

ThruTheGreen

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California



Mike McCraw,
Seascape Superintendent

COVER

Seascape Golf Course

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Mike McCraw

Macaulay oversees transformation of his "neighborhood" for WGC-American Express Championship

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John Pina
with the Winning Shot
for the GCSANC

ThruTheGreen
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The Pause That Refreshes

Fall has arrived and with it a time for us to catch our breath from a busy summer. While there is still plenty of work to do, fall offers us a time to refresh, recharge and relax. I hope you have the chance to rest and spend some time with family and friends. You deserve it.

Tune-up Your Skills

Fall also offers a great time for you to enhance your professional skills. There are several opportunities to do so in the coming months. The Superintendent's Institute at Aptos/Seascape, November 14th and 15th, is our premiere educational session. The Institute is a fun event. The education sessions are always first rate with great speakers and lively panel discussions. Enjoy the companionship and chance to share ideas with your peers. Take advantage of a full day of education and enjoy a round of golf the following day. Other chances for education include the GCSAA/GCSANC Regional Seminars in January and the Golf Industry Show in February. This February you may want to attend the Northern California Landscape and Turf Council Conference at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Featured speakers at the conference include Terry Grasso, CGCS and Dave Davies, CGCS.

Hurricane Relief

The wake of Hurricane Katrina left many in need. At our September meeting, the Board of Directors voted to donate \$1,000 to GCSAA's Environmental Institute of Golf through Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief. This money will go directly to "our affected members and facilities" in need. A major portion of this donation came from our quarterly check from the C.L. Bryant Fuel Rebate Program. The balance was made up from our general fund. Thank you to all who helped make this donation possible.

Take Me Out...

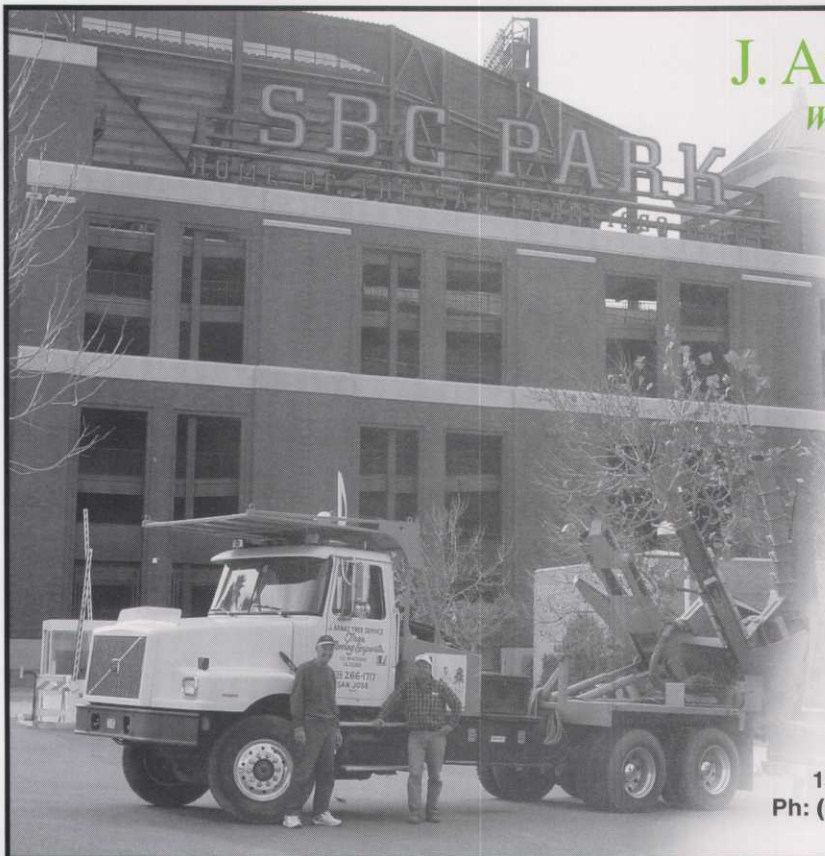
Crew Appreciation Day at the Oakland Coliseum was a great success. There were 114 present to enjoy spectacular sunshine, fabulous food and a grand game with the Oakland A's. Thank you to Clay Wood, Todd Lyjynen, Geoff Plovanich, and Gill Stiles for all your hard work.

Thank you to William Hamilton, CGCS and Silverado Country Club for hosting the annual GCSANC/SNGCSA joint meeting and John Pina for arranging the Sunday reception at Pina Cellars in Rutherford.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Vince Keats, CGCS
Napa Valley Country Club



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You may have seen our work without realizing it around the Bay Area, possibly at Great America or maybe at our State's Capitol in Sacramento and most recently near SBC Park, home of the San Francisco Giants.

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OFFICE NOTES

Barb Mikel,
GCSANC Association Manager

Congratulations to Harding Park Superintendent, Pat Macaulay and all involved in the VERY successful American Express Championship. The media coverage in the Sacramento/El Dorado region was just great. Broadcast coverage was unanimously positive on the renovation project leading to the current tournament course conditions.

Ever wonder where you would find the label and material safety data sheet on a product, or the latest on the H-2B visa program, or USERRA at 3:00 A.M.?

The GCSAA Web site <http://www.gcsaa.org> is always open for business. Visit the Resource Tab in Compliance and Super Tools for a wealth of concise practical information and governmental compliance. In About GCSAA, under The Governance Tab, you can get details regarding the financial health of your professional organization. The Key Strategic Meetings tab will tell you what your leadership is considering for the future of the organization. The Environmental Institute for Golf tab will lead you to "EDGE," an excellent source for best management practices and case studies on environmental topics. Browse by topics by areas, item types, titles, authors or locations, covering: Water Management, Integrated Plant Management, Wildlife Management, Golf Course Siting Design and Construction, and Energy Conservation and Waste Management. The GCSAA Web site is vast and there is something of interest for everybody!

The GCSAA recently provided Affiliate Chapter Managers a "web cast" tour of the GCSAA web site. We spent an hour touring the site and still left many resources unexplored! If you are interested in an online tour, drop me an e-mail. It's time well spent discovering the resources provided by your professional association membership.

GCSANC
Announces

Monte Carlo Holiday Party

December 2nd
5:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.

PORTOLA PLAZA HOTEL
TWO PORTOLA PLAZA
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SUPER PROFILE

Mike McCraw
Golf Course Superintendent
Seascape Golf Course

Employer: Seascape Golf Course

Position: Golf Course Superintendent

Years in the Golf Business: 31

Previous Employment: Superintendent at Santa Maria Country Club

Education: AS Ornamental Horticulture, Cal Poly SLO/Hancock College

GCSANC Work or Interests: Served on GCSACC Board of Directors for eight years

Family: Wife Maureen, son Gavin, daughter Shean-ueva

Interests Outside of Golf: Backpacking, fishing, Bonsai

Favorite Vacation: Baja Mexico, Ireland, New Zealand

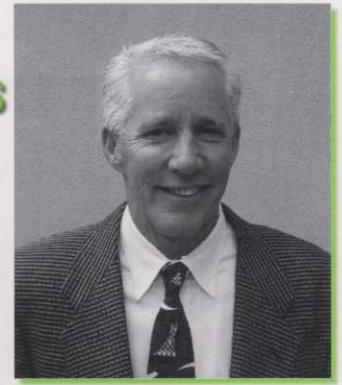
Favorite Course to Play: Pasatiempo Golf Club

Course You'd Like to Visit: Pine Valley

Strangest Thing You've Witnessed On The Golf Course: Saw Bob Dalton searching for a ball in the deep rough. He finds a toupee, puts it on his head, and proceeds to play the next three holes.....

What You'd Be Doing If You Weren't Involved With Golf: Adventurer

Macaulay oversees transformation of his "neighborhood" for WGC-American Express Championship



Pat Macaulay

Golf course superintendents by nature develop a unique relationship with the property they manage, but for Harding Park Golf Course superintendent Pat Macaulay, his is a labor of love.

A native San Franciscan, every day of Macaulay's education - from grade school to college - was consumed in the shadows of Harding Park. For the last two years, he and his staff have executed a plan to transform the newly-renovated public golf course from one that generates nearly 80,000 recreational rounds annually to one that will host a professional golf event. Macaulay will showcase his work, Oct. 6th through 9th at the World Golf Championships-American Express Championship.

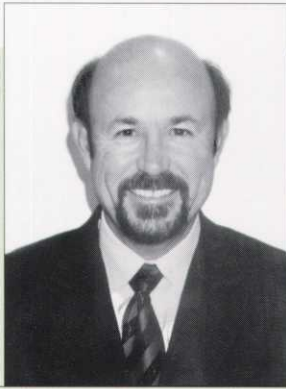
It is a daunting assignment, especially at a municipal facility with the administrative demands of interacting with supervisors, organizing a staff of individuals from five different labor unions and meeting the strict management codes of the city.

"It was not an easy task," says James G. Prusa, western regional agronomy manager of KemperSports, the group that manages the facility. "But Pat and his staff have instituted a sound agronomic program developed in concert with Jon Scott, vice president of agronomy for the PGA Tour. Pat and his staff of San Francisco municipal employees have raised the course conditioning to world class standards."

Scott gives Macaulay and his staff high marks for the conditions of the course, especially the greens which are only 2 1/2 years old. Scott indicates that they have been disease free and still remain a pure bentgrass surface (avoiding the infestation of *Poa annua* grass that is common to the region).

If the age of the course and traffic did not offer enough challenge for Macaulay, Mother Nature has tested his skills. The winter months were colder and wetter than normal, and a foggy summer has strayed into fall. The excessive moisture combined with the lack of sunlight could impact the firmness of the course, but at this point all parties believe the conditions are at the desired quality.

Members Only



NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Don Naumann
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply

Chester Manni has entered into retirement from his superintendent position at Bodega Harbour Golf Links. Replacing Chester is **Brian Morris, CGCS**..... Old Del Monte GC has a new superintendent. **Mike Phillips** has taken over the helm from the departing **Thor Larson**..... Three local superintendents have recently achieved certification. Congratulations to new CGCS's **Chris Dalhammer** of Pebble Beach GL, **Terry Grasso** of Sequoyah CC, and **Vince Keats**, of Napa Valley CC.....



Greg Fernald of Target Specialty at Stanford Golf Course



A recent water conference held in Southern California drew several industry leaders together for the day: (l to r) Mike Huck-Industry Consultant, Dan Dooley-Attorney, Bob Costa-GCSAA/GCSANC, Andy Slack-Industry Consultant/GCSANC, Mike McCullough-NCGA/GCSANC, Bruce Williams-GCSAA, Pat Gross-USGA, Ted Horton-CGCOA/GCSAA, Kevin Heaney-SCGA, and Tom Morgan, SCGA



Taking a quick moment out for a photo at the WGC American Express Championship at Harding Park Golf Course were (l to r) Dan Briesach, Jim Prusa, Pat Macaulay and Emmy Moore Minister

Celebrating its 25th Year Golf Course Superintendents Institute Set for Aptos Seascapes GC

Presented by GCSANC and UC Cooperative Extension

Tournament
Director
David
Witkowski
and
Mike
McGraw



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California is pleased to announce that the 2005 Golf Course Superintendent's Institute entitled Sustainability for Your Course and Career is set for November 14-15, 2005 at Aptos Seascapes Golf Course (Aptos, CA). Now celebrating its 25th year, The Institute continues to serve as an educational retreat for Northern California golf course superintendents, affiliate and allied members. This educational conference and trade show will host industry leaders speaking on topics pertinent to the operational and maintenance success of golf facilities.

The Institute is co-chaired by Ali Harivandi, Ph.D., an Environmental Horticulturist with the University of California Cooperative Extension and Brian Netz (CGCS) of the Presidio Golf Course. While Harivandi will serve as opening moderator, Netz will share knowledge about Sustainability in Practice at the Presidio. Other industry experts participating include Jim Snow, National Director with the USGA, whose presentation will focus on Trends in Sustainable Golf Course Management, and Frank Wong, Ph.D., of the University of California Riverside who will address Non-Synthetic Pesticides: Options for Disease Control. Covering the topic of compost tea are Joel Simmons, President of EarthWorks Natural Organic Products, Inc., Christa Conforti with the Presidio Trust of San Francisco and Jim Ferrin (CGCS) President of the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the GCSA.

A panel discussion targeted at developing successful partnerships in golf has attracted the following industry leaders serving as panelists: Bill Aragona with the National Golf Course Owners Association, Tom Schunn representing the Club Managers Association, Patrick Finlen (CGCS) with the California Golf Course Superintendents Association and Shim La Goy representing the Northern California PGA. The day will wrap up with an inspirational presentation on Bridging the Communication Gap conducted by PGA Member Anna McGrath, founder and CEO of McGrath Coaching and Consulting.

"We believe the attendees will draw plenty of practical knowledge from this 2-day institute," states GCSANC President Vince Keats (CGCS). "The quality of speakers and panelist participating in the program are superior, and are recognized leaders in golf."

The institute has the full planning support of the GCSANC education committee: Gary Carls (CGCS), Mat Dunmyer, Terry Grasso (CGCS), Dr. Ali Harivandi, Brian Netz (CGCS), Gill Stiles and Mike Vickers. Host Superintendent for the institute, trade show and golf tournament is Mike McCraw of Aptos Seascapes Golf Course. The Institute is sponsored by Arborwell Professional Tree Management. Arborwell is a company committed to providing flawless execution of arboricultural services that enhance the beauty, health and safety of trees (www.arborwell.com). For more info regarding the institute please call (877) 942-7262 or visit www.californiagcsa.org.

Partners Fore Golf

By Cathy Glenn

When Golf Course Superintendent Greg Jetter (CGCS), and his brother PGA Professional Dana Jetter, took over operations of the Pleasanton Golf Center a year ago, they were immediately intrigued by the opportunities offered by the unique venue found there. With a nine-hole course and practice facility all within a driver's distance of each other, the Jettters recognized the site's potential. They could serve as host to a range of programs that could do far more than simply improve a player's game; they saw a chance to enhance lives.

"This facility is a perfect set up for those entering the game of golf from a variety of levels," explained Greg. In addition to the obvious need for quality junior programs, we have offered our facility to the Special Olympics golf program and the American Heart Association's 'Saving Strokes' program. The more possibilities we explored, the more need and interest we found."

Greg and Dana soon found they shared a common goal with a group of Pleasanton business leaders and golf enthusiasts. Dedicated to the idea that golf can serve as a vehicle for instilling life values in young players, the founders of the not-for-profit organization Partners Fore Golf discovered a tremendous opportunity waiting at the Jetter's facility. "The Jettters have spent their lives in and around the world of golf," explained Tim Angst, Board President of Partners Fore Golf. "They understand what the game can bring to the lives of those fortunate enough to be exposed to it. Their goals mesh perfectly with ours, bringing benefits to the youth of the Tri-Valley and beyond." Through the joint efforts of the two enthusiastic forces, the Pleasanton Golf Center was named a chapter of The First Tee Program in late August.

Partners Fore Golf and Jetter Golf recently celebrated the official kick-off of the First Tee of the Tri-Valley with a full field of supporters playing tournament golf at Castlewood Country Club. The inaugural fundraising event was a success, raising over \$50,000 to support the First Tee of the Tri-Valley and other programs including 'Saving Strokes', Special Olympic golf programs and local high school and middle school golf teams.

Greg expressed his thanks to all those whose efforts contributed to the outstanding results. "Without sponsors like Fremont Bank and Hap's Restaurant, without the many volunteers who gave their time and energy, without the vision of those who founded Partners Fore Golf, our opportunities to educate people about the benefits of golf would be very limited. We are looking forward to a long future of joint efforts as we share this game we love and all it has to offer."

GCSANC Director Chris Mains, who also serves as a GCSANC board liaison to The First Tee, commends the dedicated efforts of the Jetter's through Partners Fore Golf. "Greg and Dana have wrapped their arms around this worthy program to help develop the game of golf for the next generation," stated Mains. "What they're doing is not just about the game, it's much bigger than that. It's about helping to develop responsible community youth and instilling within them, valuable life skills that will last a lifetime."

OAKLAND A's BASEBALL GAME AND BAR-B-QUE



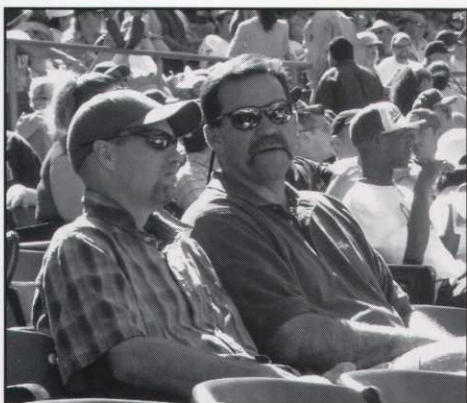
A great BBQ lunch for the guys



Geoff Plovanich and Todd Lyjynen prepared the food



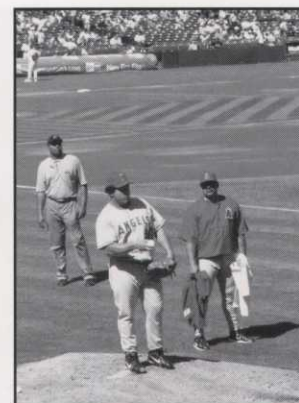
"The Animal" alongside Clay Wood



Rick Visser and Don Paul



Some of the guys from Stanford GC



The Angels' Bartolo Colon was tough on the A's that day



The Crews enjoyed coming out to the game



The Gang from Las Positas GC



The Guys from Petaluma G CC

GCSANC & SIERRA NEVADA JOINT MEETING



Al Wolf and Bonnie Cromwell did the Presentation.



Barb Mikel and Man-Yin Tang at Pina Cellars



Brian Gaunce gets a taste right out of the barrel



John and Davie Pina showed off their wine



Playoff Participants Pete Bowman, Colby Gunsch, John Pina and Chris Dubas



Rattlesnake Loose



Tournament Chairman Jason Green



Jim Ferrin and Gary Rogers with a creature



John Jorgensen, John Holmquist, Gary Rogers and Sean Battistini

Events

November 13-14

Superintendents Institute
Aptos Seascape

December 2

GCSANC Holiday Party
Portola Plaza Hotel
Coyote Creek Golf Course

2006

January 9-10

GCSAA/GCSANC
Regional Seminars

January 23

GCSANC Annual Meeting
Napa Valley Country Club

February 6-11

Golf Industry Show, Atlanta Georgia

March 20

USGA/NCGACastlewood Country Club

2006 California Hospitality Suite

Barley's Billiards

BARLEY'S

Sports Bar & Lounge

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6:30 – 9:30 P.M.

Located at

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