Mitch Tankersley
Assistant Superintendent,
San Jose Country Club

Employer: San Jose Country Club
Position: Assistant Superintendent
Years in the Golf Business: 3
Previous Employment: Siebel Systems
Education: Bachelors Degree – Univ. of Oregon
Associates Degree – Foothill College
GCSANC Work or Interests: Planning Committee
– Assistant's Tournament
Family: Wife Amy, Daughter Kate 1 ½ years old
Interests Outside of Golf: Travel
Favorite Vacation: Chartered Sail Boat in the Caribbean
Favorite Course to Play: Pumpkin Ridge, Oregon
Course You’d Like to Visit: Augusta National
Strangest Thing You’ve Witnessed On The Golf Course: A member falling in the lake
Worst Comment/Question From a Member: “Why are you painting the greens green,” following a Fore application.
What You’d Be Doing If You Weren’t Involved With Golf Maintenance: Playing golf
GETTING ORGANIZED WITH EASE

By Emmy Moore Minister

I am probably the last person who should be writing about getting your office organized...then again, maybe not. It's a task I perform yearly, and I've actually grown to enjoy it. My annual organizing date is always calendared mid-week between Christmas and New Year's. That's a time to let go of the old and welcome the new, and organizing my office fits right in.

Over the years I've picked up a few techniques that have helped me perform this oh-so-necessary function with less effort and more ease. Might I share?

- Pick the date to do the clean and stick to it. Do not let anything get in the way of performing this task. The last week of the year works best for me, but to each their own. You'll know when your bio-rhythms are best in sync for organizing your inside office.
- Mark the cleaning date boldly on your wall calendar. E-mail yourself an advance reminder, giving yourself a heads-up with a bit of lead time.
- Try to do the work alone. Do not invite anyone to participate in your cleaning ritual. There's nothing worse than someone else telling you what to keep and what to toss.
- The right supplies are critical when it comes to office clean-ups: plenty of oversized garbage bags, empty containers, some recycle bins, and file folders...not to mention hammer and nails to hang the framed art and certificates you currently have strewn on the floor. And if some of the material you're dealing with is sensitive, you might also want to have a shredding machine at hand.
- For those of us who despise filing, what's the alternative? Wire baskets that can sit on shelves within arm's reach. Toss your documents into the baskets; it beats filing. And the baskets take up less space than a filing cabinet. Later in the season when they fill up, simply label and box up the content; then move it to your storage area. If you don't need to refer to the documents again, you can toss them.
- Do not perform your office clean-up without music. It makes the tedious work of compartmentalizing data and docs a bit more bearable.
- Return to your high school days and buy a bulletin board. Even in these hi-tech times, we still need a place to hang things that need to remain in view. A basic cork bulletin board serves this purpose well. It's a natural spot for reminder notices, photos, memorabilia, and the unexpected thank you notes that periodically come your way.
- Dump your desk drawers one at a time and review the contents. Purge all you can. Toss out the old stuff, so you can make room for the new. Do not over-think while performing this task. Just do it.
- As for all the trade magazines scattered about, gather them up and place in one spot. Perform a 60-second glance-through of each issue. Tear out what catches your eye and place it in your "to read" basket. You'll be surprised how quickly a two-foot stack of publications can be reduced to two inches of must-read/wanna-read articles. You may also want to consider cutting back on traditional subscriptions and replacing them with online versions.
- If you really can't face the mess alone, it's o.k. There are professional office organizers who make a living helping others get their acts together. If this is your first attempt in years at office cleaning/organizing, and it seems a bit overwhelming, remember, you're not alone. That's why professional office organizers are able to earn a living. Hiring a professional to help you tailor-make an organizational system could be money well spent. From then on, you'll be able to do the work alone, and with much more ease.

(2005 Golf Course Superintendents Field Workshop at Callippe Preserve GC in Pleasanton are Course Designer Brian Costello (ASGCA) and Co-Owner of JMP Golf Design Group, Project Manager Flip Sheridan with Heinbuch Golf, Course Superintendent Dave Davies (CGCS) at Callippe Preserve Golf Course, Project Consultant Edward Ballman with Balance Hydrologics and Project Consultant Tom Fraser with WRA.)
KIDS, ENVIRONMENT MEET
AT LOS LAGOS GOLF COURSE

BY KELLI ANDERSON, COURSECO

SAN JOSE, CA – More than 140 Stonegate Elementary School fourth graders learned environmental lessons in their own backyard at the adjacent Los Lagos Golf Course on May 25, 2005.

Local environmental specialists and golf course personnel led students through a wildlife walk, explaining how the golf course was constructed and how it is being maintained in ways that protect and enhance wildlife and native plants.

Trudi Burney & Mika Snowbarger, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Kathy Lyons, M.A., Biotic Resources Group, Pat Gross, United States Golf Association, Ray Davies, CGCS, CourseCo, Inc, and Alan Andreasen, CGCS, Los Lagos, lent their individual expertise to the field trip.

Burney, Snowbarger, and Lyons pointed out interesting wildlife and native plants. They explained how Coyote Creek and the environmental conditions along this riparian corridor create special habitat that is rich in both plants and wildlife. Poison oak was one specimen that all were taught to avoid.

Davies and Gross, along with finding a discarded gopher snake skin with the kids, gave a short presentation on storm water run-off and the impacts that homeowner behavior can have on water quality. Don Paul, assistant superintendent, gave a brief view of how the golf course was built, capturing run-off water into the lakes, filtering sediment before entering Coyote Creek and creating buffer setback areas for the wildlife mitigation planting areas.

"We saw lots of animals on the nature walk," said Sherry Dees, fourth grade teacher. "We saw an egret, a camouflaged lizard . . . learned about eucalyptus leaves, what the hummingbird nest is made of . . . how to plant California live oak trees. We did not know these were in our neighborhood!"

The finale of the field trip was a hotdog lunch, prepared by John Zamora Jr., Food and Beverage Manager, and a putting contest hosted by Scot Hathaway, PGA General Manager, and Janet Davis, PGA Head Pro. Long Nguyen, Golf Operations Manager of nearby Rancho Del Pueblo GC, introduced The First Tee program that develops golf and life skills in youth.

"I hope the students took away the knowledge that golf and the environment can coexist and even create a beneficial synergism," said Andreasen. "I feel it was a great day and the students had a lot of fun. It exceeded my expectations."

Los Lagos has been recognized both nationally and locally for its environmental programs. "Alan Andreasen and Don Paul have an outstanding record of environmental accomplishments at Los Lagos," said Davies, who is CourseCo’s director of golf course maintenance and construction. "The preservation and enhancement of this unique riparian habitat in metropolitan San Jose is valuable work. The habitat supports about 10 different species of raptors, or birds of prey. The fact that this golf course is operated in a manner that contributes in many important ways to both protecting and enhancing the environment is an important message to share with students."

Assistant Superintendent Don Paul of Los Lagos GC provides insight to Stonegate Elementary School students on how golf courses are constructed and why they are environmentally beneficial to the surrounding community.

Principal with CourseCo, Inc., Ray Davies, CGCS, welcomes students to a wildlife walk on a regional trail that neighbors Los Lagos Golf Course. Davies also provided insightful information on storm water run-off and the impacts that homeowner habits can have on water quality.
Marketplace

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