

ThruTheGreen

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

CONTENTS

STRICTLY BUSINESS

- 3 President's Message
- 3 GCSANC Member's
- 4 Office Notes

ALLIED ASSOCIATIONS

- 5 Getting The Most From Your Course During Tough Economic Times
- 5 Aphis Expands Biotechnology
- 7 USGA Green Section Update
- 7 State Updates

MEMBERS ONLY

- 6 Naumann's NorCal News
- 6 Golf Championship Score Board

GALLERY

- 8 Event Photos
- 9 Event Photos

CALENDAR

- 10 Event Calendar
- 10 GCSAA Golf Championship

IN THE NEWS

- 12 The Scoop Media Relations

MARKETPLACE

- 11 Advertisement Marketplace
- 15 Advertisement Marketplace

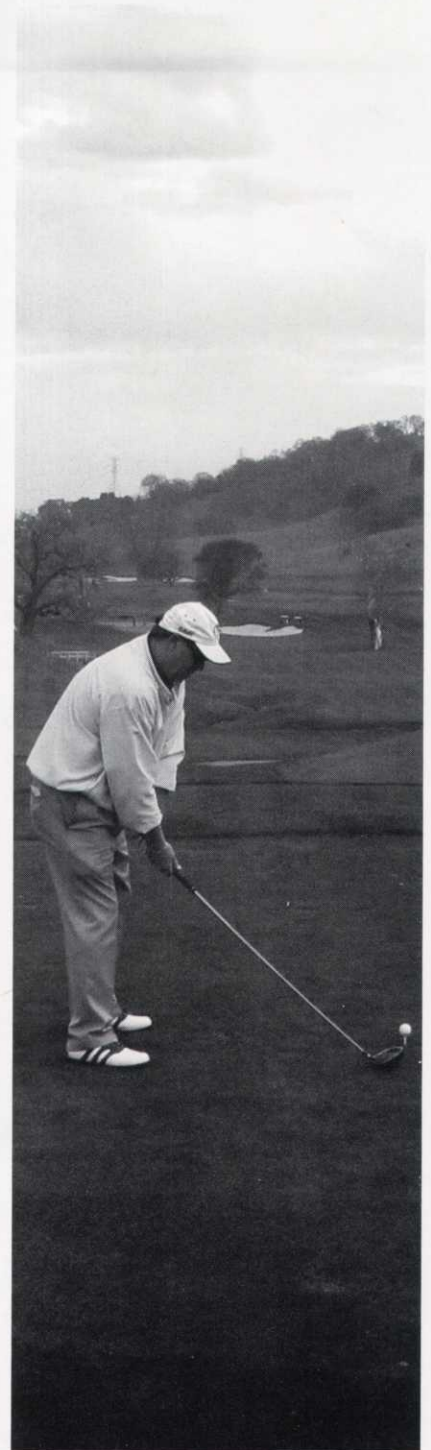


COVER

2004 President
Pat Finlen, CGCS

FEATURES

- 7 A Letter From
Senator Barbara Boxer
- 13 CourseCo, Inc Recieves
International Habitat
Conservation Award



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GCSANC
Member's

Take part in the Chapter Idea Fair in San Diego

GCSAA-affiliated chapters have the opportunity to submit entries in the Second Annual Chapter Idea Fair (<http://www.golfcourseshow.com/2004confer/ed/chapterideafair.asp>) This event debuted at the Conference and Show in Atlanta, and provides an opportunity for chapters to share their innovative ideas and showcase their best practices. Chapters are invited to submit poster, easel or storyboard displays. Categories will include: community involvement, education programs, environment, fund raising activities, government relations, media/public relations, membership programs, research and miscellaneous.

To request an entry form or more information about the Idea Fair, contact the GCSAA Service Center at (800) 472-7878, or enter online at http://www.golfcourseshow.com/2004confer/ed/ideafair_form.asp

GCSAA San Diego Conference and Show
CalPoly Alumni "GATHERING" at Dick's Last Resort

Calling all Cal Poly alumni. If you want to remain in contact with your fellow turfgrass associates contact:

Thomas Bastis tbastis@msn.com or **650.246.1869** to have yourself included in the alumni database.

[See Dick's Last Resort ad on Page 4]

President Bob Lopic Passes The Torch To Pat Finlen Jan. 2004



All of us at the GCSANC appreciate Bob Lopic as a mentor and leader in the turf industry. His leadership and keen sensibility have been of great benefit to the association during his short term as president.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Lopic, CGCS
Orinda Country Club

I take this opportunity to thank all of you. You've made my year as your President an honor and a pleasure.

I don't have enough space to tell you what Barbara Mikel means to this association. She helps in every facet of our organization and has been there for me at every turn. It has been a pleasure to work with someone with such integrity and professionalism.

Because P.J. Spellman, Andy Slack and Jim Irvine will not be on the Board next year, I want you all to know that these men worked tirelessly to produce great meetings throughout the year. They will definitely be missed, but the standards they set for us this year will continue to improve our association in the future.

Thank you Jeff Shafer, Pat Finlen, Vince Keats, Mike Hill, Terry Grasso and Greg Fernald for your guidance, patience, and commitment throughout the year. Our association is stronger by your efforts.

Emmy Moore-Minister, Tricia Hill, and Ken Williams are the people responsible for our much-improved Newsletter and image to the industry. We look good because of the light your talent shines on all of us. Thank you.

The long range planning and attention to environmental issues by Jim Husting, George Steffes, Gary Carls and Bob Costa is one of the most important works in progress that will keep our association, community and industry healthy. Thanks for doing the tough behind the scenes work.

Finally, to all those who hosted and sponsored an event this year, I will always appreciate what you have done.

I hope that you will all come to the Annual Meeting, January 26th at the Orinda CC to share in a celebration of the year past and participate in our future.

Strictly Business



OFFICE NOTES

Barb Mikel,
GCSANC Association Manager

January 2004

Happy New Year! Last year was an eventful one for me. My office was moved (*after 13 years in the previous location*) in November. The new office is in a newly refurbished complex, which affords more technically advanced features. I am looking forward in better communicating with members through e-mails and faxes.

Our new plans for meeting notices via fax and email are in the works. The GCSANC mailing address and telephone numbers remain the same.

Please note the California GCSA Web Site was moved to a new server in Nov. 2002. Some members have an old address for the CGCSA site saved in the Favorites/Bookmarks section of their web browsers. The old site is no longer being used or updated. Members are now requested to go to the new site at www.californiagcsa.org and update their browsers with the new link.

As always, the end of one year means a "changing of the guard" on the GCSANC board. Each board member brings his unique talents to your association. Retiring Presidents have made at least a 3-year commitment to the association. Some as many as five. You are fortunate to have the benefits of such committed members!

I would like to thank Andy Slack for his "above and beyond" call to duty. The affiliate board term is normally two years, but Andy did it for three. A more hardworking and easy fellow to work with is hard to find. Thanks, Andy! (*And also to Bish for her help and support!*)

Having re-used the old membership cards for a number of years, new ones are on the way. We will be utilizing your membership number in the upcoming months so keep those cards handy! If you have not renewed your membership, please take care of that immediately. I will be finalizing information for the directory shortly and would like current information.

Last year was a hard one economically for many courses. I hope that this year offers everyone an improved outlook!

The GCSANC Has Moved Offices This 2004

Physical Address: 681 Main Street, Suite 214, Placerville, CA 95667
Mailing Address: PO Box 3360, Diamond Springs, CA 95619
Toll Free: 877.942.7262 **Phone:** 530.626.0931 **Fax:** 530.626.5132



LOOKING FOR A DREAM JOB? JOB BOARD

GCSANC JOB BOARD can help!

Please e-mail your current e-mail address to gcsanc@e-easi.net indicating your wish to receive future job notices via e-mail; or fax your current fax number to **530-626-5132**, indicating that you wish to receive future job notices via fax.

2004 California Hospitality Suite



February 12th 2004 at
Dick's Last Resort in San Diego, CA
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

- LIVE BAND 8pm-10:30pm
- Appetizer Station
- Members Receive 3 Drink Tickets On Entry*

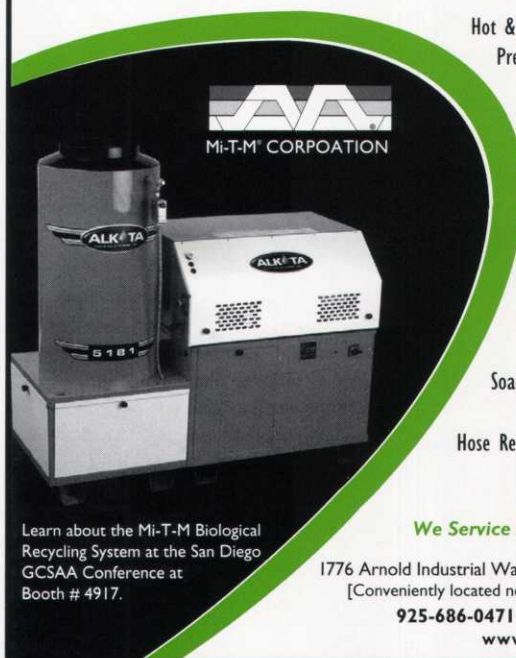
For more info. call, CGCSA Board of Director or Association Mgr.,
Robert J. Tillema, CGSA (866) 643-8707 or E-mail: rtillema@comcast.net

*READ: All Members must show GCSAA Conference & Show Badges or listed on a CGCSA Regional Chapter's Membership Roster to gain access to Hospitality Suite.



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Getting the most from your golf course during tough economic times

by David L. Wienecke

Southwest Region, USGA Green Section

December 2003

The California economy has negatively affected the golf business during the past year. Earlier, we heard of a Sacramento golf course that was sold and is to be converted into a housing development. This week, we learned of two more golf courses in Sacramento that were closed due to low play and declining revenues. Most courses in the southwest have reported a 5% to 15% decline in rounds and revenues during the past year. The real world consequences of the economic slump are felt throughout the region, and the effects on employees and families are especially difficult during the holiday season.

To deal with these tough economic times, superintendents and managers are looking for ways to trim the budget while continuing to meet the high expectations of golfers. The following list highlights a few ideas to help streamline operations while maintaining acceptable course quality:

Labor and water are usually the two biggest budget items in the southwest. Spend some time evaluating maintenance priorities to see if adjustments are

possible in the maintenance schedule. Creative scheduling can eliminate overtime while helping to maintain acceptable course quality. Also look for opportunities to reduce irrigation in out of play areas as a way to save additional money.

Focus maintenance procedures in primary playing areas, e.g. greens, fairways, and tees, with less emphasis on rough, bunkers and out of play areas.

Perform an audit of the irrigation system to insure that water is not wasted and that the system is running efficiently. Look for signs of nozzle wear, recurring leaks, and chronic problems with wet spots and dry areas. A useful exercise is to perform a catch can test to evaluate water distribution uniformity.

Assess the expertise of the staff and consider cross training employees to expand productivity.

Keep equipment in top condition at all times and take steps to train mechanics and employees on preventive maintenance techniques that can help reduce breakdowns and costly repairs.

Experiment with new mowing patters that improve labor efficiency and possibly reduce equipment wear. One golf course found that changing the mowing pattern on tees resulted in 25% less time for

mowing and a 40% savings in equipment repair for the replacement of bearings.

Evaluate high visual impact areas, such as the course entry and first tee area, to see if improvements can be made at little or no cost.

You should also plan to attend one of our USGA Regional Conferences during the coming months to gather additional ideas to streamline your maintenance operation. These conferences provide a great opportunity to meet with industry experts and colleagues in your region and share ideas on efficient maintenance practices. Here are the USGA Regional Meetings scheduled in the southwest:

March 15, 2004

Northern California Regional Conference

Castlewood Country Club
Pleasanton, California

March 24, 2004

Arizona Regional Conference

Phoenix Country Club
Phoenix, Arizona

We thank you for your continued support this past year, and extend our warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a brighter outlook for 2004.

APHIS expands biotechnology enforcement

This fall, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced plans to establish a unit of its Biotechnology Regulatory Services dedicated to compliance and enforcement.

The BRS is responsible for regulating the introduction of genetically engineered organisms such as plants, insects, microorganisms and any other organism that is known to be, or could be, a plant pest. Among them are a number of genetically engineered turfgrasses.

Not only is it charged with developing science-based protocols to ensure safe field testing, but also with developing measures to keep infractions from occurring in the first place. The agency is expanding its compliance and enforcement program in order to accomplish both of these goals and to protect American agriculture, the food supply, and the environment.

BRS determines the conditions under which genetically engineered organisms can be introduced into the United States. It allows for the importation, interstate movement and field release of these materials only after rigorous conditions and safeguards are put into place. Under the authority of the Plant Protection Act of 2000, failure to adhere to the regulations, permit conditions and requirements can result in serious penalties.

Given the growing scope and complexity of biotechnology, APHIS has recognized the need for more safeguards and greater transparency of the regulatory process. This need is echoed by the biotech industry, stakeholders and consumers.

Compliance specialists with the new unit will use set criteria to thoroughly evaluate all potential compliance infractions. They, as well as APHIS inspectors, will also perform targeted inspections of field tests. Depending on the

genetically engineered crop being tested, a site may be inspected by APHIS at least five times during a single growing season to ensure that the conditions set forth are carefully followed.

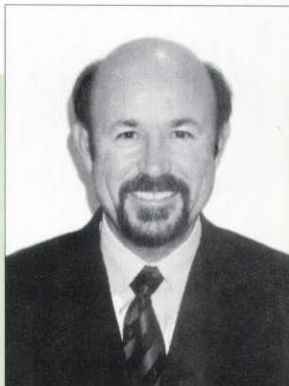
Of the 7,402 field tests APHIS regulated from 1990 to 2001, less than two percent resulted in compliance infractions.

Nonetheless, BRS continues working to strengthen our oversight and inspection of GE field tests. Compliance is, and will always be, the highest priority. In addition, as science progresses, BRS will develop any regulations necessary to meet the challenges posed by this new science while continuing to safeguard American agriculture, the food supply, and the environment.

For more, including a frequently asked questions list, visit:

www.aphis.usda.gov/brscompliance.html

Members Only



Don Naumann
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Frank Barberio, has officially retired as Superintendent from Mira Vista G & CC. He is retiring after working at the only place he has ever worked since coming to the United States. He started out 44 years ago working in the clubhouse and eventually worked his way outside and became superintendent 26 years ago. The club gave him a retirement party that filled the entire clubhouse with members, family, friends and business acquaintances. By the size and the heartfelt greetings, Frank will be missed...

Replacing Frank is **Steve Byrne**. Steve has been the Assistant Superintendent for the last three years under **Todd Lyjynen** at Diablo CC...

Ed Fierra has left San Ramon Royal Vista GC to be the Head Greens Supervisor at Las Positas GC in Livermore. He will be working with **Jeff Shafer**, who is the Director of Golf Operations.

Replacing Ed at San Ramon is **Bruce Moog**. Bruce has been the Assistant Superintendent under John Redmond at Almaden G & CC in San Jose...

Bob Yeo has accepted the Superintendent position at Spanish Bay Golf Links in Pebble Beach. Bob was the Superintendent at Del Monte Golf Course in Monterey.

Replacing him at Del Monte is **Thor Larsen**. Thor has been the Assistant under **Chris Dalhammer** at Spyglass Hill GC. All of those courses are owned and operated by the Pebble Beach Corp...

Ryan Zuesldorf has left The GC at Roddy Ranch and **Joel Brinkman** has left Belmont CC in Fresno. Both are going to Blackhawk CC to fill the two vacant Superintendent positions under Director of Grounds, **Mike Nunemacher**.

GOLF EVENT SCORE BOARD

Quail Lodge G.C. Holiday Golf Tournament

December 5, 2003

Special Thanks To...

Joe Manfrey & Toyota of Palo Alto for our "Hole-In-One" car...
Also, Thank You...Dave Graves & HV Carter for donating our Annual TV Give-A-Way!

SUPT FLIGHT:

1st Blake Swint **Net 59!**
2nd Andy Trinkino
3rd Gil Stiles

AFFILIATE FLIGHT:

1st Mike Parks
2nd Mark Barrientos
3rd Kevin Eppich

WINNERS

Blake Swint Wins Larry Lloyd Trophy
Gil Stiles Wins Ayrshire Friendship Trophy

Resolution List

- [1] *Improve Corporate Identity*
- [2] *Produce Creative Advertisements And Marketing Collateral To Generate Sales*
- [3] *Improve Gross Earnings By 50%*
- [4] *Call Hill Design For A Free Consultation And Let Them Create An Impactful Marketing Campaign That Fits My Budget!*

**GCSANC Members Receive 15% OFF
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*Offer good for GCSANC Members only. One coupon per client, per company please. Does not include time sensitive projects or photo shoots. Hill design reserves the right to deny services. Offer expires May 2004.



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Patricia Hill 
Creative Director

Tips from the USGA

Frost, Firewood, and Winter Putting Conditions

USGA Green Section
December 2003

Fall is upon us and while most northern courses are preparing to close down, southern courses are growing in their winter overseeding. In either case, everyone will soon be hearing those famous fall and winter comments of "What do you mean we can't tee off until 9:30 a.m.?" "Can't you just turn the sprinklers on and melt the frost?" "But the thermometer at the bank down the street said 36 degrees... that's not freezing?"

Yes, it's the frost season again. It is sad but true that many golfers do not understand the importance of greens being allowed to thaw before play begins and, even

worse, do not appreciate the long-term consequences caused by placing concentrated traffic on turf that is not actively growing. We often attempt to explain in technical terms how cell walls and tissue are destroyed by sharp ice crystals when the weight of a golfer or mower is placed on the frozen plant. We tell players how cooler soil temperatures limit plant growth, hindering recovery from

traffic damage and opening the door for Poa annua invasion, in even the warmest winter climates. Unfortunately, we often feel these explanations fall on deaf ears.

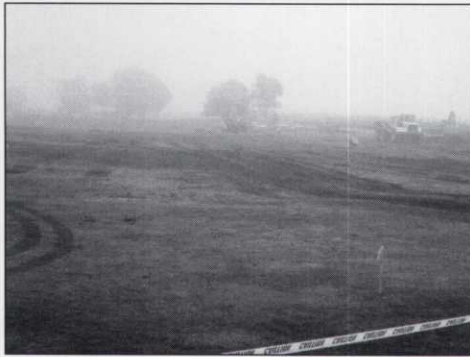
Knowing that turfgrass leaves are primarily composed of water, it should then be easy to understand that the entire

plant (*internally and externally*) can freeze rapidly when temperatures drop. Maybe an analogy that golfers could more easily understand would be to compare the leaf of a grass plant to a paper straw filled with water. A frosted leaf would be similar to freezing the water

in the straw, while a "thawed" version would contain melted water. If you were to take the two (*side by side*) and bend them, the frozen straw would break and damage the "tissue" (*the paper of the straw*), while unfrozen example would flex unharmed.

The frost season is a great time to encourage cutting some firewood to warm your greens.

Continued on **Page 12**



STATE UPDATE

California DPR Increases Pesticide Fees

The Dept. of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) issued an emergency rule, effective Jan. 1, 2004, to increase a variety of pesticide license registration and renewal fees as well as the mill assessment rate on the sale of registered pesticide products. A new state law requires DPR to become primarily a fee-based funded agency. Most funding of DPR programs will now come from pesticide registrations, professional licenses and the mill fee, rather than the state's General Fund. The law allows DPR to modify fees for professional licenses by regula-

tion rather than being set by statute. The new fees apply to licenses that will be in effect during calendar year 2004. DPR can now charge fees for various activities related to its licensing program including issuing separate fees for conducting exams, approving continuing education courses and issuing duplicate licensing cards. The law allows licensing and registration fees to be adjusted annually and fees must be set at levels to cover department program expenses. DPR will conduct public workshops in 2004 to look at fee restructuring for 2005.

A Letter From Senator Boxer, "Saving Our Oaks"

For a decade, the majestic oak trees of California have been under attack by a disease known as "Sudden Oak Death." For almost as long, I have been working in the U.S. Senate to provide funding so that we may better understand this disease, fight its spread and protect this wonderful symbol of California.

I am pleased to let you know that the United States Senate has approved a request I made earlier this year for a total of \$5.7 million for research to stop the spread of Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, which has killed countless oak trees in Northern California. The funding comes from both the Agriculture Appropriations bill and the Interior Appropriations bill.

Sudden Oak Death was first discovered in Marin County in 1994. It has since killed many trees in California and threatens to change the landscape of California. There has been some good news in recent months, as scientists have discovered a new treatment that may slow the spread of the disease. We need to continue to expand research in pursuit of knowledge that will enable us to slow the spread of this disease, and that will lead us to find ways to prevent it from killing this significant symbol of California.

If you have questions or ideas about saving California's oaks or any other federal matter, I encourage you to send your message to <http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/webform.cfm>.

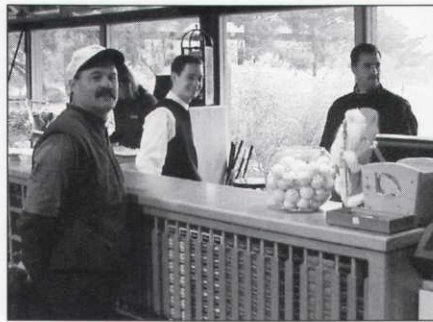
Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Gallery



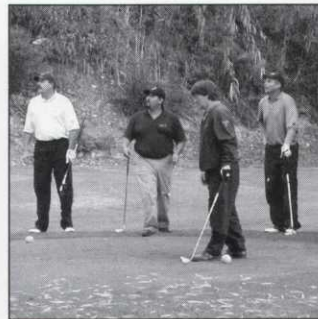
The GCSANC Holiday Golf Tournament proved to be a challenge for members not used to playing in the rain, but by mid-morning the rain clouds had parted. Thanks to our hosts at Quail Lodge for their hospitality.



Suiting up for a rainy start to the golf event!

PJ Spellman II with Pro Shop Staff

One of the many beautiful greens at Quail Lodge



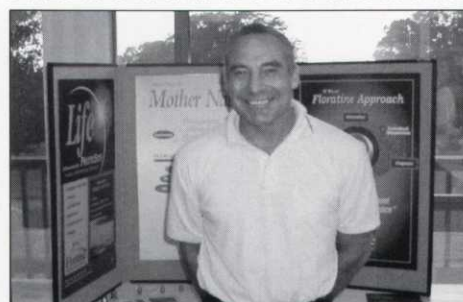
Ross Brownlie & Pres. Bob Lopic

The Ligon, Canedo, Jackson & Gentry foursome

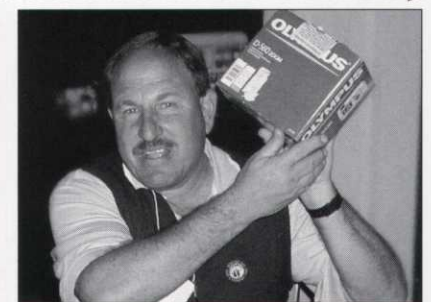
Blake, Don and Alan sharing a laugh



Dr. Bruce Clark, Rutgers Univ.

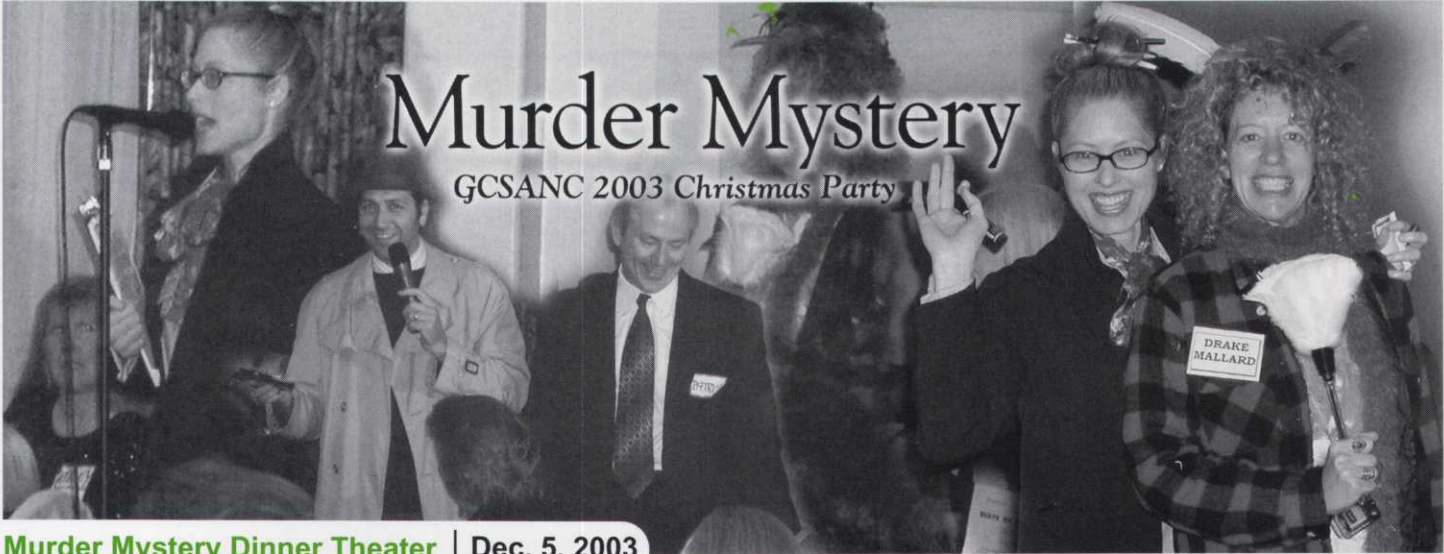


Brad Snavelly in front of Floratine display



Rich Lavine wins the digital camera

Superintendent's Inside



Murder Mystery Dinner Theater | Dec. 5, 2003

Murder was on the menu during the GCSANC's Holiday Christmas Party, a BIG thanks to all the talented actors that made the evening a night worth remembering for years to come.



Pat, Don & Gary hamming it up!



Pat, Don, Gary, Bob and the performers



A round of applause for Pat Finlen!



Mystery Theater actor rousting Pat



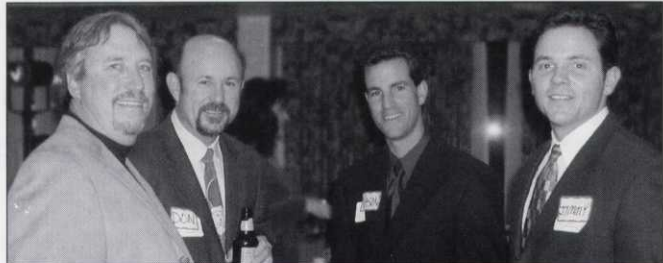
Mystery Theater actors perform "who done it" skit



Mystery Theater actors



Mike Leach chats with David Hayes



Gill Styles, Don Naumann, Jason Green & Jimmy Wheaton

Events



January 26

Annual Meeting
Orinda Country Club

February 9-14

GCSAA 2004 Conference & Show
San Diego Convention Center
San Diego, CA

March 15

USGA/NCGA Castlewood CC
Pleasanton, CA

April

2004 Superintendent
Workshop
TBA

May

State Superintendent Meeting
Los Angeles, CA

2004 GCSAA golf championship

Tournament Fact Sheets

February 9-10, 2004

Presented in Partnership with The Toro Company

9-10	The Auld Course	Chula Vista, CA
9-10	Barona Creek Golf Club	Lakeside, CA
9-10	Maderas Golf Club	Poway, CA
9-10	The Meadows Del Mar	San Diego, CA
9-10	Rancho Bernardo Inn	San Diego, CA
9-10	Steele Canyon Golf Club (Ranch/Meadows Course)	Jamul, CA



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