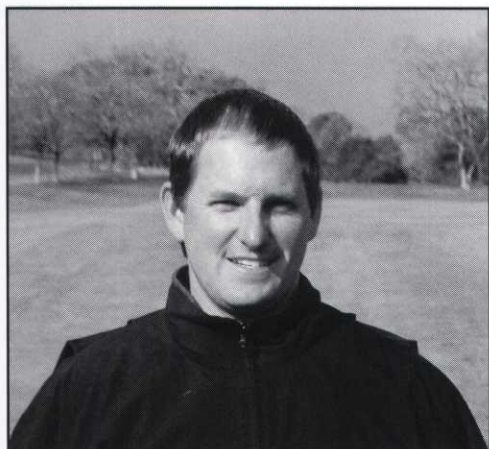


ThruTheGreen

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California



Mathew Dunmyer
Superintendent, Sonoma Golf Club
Turfgrass Excellence Award Recipient



Sonoma Golf Club

COVER

Sonoma Golf Club

FEATURES

5 Host Profile
Mathew Dunmyer

11 GCSAA's Strategic
Plan 2006

CONTENTS

STRICTLY BUSINESS

3 President's Message

4 Office Notes

GALLERY

8 Photo Gallery

CALENDAR

10 Events Calendar

MARKETPLACE

14 Advertisement
Marketplace

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As we get into the golf season, we all will be busy at our courses and soon forget about all the rain we've encountered. The good thing about the rain is that we should have time to participate in an important new survey. The "GCSAA Golf Course Environmental Profile" has been sent to members in an effort to collect some factual data. This will allow the GCSAA to respond to the EPA and conservation groups about real practices on golf courses and help to combat any media misperceptions about the golf industry. Please take the time to fill out this important survey. If you have not received this survey it is available at <http://survey.ngf/r26002/facilitysearch.asp>.

The Board of Directors has been hard at work on several fronts. First and foremost we are committed to improving opportunities for our members. We will be trying a new concept this year providing roving educational seminars in an effort to reach more members. Don't forget, that in order to get credit for your participation and education, you must go to the GCSAA website and fill out your "Education Affidavit".

We are working to finalize our "Compensation Survey" and hope to have this out to the membership this June. This looks to be an exciting year for GCSANC. We have a great Board of Directors that is working diligently to increase the value of membership in our association. If you would like to volunteer some time to a committee, please contact any Board member. We are always looking for new ideas and energy. If we can be of help to you and your facility, please give us a call.

Keep a good thought; the sun will be out soon!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Gill Stiles
Santa Rosa Golf & CC



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OFFICE NOTES

Barb Mikel,
GCSANC Association Manager

What started a few years back from a basic idea has grown dramatically. The simple tool to repair ball marks has made a mighty contribution to GCSANC. Bob Costa, CGCS approached the Board with idea of distributing the Ball Mark Repair Poster and tools to our superintendent members for posting in their clubhouses and pro shops to help cure one of the largest problems identified by superintendents in a survey conducted by GCSAA. We did the poster printing and purchased ball mark repair tools and cards showing the correct way to repair a ball mark. Those first distributions to the superintendents have opened a new world of good to the game of golf, the industry and fellow industry professionals.

The next progression was to present the tool at a public event. Emmy Moore Minister arranged a GCSANC presence at the Senior PGA event at Silverado Country Club and then at Sonoma Golf Club. Then President Bob Lopic, Board members and fellow superintendents “manned the booth” to distribute the repair tools and repair instructions to the general public. First Tee programs in the Sacramento area along with Growth of the Game and various allied associations were included in the distribution of samples. The Charles Schwab was next.

Play Golf America, The Charles Schwab Cup, and Welcome to Golf Day are some of the events now showcasing the presence of the GCSANC. It is these and the cooperative efforts of various golf organizations, NCPGA, USGA, NCGA to grow the game, to make for better playing conditions and educate the golfing public. We’ve filled some big shoes for a program with such a small beginning. Thanks to all the dedicated board members, volunteer superintendents and the cooperative efforts of all.

On another note, many thanks to GCSAA for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the spring GCSAA Board of Directors meeting with GCSAA Executive staff. GCSANC, SNGCSA, CGCSA and the CGCSA Officers and Directors and Chapter Managers of were invited to participate. There was a great exchange of ideas and a discussion of the many challenges ahead for the golf community. Northern California Allied Associations, CMA, NCPGA, NCGOA and the NCGA all had representatives for the event.

Creation of *Super Journal* by PACE Turfgrass Research Institute Is Boon to Data-Savvy Superintendents, Turf Industry

Many industries have them—journals of technical data. There’s the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Art & Architecture Journal* and even *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*. Today unpublished technical data generated by golf course superintendents, turf managers and researchers, interns and others now have a home in *Super Journal*, an online turf research journal published by the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute and accessible free-of-charge at www.paceturf.org.

Turf managers conduct virtually thousands of replicated experiments each year to evaluate products and practices. Until the creation of *Super Journal*, the technical data generated by superintendents and managers have been untapped by the turf community. PACE Co-research Director Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D. said, “This is a tragedy as far as we’re concerned. How many mistakes could be avoided if turf managers could share their experiences with problematic turf management strategies? Research conducted outside of university protocols may be less stringent, but it is no less important because the research seeks to solve the actual problems the managers are experiencing.”

Super Journal’s submission requirements are not as rigorous as an academic journal’s, but Dr. Gelernter said PACE does require that the basic principles of experimental design, data recording and data summary be followed. For turf managers who are new to research protocols and writing data reports, a research guide has been provided at the www.paceturf.org website.

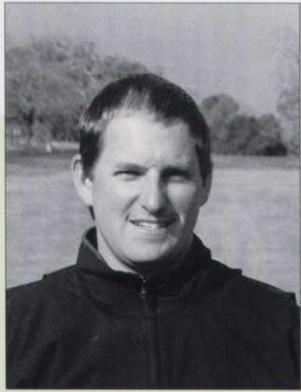
To introduce *Super Journal*, Dr. Gelernter said PACE has “primed the pump” with reports by researchers, including a just-posted article by Mary W. Olsen, Ph.D. and Michele J. Kohout, Ph.D., both University of Arizona plant pathologists. Drs. Olsen and Kohout discovered that bermudagrass is a reservoir for the inoculum of the cool-season turfgrass disease, rapid blight. Visitors to *Super Journal* will find this article, as well as others ranging from insect management to reclaimed water management to how to conduct your own research project to how to photograph turf diseases. Over time, superintendent and turf management reports will be added as they are submitted.

Super Journal, Dr. Gelernter summarized, seeks to provide a venue for:

- Superintendents to publish the results of their turf research projects and to share their conclusions with fellow turf managers
- Turf researchers to rapidly publish and disseminate their experimental results
- Superintendents who want assistance in designing, carrying out, interpreting and/or summarizing turf research experiments

The PACE Turfgrass Research Institute (PACE) is a membership organization that provides research, education and information services to the turf management community. Founded in 1993 by its research directors Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D. and Larry Stowell, Ph.D., the PACE mission is to generate and share independent and objective agronomic information among turf professionals so they may develop management programs that are effective, practical and scientifically sound. www.paceturf.org.

For media contact Felicia Gillham, Gillham & Associates, 619-482-8820 or fgillham@cox.net.



SUPER PROFILE

Mathew Dunmyer
Golf Course Superintendent

Employer: Sonoma Golf Club

Position: Golf Course Superintendent

Years in the Golf Business: 13

Previous Employment: Moraga Country Club

Education: Lake City Community College, Lake City, Florida

GCSANC Work or Interests: Educational Institute Committee

Other Organizations: GCSAA

Family: Wife, Heather; Daughter, Bella-10 Months Old

Interests Outside of Golf: Flying and Building Giant Scale Radio Controlled Airplanes

Favorite Vacation: Thailand

Favorite Course to Play: Pacific Dunes

Course You'd Like to Visit: National Golf Links of America

Strangest Thing You've Witnessed On The Golf Course: Deer Mating on a Green

Worst Comment/Question From a Member: Why do we have to fix ball marks? Isn't that why you guys are working here?

What You'd Be Doing If You Weren't Involved With Golf: Designing and Building Full-Scale Airplanes



SONOMA GOLF CLUB



ASGCA ELECTS GREG MUIRHEAD AND BOARD

Greg Muirhead was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at the organization's recent annual meeting in Pinehurst, N.C.

Muirhead, who has served as an ASGCA officer for the past three years, will also chair the ASGCA Executive Committee. Other members of the Executive Committee include Steve Forrest, Toledo, Ohio, vice president; Bruce Charlton, Palo Alto, CA, treasurer; Doug Carrick, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada, secretary; and Tom Marzolf, Hendersonville, N.C., immediate past president.

Joining members of the Executive Committee on the ASGCA Board of Governors are Cary Bickler, San Diego, CA; David Whelchel, Columbus, OH; Mike Benkusky, Crystal Lake, IL; Les Furber, Canmore, Alberta, Canada; Steve Smyers, Lakeland, FL; Garrett Gill, River Falls, WI; Vicki Martz, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and Robin Nelson, Mill Valley, CA.

RECOGNITION

- Harding Park's Pat MacCauley was a finalist for Golfweek's Superintendent of the Year.
- CourseCo's Tim Powers, CGCS has achieved the prestigious GCSAA Environmental Management Specialist Certificate.
- Nick Checklenis (Silver Creek Valley CC) and Scott Lewis, CGCS (Menlo CC) placed 4th in the gross division of the Super NEWS Team Championship in Atlanta.
- Dave Davies, CGCS (Stonebrae CC) was awarded the Innovative Superintendent Award from GCSAA in Atlanta.

GCSAA Launches Golf Course Environmental Profile Survey

The GCSAA Golf Course Environmental Profile has been launched and is being distributed to all superintendents, both GCSAA members and non-members. The Golf Course Environmental Profile project is an effort to determine the environmental attributes and environmental performance of golf courses. The information will be used to document and publicize the positive environmental practices implemented by superintendents and measure environmental improvements over time.

The survey is available electronically at: <http://survey.ngf.org/r26002/facilitysearch.asp> or a paper copy can be sent to you by contacting jwoods@ngf.org.

We would like your assistance in completing the survey and encouraging your fellow superintendents to submit a completed survey. Please announce this information at your next chapter meeting and include the information in your next newsletter.

More information on the project is available at: <http://www.eifg.org/programs/baselinesurvey.asp>.

Completing a survey is an opportunity for you to advance your profession by providing information that will allow GCSAA to develop an accurate, fair portrayal of the environmental status of golf courses. GCSAA will award 0.25 service points for each completed environmental profile survey, with a maximum of 1.0 service points per renewal cycle. In addition, all respondents submitting a completed survey will automatically be entered in a drawing for a trip to the 2007 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Anaheim or a golf course consultation from an USGA regional agronomist.

If you have any questions, please contact cthrossell@gcsaa.org or 800-472-7878 ext. 4429.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT GOLF COURSES

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

1. A properly repaired ball mark heals completely in 2-3 days, while an unrepaired ball mark takes 15-20 days to heal properly.
2. A typical 18-hole golf course covers approximately 125 - 150 acres of land. The total landmass of golf courses in the United States equals about 1/2 the state of Connecticut.
3. A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.
4. Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.
5. Who is the most important person at a golf facility? According to a 1997 survey of 500 Golf Digest subscribers, the golf course superintendent was listed the most (48 percent). Other responses included the course/club professional 25 percent, club/course manager 14 percent, beverage cart or halfway house person 11 percent.
6. Golf courses have a cooling effect during the hot summer months. The average temperature on the golf course is typically 5- 7 degrees cooler than a residential area and 7 - 15 degrees cooler than an urban downtown setting.
7. Golf courses delay play on frost-covered turf (especially greens) because stepping on frost-covered grass causes the frozen leaf cells to rupture. The turf will turn brown and eventually die.
8. Why do golf course superintendents aerate turf? Because it reduces compaction on a golf course by removing soil cores from the ground, allowing the movement of water, air and nutrients to the turf roots. Highly traveled areas plus poor soil composition creates compacted surfaces.
9. How much has technology and research improved speed and quality of a putting green? In the early 1960s, professional tour event superintendents cut putting green turf heights at about 1/4 inch. Today, the height of putting green turf for professional tournament competition is 1/8 inch or less.
10. How do trees affect the quality of a putting surface? All things being equal, a putting green with air circulating around it will be in better shape than a green with little or no air circulation. Trees tend to reduce circulation, thereby having a negative effect on putting green quality. Older, more mature trees adjacent to putting greens will negatively impact surface conditions because the tree roots will grow under the putting surface and disrupt the flow of water and nutrients.
11. What is a golf course superintendent doing when he/she syringes a green? Syringing is the process of spraying a light cover of water on a green during hot weather to reduce the temperature of the turf. This prevents putting surfaces from becoming "baked" and "dried-out," and having a negative impact on putting surface quality.
12. Golf courses have a positive impact on the economy. It is estimated that more than 25 million people annually spend 2.5 billion hours outside, playing one of the nation's 17,000-plus golf courses. The impact of golf facilities on the economy is \$20 billion annually.

SILENT AUCTION CONDUCTED AT GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW IS SUCCESSFUL THE ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE FOR GOLF ELECTS OFFICERS, TRUSTEES

The Environmental Institute for Golf elected officers and welcomed four new members from the golf industry to its board of trustees during its winter meeting at the 2006 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Atlanta, GA, February 9th.

Bill Kubly, Owner and CEO of Landscapes Unlimited, LLC, was elected chairman. **David Pillsbury**, PGA Tour Golf Course Properties COO, was elected vice chairman/treasurer.

Mark Kizziar, President of Superstition Mountain Properties, Inc., **Rafael N. Martinez**, Publisher/CEO of The Green Magazine, **Ken Melrose**, Executive Chairman of The Toro Co., and GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer **David S. Downing II**, CGCS at Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, N.C., were each added to the board of trustees and will serve three-year terms.

"Mark, Rafael, Ken and Dave bring a wealth of expertise to the board of trustees," Kubly said. "I am delighted that these three gentlemen have joined us in making a commitment to advance environmental practices on the golf course and I look forward to working closely with them."

Harry Cavanagh, Cavanagh Law Firm; Tom Chisholm, retired Vice President of Eaton Corp. and Past Chairman of the USGA Green Section; and GCSAA Immediate Past President Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien, retired from the board of trustees after serving six, five and three years, respectively. Michael J. Hurdzan, Ph.D., of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design, Inc., will remain on the board for one year as immediate past chairman.

Those continuing their service on the board of trustees are: GCSAA Vice President Ricky D. Heine, CGCS; GCSAA President Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS; Meadowbrook Golf President/CEO Ron E. Jackson; GCSAA CEO Steve Mona, CAE; Great White Shark Enterprises CEO Greg Norman; USGA Green Section National Director James T. Snow, ESPN/ABC broadcaster Roger Twibell and Nike Golf President Bob Wood.

The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the compatibility of the game of golf with the natural environment. The Institute concentrates on delivering environmental programs and services involving information collection, research, education and outreach that communicate the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course. For more on The Institute, visit www.eifg.org.

SILENT AUCTION SUCCESSFUL

The Golf Industry Show Silent Auction, conducted by The Environmental Institute for Golf, the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) Foundation and the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), generated \$158,000 for environmental stewardship programs, including research and education to strengthen the compatibility of the game of golf with our natural environment and player development programs. In addition, a portion of the auction proceeds will be donated to hurricane relief efforts. A total of 80 companies donated 133 items (a complete listing of donating companies can be found at www.eifg.org). In addition, David Grodzicki with Grand Sakwa Management in Farmington Hills, Mich., won an all-expense paid trip to the 2007 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, Calif. His name was chosen from a list of those who participated in the silent auction.

(Continued on Page 14)

Gallery



Attorney Dan Dooley Talks Water at the NCGA/USGA Education Conference at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, CA.



Larry Wilson, Chairman of the Santa Clara Valley Water District shares his perspective on water policy opportunities.



Mike McCullough, Director of Turfgrass Services with the NCGA presents questions to panelists.



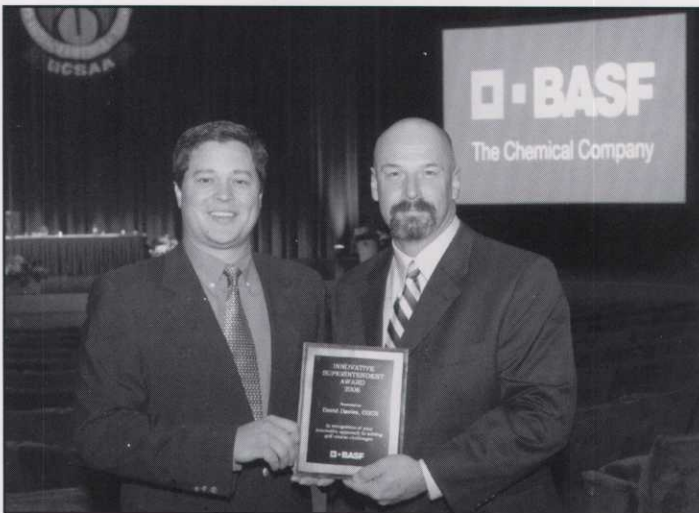
Serving on the Water Panel for the NCGA/USGA Spring Conference were: Pat Gross - USGA, Dan Dooley-Attorney, Larry Wilson - SCVWD and Pat Finlen - GCSAA.



(L to R) Shaper Joe Burnet, Golf Course Architect Bill Love and Olympic Club Course Superintendent Patrick Finlen, CGCS, discuss impending renovation of the 15th hole at Olympic Club-Ocean Course.



The Lopic Family stop for a quick photo during the reception at the California Golf Writer Banquet during the week of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Bob Lopic was honored by the CGW Association for his contributions to golf.



(L to R) Bruce Matthews with BASF-The Chemical Company, presented Dave Davies of Stonebrae Country Club with the Innovative Superintendent Award during the Golf Industry Show in Atlanta, GA. Davies' presentation, titled: "You're Fired!" was well-received by show attendees.



Course Superintendent Nick Checklenis of Silver Creek Valley CC visits with GPS Specialist Chris Buffum at the Uplink booth during the Golf Industry Show.

Events



2006
calendar

June 19

Superintendent Pro Tournament
Sonoma Golf Club

July 26

Crew Appreciation
A's vs Red Sox

August 14

Scholarship / Research
Lake Merced Golf Course

September

Joint Meeting
Sierra Nevada Host

October 3

Assistant Meeting / NCGA
Boot Camp

November 6

Superintendent's Institute

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