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THE BERT GRAVES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st Place Team Net: Mike Hill and Jimmy Wheaton
2nd Place Team Net: Mike Parks and Andrew Trinkino

1st Place Team Gross: Jeff Arneson and Mitch Frasier
2nd Place Team Gross: Glenn Matthews and Russ Mitchell

1st Place Supt. Net: Greg Jetter, CGCS
2nd Place Supt. Net: Todd Lyijynen

1st Place Supt. Gross: Jeff Arneson
2nd Place Supt. Gross: Glenn Matthews

1st Place Affiliate Net: John Holmquist
2nd Place Affiliate Net: Jimmy Wheaton

1st Place Affiliate Gross: Mike Parks
2nd Place Affiliate Gross: Mitch Frasier

Closest to the Pin #2: Jeff Arneson – ACE!
Closest to the Pin #7: Todd Lyijynen – 5' 9"
Closest to the Pin #11: Mike Hill – 7' 5"
Closest to the Pin # 16: Mitch Frasier – 5' 7"
Closest to the Line: Adrian Bertens
Longest Drive: Aaron Finnegan



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Cal Poly Turfgrass Management Update

By Terry L. Vassey

I can't believe that a year has come and gone since my family and I left Tennessee on our four-day journey across the country to the central coast of California and Cal Poly. And what a place to drop anchor—beautiful Mediterranean climate, close to the ocean, great people and a wonderful University. Really, a dream has come true for us.

I have to also say what a great year it has been. I have met so many enthusiastic people and have visited so many wonderful places that I can not remember it all. I have been so busy, that the year has literally flown by.

We (the students and I) have not been idle here either. We have gotten so many things accomplished at Cal Poly and, with your continued help, we have plans for a great deal more.

Let me provide a short list of the things we have going as of this summer. First, we have completely redone the turfgrass demonstration plots/facility—changing from large blocks of a single species cultivar to many small plots of different cultivars. For instance, we now have 12 different cultivars of tall fescue and not just one as was the case before. We have done this for each of both the cool and warm season turfgrass types.

We have also stepped up the maintenance program for our 10,000 sq. ft. bent grass green and its quality has improved greatly. As a matter of fact the Cal Poly golf coach feels it is good enough now that he would like to set up a schedule for his players to start using it for practice. [As a side note - the University has obtained funds to build a genuine short game practice facility for the team of which the turf students will be involved in the construction and maintenance!]

Second, we have taken a weed blighted area west of the turfgrass plots and have turned it into a nine-hole putting course, a lawn entry feature and a tall grass prairie. The putting course consists of three bermuda greens, three sea shore paspalum greens, and one each of a fine fescue, Poa, and bentgrass green for the last three. Our goal will be to maintain these at ~0.150" and provide a novelty area for the students to enjoy as well as learn.

Around the greens we are planting tall ornamental grasses native to the five Mediterranean zones of the world. These will be identified with signage and will be consistent with the theme set by the Cal Poly Arboretum adjacent to the north and with the efforts of Audubon International, an organization I have been involved with from their start going back to my efforts with the Standard Club of Atlanta and Carolina National in coastal North Carolina.

As regards to research, I have now brought on board three graduate students to manage the funded projects already underway. One project is designed to identify better tall fescue cultivars for central California, another to examine the compatibility of buffalograss and fine fescue grown together as a home/commercial lawn mixture, and third, a project to evaluate optimum cutting strategies for many of the tall grasses used on golf courses as part of their wildlife habitat projects (we are still in need of funding for the last project.)

I am also very interested in developing projects related to sub-surface irrigation strategies for turfgrass slopes and in management practices for high quality kikuyugrass turf. These areas of study are also in need of funding.

In summary, I think it is easy to see we have been very busy my first year. I believe we are on the right track and that many of the students are already seeing the benefits of getting involved. Our goal is to continue moving the program forward making Cal Poly a respected member of the academic turfgrass community both here in California and the Nation as a whole. I hope all of the readers will agree and continue to support our efforts.

With that said, I would like to also take the opportunity now to personally thank many of those who have been so helpful to me, the students and to the University. Without their help, much of what we have done would not have been possible.

Specifically, and in no significant order, I would like to share the names of those that have contributed above the call as relates contributing to my cause. The list is long and some may not be remembered here—to them I apologize.

First, to Gordon Vosti, Michael Sommer (with wife Anitra), Rich Records, and Bob Schneiderhan my words do not go far enough to express my appreciation for what they have done in my first year. They have been there for me not only as industry professionals but as new found friends as well. They have contributed greatly to me.

As an example, Target Specialty Products, with the encouragement from Rich, graciously donated \$10,000 to fund as close to a full time technician for me at the turfgrass facility as possible. Having a person there almost full time has advanced the quality of the facility many fold. With continued and additional support, it will only get better, as maybe we can turn this into a permanent fulltime technician's position.

(Continued on page 15)



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Chipping & 2nd Low Gross

RONALD BUCKELEW
TMT ENTERPRISES
2nd Low Net

ERIC CARGO
E-Z GO
2nd Low Gross

BILL DAVIS, CGCS
LOS LAGOS GOLF COURSE
Closest to Pin #14

MICHAEL L. FARMEN
FARMLoad DISTRIBUTORS
Closest Hole In One #3

JOE GARDEMEYER
DELTA BLUEGRASS CO.
Closest #7

MIKE LIGON
H.V. CARTER COMPANY, INC.
Long Drive

CAMERON MILLER
PRESERVE GOLF CLUB
1st Low Net

DONALD A. PAUL
LOS LAGOS GOLF COURSE
Closest #11

GCSAA CHAPTER DELEGATES SUMMARY 2007

By Brian Netz, CGCS

I was fortunate enough to attend the 2007 Chapter Delegates Meeting in Kansas City this year as the GCSANC Delegate. It was a valuable learning experience that shattered many of the myths that I have had about our national organization. I left the meeting feeling excited about the things that are happening in Lawrence, and proud to be a part of this profession. There are a few points I feel that are necessary to convey to GCSA Northern Cal:

GCSAA will spend \$1.2 mil on the Class A branding and image campaign in 2007. The LPGA Agronomist position is a part of this campaign. The LPGA will do a series of Public Service Announcement spots during their tournaments as a part of our agreement in providing the Agronomist position for them.

GCSAA will spend this year \$850,000 on 30 second Golf Channel commercials as a part of the image/branding campaign. This would equate to 6, 30 commercials during the PGA Championship or 1, 30 second commercial during Sunday's round at the Masters. The GCSAA felt that there was a greater chance for good saturation for our dollar in the Golf Channel advertising versus spending that kind of money for a 1-6 commercial opportunity. I have to agree, as I do wait myself, for the commercials during the Masters and the like to go and make a sandwich.

GCSAA is a \$20 mil revenue operation with 52% of its revenue coming from industry support. Wow. Dues make up about 20% of GCSAA's annual revs.

Last years GIS came up nearly short of expected revenue in Anaheim. That money was made up without affecting the branding/image campaign and member services by tightening staffing levels and other expenses. The GCSAA Board did not want member services to be affected.

I sat at a table with a gentleman named Mark Bisbing, the current Director of Corporate Sales and Marketing for GCSAA. Mark worked with both Nike and Microsoft as a sales and marketing executive. I had no idea that we employed people with that level of talent and knowledge. We had only a few group work sessions, but it was obvious he was absolutely swimming in great ideas. I was very impressed with him and his enthusiasm.

Due to the increased cost of doing business (such as electricity, postage, etc.), GCSAA has opted to increase dues according to the CPI. This currently equates to \$20 for 2008. With these increased costs and the Board's dedication to maintain the image/branding campaign GCSAA had to dip into its reserves maintain current service and programming levels. The \$20 dues increase will cover these increased business costs so that a draw from reserves in 2008-9 will not be necessary.

The staff at headquarters feels about helping us advance in our profession the way we feel about what we do on the golf course.

A lot was learned. This is only a small portion of what I walked away knowing. If anyone has any questions or comments about what is happening at the national level, feel free to call me or any of the GCSAA Board of Directors.

(Continued from page 13)

Cal Poly Turfgrass Management Update

Additionally a special thanks goes out to all of those that made my students and me so welcome as we toured the various industry sites this year. People like Bob and Jean Goodrich – Central Coast Sod, Lynda Wightman and her colleagues at Hunter Irrigation, Steve Wightman – QUALCOMM Stadium, Mike Tarantino - Poway School District, Bryan Foster - West Coast Sod (who donated much sod to our cause), Frank Wong and his staff – UC-Riverside, Jorge Morales - Alta Vista GC, Bruce Williams and his staff - LA Country Club, Will Schnell – The Rose Bowl, all those at Delta Bluegrass Sod, Brandon Morgan - Big League Dreams, Dave Barlow - Simplot, John Lohman and all of his associates - Valley Crest, Ed Ott - Colony Landscapes, Manny Sousa, Brad Coleman, and Billy Hausch - all managers on “The Peninsula”, Scott MacVicar - SF Giants, Tim Powers - Crystal Springs GC, and Mike McCullough – NCGA. Without their help I would not have heard/read things like “this was the best class I have taken at Cal Poly”, as one of the students wrote in their evaluation of one of my classes.

As I said, these represent only a fraction of the people I have met my first year. To all the others, I say “Thank You”. Know that you have made a Southerner feel most welcome far far away from home.

To close and to in essence stick my hand out some more, I would like to be so bold as to list some items that would contribute greatly to the efforts here and to “Learn by Doing” as is the motto so proudly held at Cal Poly. If you can help or know of someone else who might, please let me know. No contribution will be overlooked and we may be able to fix anything that is not in good repair. These are not listed in any order of importance as they are all necessary to us.

- Bunker machine w/ spiking attachment
- Triplex greens mower with tee and verticutter reels
- Walk behind blower
- Greens roller
- Trim mowing unit
- Topdresser (walk or pull behind)
- Greens aerator with multiple tine types
- New (second) storage building
- Toro 500 walk behind greens mower (to mow the putting course)
- Turfgrass utility vehicle

Finally, we can provide a gift-in-kind document that will allow contributors to obtain a tax credit for their gift.

Again, let me thank everyone for a great year. I am so grateful to be here and I know this will become the premier program it should be. Along with the other outstanding universities in this state we hope to advance the cause of turfgrass management throughout California. You can help by staying involved with us and continuing your support the University, the program and the students at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo.

Lastly, if you are an alumnus of Cal Poly - SLO, please send me your name and particulars. I am trying to start a CP Turfgrass alumni association and want to get you back home and involved with Cal Poly again. Also, look for the new golf and tee shirts, hats and wind jackets soon to be available this fall.

What's Happening At Your Golf Course?

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