

ThruTheGreen **75 YEARS**

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California



Jason Green, President of GCSANC helping at the Nationwide PGA Tour Event at Wente Vineyards



Ronnie Rogers warms up at Diablo Country Club

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Presidio Golf Club

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Brian Netz, CGCS

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David Sexton, CGCS

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ThruTheGreen
Published bimonthly by the
Golf Course Superintendents
Association of Northern California

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Spring is here and hopefully everyone has completed their aerification successfully. With rain totals under normal amounts and the short winter, it is gearing up to be a long summer. With that said, you need to break away from the daily grind once and a while. Visit a few of your local colleagues, set-up an afternoon round of golf, hop on the mountain bike and lay down a few miles, whatever you need to do to relieve the daily pressures of our demanding jobs.

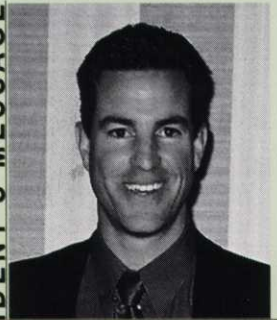
Grab your sticks, call the Pro and get ready for the Superintendent/Pro Tournament hosted by **David Sexton, CGCS** at the Meadow Club June 11th. Dave recently completed a full course restoration and I hear it is flat out awesome. If you haven't been to the Meadow Club yet, you are in for a real treat. You won't want to miss this year's tournament.

The 75th Anniversary Committee has been formed and is being chaired by **Brian Bagley**, The Villages Golf and CC, and co-chaired by **Brian Morris, CGCS**, The Links at Bodega Harbor. Several ideas have been discussed and the details are being worked out. This Association has a rich history and deserves a grand celebration to commemorate 75 years.

If you have any comments or suggestions or want to get involved, contact any of the board members. There are several different committees that could use your valuable input.

Here's to healthy turf and a mild summer!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



JASON GREEN
San Jose Country Club

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OFFICE NOTES

Barb Mikel,
GCSANC Association Manager

February and March were eventful months in the association office. I traveled to Anaheim for the GIS and Lawrence, Kansas for GCSAA Chapter Executive functions. Both presented great opportunities for me to share our association's best practices with the other chapter executives. To view the GIS presentation you can use the web address listed below. Just type it into your browser: <http://www.gcsaa.org/chapters/exec/pd/BallMarkRepairToolandCommunityCooperation.pdf>

The Williams' Leadership Endowment provides support for the GCSAA's Chapter Executives & Leaders Symposium. It provides an opportunity to strengthen the chapter's leadership team, build on successes, and learn new concepts and ideas to support chapter effectiveness. In addition, it provides the opportunity for education and networking to affiliate chapter managers and leaders. Andy Tittle of Eagle Vines Vineyard Golf Club and I represented GCSANC members and board of directors. The summary of the Affiliate Chapters symposium can be viewed at the link: <http://www.gcsaa.org/chapters/leadership/symposium.asp>

Beginning with the May 3rd meeting at the Presidio Golf Club, all members with email ability will receive a meeting notice with an ADOBE "fill-in" form attached. You only need a current ADOBE Reader (Version 8 is available now.) This reader is free and will enable you make the meeting reservation and return it via e-mail. If you wish to pay for your reservation with credit card, for your protection, you should not return the fill in form with credit card information. Many of you have card information on file with the credit card processing company used by GCSANC. That information is securely protected resident at the credit card processing company. You may use that by simply placing a notation of "card on file" in the credit card number field.

If you want to register via e-mail and do not have, your credit information on record, call the office and we will get it setup for you. Due to the rising cost of mail and labor to process paper forms, we hope you will find this registration method convenient enough to use. It will help us keep operating costs down and our office productivity high. Your paper meeting notices will continue to arrive until we receive notification that you do not wish to receive them.



Lonnie Stevens helped at Wente Vineyards during the Nationwide PGA Tour Event held in March.

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SUPER PROFILE

Brian Netz, CGCS
Golf Course Superintendent
Presidio Golf Course

Employer: Presidio Golf Course

Position: Superintendent

Years in the Golf Business: 19

Previous Employment: Bayonet & Black Horse Golf Courses

Education: University of Minnesota

GCSANC Work or Interests: Vice President, PR Committee

Other Organizations: Minnesota GCSA, San Diego GCSA

Family: Wife, Heidi; Daughter, Mia (2)

Interests Outside of Golf: Motorcycles, History Channel, 300 meter Target Shooting, College Hockey.

Juicy Tidbit: I like really bad kung fu movies.

Favorite Vacation: Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Best Golf Related Memory: Being awarded Superintendent of the Year in 2006

Favorite Course: Cypress Point

Course You'd Like to Visit: San Francisco Golf Club

Strangest Thing You've Witnessed On The Golf Course: A homeless guy in pantyhose, a campfire in the 4th green sand trap, and a Hefty bag for a blanket.

What You'd Be Doing If You Weren't Involved With Golf: I'd be James Bond

MAY MEETING TO HIGHLIGHT GOLF COURSE TREE ISSUES

The May meeting of the GCSANC will be held Thursday May 3rd at the Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco. Highlighting the meeting will be Dr. Jim Clark, Vice-President of HortScience, Inc. Dr. Clark is the author of several books highly regarded in the arboricultural industry. Dr. Clark regularly consults on various golf/tree issues for Bay Area golf courses. He is very aware of the numerous issues facing local superintendents.

Participants in the May 3rd meeting will learn how to detect tree failure patterns and defects in tree structure. Also covered will be tree species tendencies and indicators for determining decay. Other topics include abatement procedures, job specifications, removals, and local rules and requirements. It should be a great meeting for all involved!

Golf following the meeting will be on a very limited tee time basis. Hope to see you at The Presidio!

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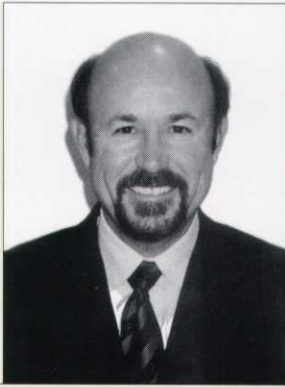
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NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Don Naumann
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply

Mike Garvale, CGCS is leaving Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club after 22 years as Superintendent. He is being replaced by **Andrew Morgan**, the assistant superintendent at Pebble Beach Golf Links. The change will take place on May 1.....**Bill Hansen** is the new superintendent at Monarch Bay Golf Links in San Leandro. Bill was the Assistant there prior to his promotion. He is replacing **Todd Gillies**.....**Izzy Taguchi** has accepted the G.M. Superintendent position at Gleneagles GC at McLaren Park in San Francisco.....**Wayne Conrad** is the new Superintendent at Harding Park GC in San Francisco. Wayne was working at Harding prior to his promotion.....**Tom Wallick** has just completed the driving range/practice area and and two-hole rebuild at Pruneridge GC in Santa Clara.....**Glenn Matthews** recently hosted the Nationwide Tour Event and Wente Vineyards GC in Livermore.....

NEW MEMBERS

Name	Position	Course/Company
Nick Biggi	Sales Rep. Affiliate Member	LESCO
Pete Gumas	PCA/Agromonic Sales Affiliate Member	Ewing Agronomics
Scott Thomsen	Asst. Superintendent Class C Member	Marin Country Club

Golf Courses Invited to Join the Audobon Green Golfer Challenge

Throughout 2007, Audubon International is inviting golf courses in the United States, Canada, and worldwide to take part in the Audubon Green Golfer Challenge. The challenge is simple: Get as many golfers as possible to pledge to take steps to support environmental stewardship while playing the game. From replacing divots to supporting the golf course's efforts to provide wildlife habitat and protect water resources, there are simple actions golfers can take which are good for the game, good for the golf course, and good for the environment.

Throughout the year, the pledges from participating golf courses will be collected and counted by Audubon International. Ongoing totals will be posted online. Prizes will be awarded to golf courses with the most golfers signed up by November 15, 2007, with winners in various categories (golf course type, region, etc.) announced at the end of 2007. Finally, golfers who take the pledge will also become eligible for a random drawing of prizes at the end of the year.

Getting golfers to take the Green Golfer Pledge is a simple way for golf course superintendents and staff to help carry on golf's tradition of preserving the nature of the game. Learn more and take the Audubon Green Golfer Challenge: www.golfandenvironment.org.

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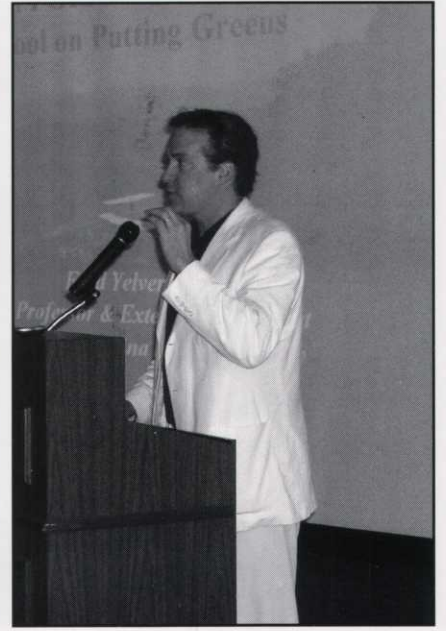
USGA NGCA MEETING AT DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB



Host Todd Lyijynen even drove the Beverage Cart



John Martin strokes one at Diablo



Session Moderator Dan Ashley of Channel 7



Larry Gilhuly



Kevin Pryeski & Don Naumann



Matt Nelson USGA Agronomist

1932-2007

Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association

"To Make More Abundant the Pleasures of Golfing"

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ELMER BORDER
CLAREMONT COUNTY CLUB

VICE-PRESIDENT
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STANLEY FITCHER
SAN MATEO MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE
JOHN DA DALLY
BURLINGAME COUNTY CLUB

REPORT OF 1948

The year of 1948 got off to a good start when our president proposed a membership drive. A letter stating the purpose of our organization was drafted and sent to every Greens Committee Chairman, urging them to influence the Golf Course Superintendent to join our association. This drive resulted in attaining 14 new members, thus boosting membership to 71. Of 35 are senior members, 34 associate members, and 2 honorary members.

Our monthly meetings were well attended, and were made very attractive and instructive by educational talks given by invited guest speakers. At one of our meetings Professor Harry Sheperd, professor of landscape design at the University of California, gave a very informative talk on golf course maintenance.

At a joint meeting sponsored by the Northern California Golf Association, we were honored by the presence of Marvin Ferguson, assistant director of the United States Golf Association, Green Section; O. J. Mohr, of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission and member of the U. S. G. A. Green Section; and A. L. Brandon, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Greenskeeping Superintendents Association.

THE NEW LOOK. For better turf and better golfing pleasure the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association started a movement to initiate turf culture and research work at the University of California. The moral and financial support of the Northern California Golf Association has been assured, also the whole-hearted support of the United States Golf Association, Green Section. E. W. Van Gorder, Superintendent of the Stanford Golf Club, Stanford University, and chairman of the turf research program is doing a fine job in promoting this project. The Dean of Agriculture at the University of California has been approached regarding our objective; their desire to be helpful to turf growers has been assured. Turf experimental plots have been started in Southern California, and our efforts to establish them in Northern California will be carried on. The Association is especially grateful for Mr. Van Gorder's untiring effort to expedite this project.

OUR OBJECT: To Cultivate, Promote and Disseminate of Scientific and Practical Knowledge, and to Promote the Efficiency and Expansion of Municipal and Golf Courses.

Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association

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During the past year we have been affiliated with the California Horticultural Council; they are very much concerned regarding our program and have been very helpful.

The By-Laws of the Association have been revised. The name of the Association has been changed to the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association; thereby bettering the professional standing of the greenskeeper.

Our first equipment field day show was held at the Lake Merced Golf Club, San Francisco. Various commercial firms exhibited and demonstrated golf course equipment. The show and the lunch furnished by the exhibitors was enjoyed by a large attendance.

In honor of his 40 years service as greenskeeper, the Association held a Louis Galletti Day. Louis, Superintendent of the Claremont golf course in Oakland, spoke of his past experience in golf course maintenance. He received many verbal pats on the back for his fine accomplishments.

In August, a barbecue was held at the San Jose Country Club for members and their families. More than 50 attended this grand affair.

Thirty-four members attended the Christmas party held December 14 at Simpsons, San Francisco. A de luxe luncheon was served and the exchange of gifts brought many laughs.

At our January meeting we were visited by a delegation from Southern California, William Bereafor, president of the Southern California Golf Course Superintendents Association; Bob Adams, Gomer Simms, and Walter Langdon committee men for the National Turf Conference and show to be held February 8, 9, 10, and 11 at Los Angeles; Bill Rogers, charter member and first president of the Northern California Greenskeepers Association. They urged us to support the National Conference and they highlighted on the educational program, exhibits and demonstrations that will take place. All gave very fine talks and were on there feet many times during the meeting. Sixteen of the members present promised to attend the Conference.

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★ By BILL CONLIN ★
Sports Editor, The Union



NEW MOWER WILL CUT GOLF SCORES

Say what you will about golf, it is a sport that doesn't stand still. Yesterday, two of the game's older heads were hailing with infectious enthusiasm an invention which may be the greatest boon to low scoring since steel-shafted clubs.

Frank Minch, the Del Paso professional, and Mike McDonagh, keeper of the best greens in California, stood around the ninth hole at Haggin Oaks and marveled over a newfangled lawnmower.

"It can't entirely eliminate the grain in greens," said McDonagh, "but it almost will. It's the finest machine I ever saw to maintain grass the way you like it."

Said Minch, "I've watched this new machine for a month and it takes the most uncertain factor out of putting. It provides an even roll and minimizes the factor of the grain. Every golfer—star and duffer alike—can now step up and putt with more confidence. Do you know what that means?"

Offhand, we'd say that if confidence can be restored to a lot of faint-hearted putters—a state of mind that befalls every golfer on occasion—then it can only mean that golf scores are going to average out at a lower figure.

The new lawnmower is a patented gimmick called the Verti-cut. It is not an independent operation in itself; it supplements the regular green-cutters.

McDonagh thinks that under Sacramento climatic conditions the Verti-cut (cost \$870 and worth \$1,000) should be used about 11 or 12 times a year.

The Verti-cut works something on the principle of the electric shaver. It whacks down on the blades of grass, eliminates a lot of foliage, and by so doing destroys what golfers so frequently call the god-damned grain. When they don't say worse.

After the Verti-cut machine is rolled over a green, the regular power mower is immediately used. The result of the twin operation is a velvet-smooth surface which Minch and McDonagh claim is as true as a billiard table.

"Certainly it provides the best putting surface I've ever seen," said Minch. And McDonagh said, "Amen."

If a lawnmower can restore putting confidence to dubs, and enable them to step up and address their ball with resolution, its advantages are obvious.

But Minch insists that the game's best players will be equally affected, and perhaps more so.

"Fellows like Smiley Quick and Lloyd Mangrum," said Minch, "used to come to town and blast us on our greens. Obviously they won't be able to do this anymore, because this new Verti-cut deal will tend to make all greens uniform. The grain will be removed. I don't mean that putting will be easy. You'll still have uphill and downhill putts, but you won't have to worry about the grain of the grass."

Could the new cutter mean a general lowering in scores? "It will do just that," answered Minch. "After all, one reason golf scores are lower today than they were 30 years ago is because modern greens are superior. Here is a machine that will make them even better."

Hail the new Verti-cut Lawnmower! It may take its place with the game's other technological developments such as the gutta percha cover, the caddy cart and the 19th hole electric lockbox.

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Board Room Briefs

The Board of Directors met at Mira Vista Country Club on March 13th.

Superintendent/Pro tournament set for the Meadow Club.

Dr. Frank Wong was a guest at the meeting. He gave us an update on the work that he is doing and then the board voted on donating \$4000 to help with the continuation of his research.

Discussion was held regarding the location and format for the Institute. Details to follow.

A committee has been formed to plan events for the GCSANC's 75th anniversary. They will be meeting in April to begin planning an event that is scheduled for October.

Events



May 3
Field Day
Presidio Golf Course

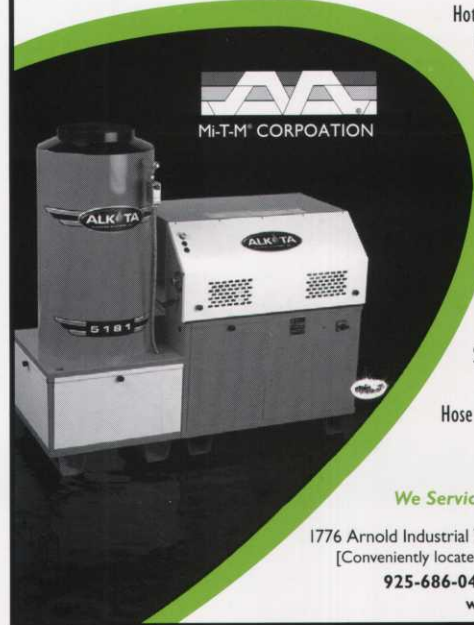
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