Sedgely, Bill Davis, Lou, Tonelli, Dale Engman and Bob Costa

The association wishes to congratulate all of our Award Recipients for achieving a high standard of excellence in their categories.

Look and you will find it—what is unsought will go undetected.

— Sophocles



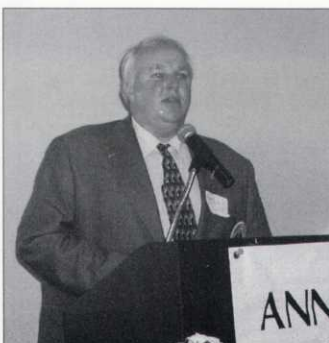
Bruce Olsen and Ken Williams



Past Presidents share a flashback moment.



Barb with Myrtle and Cliff



Gary Carls addresses members and encourages everyone to VOTE CARLS!



GCSANC Past Presidents were rounded up to share a brief moment in time....



## NCGA/USGA Green Section Regional Education Program

Monday, March 17, 2003

Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton, California

**Session Moderator:** Steve Fackler  
*President, Sierra Nevada GCSA*



**7:00** Registration

**8:00** Introductory Remarks

**8:05** Environmental Disaster at the Maintenance Facility – Are you Prepared?  
*Pat Gross, Southwest Director, USGA Green Section*

**8:30** Truth, Justice and the Defender of the Handicap System  
*Jim Cowan, Director of Course Rating and Handicapping, NCGA*

**9:00** Turf Tips from the USGA – Practical Ideas to Help Improve Your Course  
*Dave Wienecke, Southwest Region Agronomist, USGA Green Section*

**9:30** Tree Maintenance on Golf Courses  
*Barrie Coate, Consulting Arborist*

**10:00** Break

**10:15** News and Notes from the NCGA  
*Denny Davenport, Executive Director, NCGA*

**10:45** Turfgrass Disease Update  
*Dr. Frank Wong, Urban Plant Pathologist, UC Cooperative Extension*

**11:15** An Update on the Anguina Nematode Research Project  
*Dr. Becky Westerdahl, Extension Nematologist, UC Davis*

**11:45** Questions

**12:00** Lunch & Golf

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