January Jebruary 2008 ThrutheGreen

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California



Ten Chapter Past Presidents were in attendance at Sequoyah CC for the 75th Anniversary Celebration. Under their leadership the GCSANC has continued to flourish throughout the years.

# COVER

San Jose Country Club

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The GCSANC 75th Anniversary Meeting and Tournament went like clockwork at Sequoyah CC, thanks to the support of G.M./Host Associate Member Tom Schunn and Host Superintendent Terry Grasso.

#### ThruTheGreen

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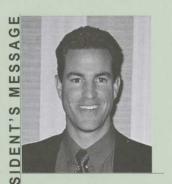
> MEDIA Emmy Moore Minister Media Consultant

## Strictly Business

As I sit back and write my final President's Message, I am overwhelmed as I reflect on what our Association accomplished in 2007.

We hosted several exciting events at some of Northern California's best venues. We listened to a few highly entertaining and inspirational guest speakers, like former USGA President Sandy Tatum, NFL Hall of Famer Jim Tunney, and our newest Honorary Member, Bob Murphy, best known as *The Voice of Stanford Sports*. We also expanded our knowledge base through educational presentations from Dr. Ali Harivandi, Patrick Gross, Dr. Bradley Klein, Mike McCullough, and Dr. Frank Wong, just to name a few.

Our "Thru The Green" newsletter continues to be one of the best in the business thanks to Ken Williams, CGCS – Editor, Man-Yin Tang – Publisher, Barbara Mikel – Association Manager, and Emmy Moore Minister – Media Consultant. In 2007 our Board of Directors stepped into the 21st century and began utilizing GCSAA webcasts to host a few of our board meetings. The webcasting has been successful and allows us to communicate virtually, and efficiently attend to chapter business based from each of our own facilities.



JASON GREEN San Jose Country Club

The Association continues to be financially sound with the professional help of Barbara, and investing in CDs to maximize our banking dollar. This past fall, we adopted a new logo aligning ourselves with the GCSAA. All

of this was capped off with a spectacular 75th Anniversary celebration at Sequoyah CC, proving that while our Association is rich with history, it also remains strong and solid as ever.

There is an old saying that states: "If you want to be successful, you need to surround yourself with successful people." This statement proved true in '07, as I was very fortunate to serve on the BOD surrounded by many capable people. It never ceases to amaze me of how professionally diverse and supportive superintendents really are.

And all of this success stems from the numerous volunteer hours from our directors, members, and vendor support at our events, individual members serving on committees, and our Association Manager, Barbara, and our Media Consultant, Emmy. These individuals are the lifeline of our *(Continued on page 10)* 



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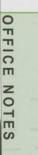
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## **Strictly Business**





Barb Mikel GCSANC Association Manager

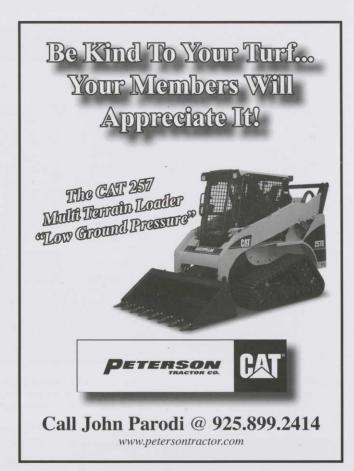
Happy New Year! We're heading into the new year with a new logo and new Officers and Directors and I am looking forward to a productive year. HELP! Quickly, if you haven't done so already, please forward your renewal and renewal questionnaire. I am finalizing renewals at the end of January to produce the Membership Directory. If I don't have you renewal by then, you will not be included in the directory. The membership has a history of extending this process, with the unfortunate consequence of directory information being inaccurate. Please, let's make the directory as current and good as it can be. I hope to keep this publication schedule each year, coinciding with the change of Officers and Directors in January.

For those unable to attend the 75th Anniversary at Sequoyah, a thirty minute video presentation with a still photo montage will be distributed to all members with the membership directory. Additional material researched for this 75th Anniversary will also be included in the membership directory.

I am looking forward to new programs and meetings. Steve Byrne did a marvelous job last year, and we will no doubt have some very good events scheduled for you the upcoming year. In an effort to make it convenient to register for our meetings, we distribute meeting notices and reservations via mail, fax, email and online. With each media there is a method of registering providing you with payment options. Please, protect yourself and your *(Continued on next column)* 

#### (Continued from first column)

association by using these methods. I love to talk to you all but from a procedural and accounting standpoint, written communication is required. The privacy and security of your credit card information is provided in all of the registration methods. If a meeting is full, you will be contacted. You can assume your written, e-mail or online reservation is received unless you are contacted to the contrary. You can request playing with anyone, but please contact that person and make sure they will be attending. We work with the host golf professional and food and beverage departments providing meal and golf counts. If we include someone in your foursome request and they are not really coming, everyone's association dollars are used to pay for that "no show." You may receive a bill for your "no show" guest if this happens more than once.





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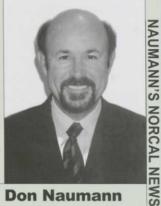
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## Members Only



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Brian Morris, CGCS has left Bodega Harbour Golf Links to become the Superintendent at Blue Rock Springs Golf Course in Vallejo. He is happy with his move in that he will be cutting his commute by about 45 minutes each way. His replacement at Bodega has yet to be announced..... Frank Zamazal has accepted the superintendent position at Peninsula G & CC in San Mateo. This is a return trip for Frank to Northern California. He was at Eagle Ridge CC in Gilroy during construction and its first few years and then was at Spyglass Hill GC before going to Tamarisk CC in the desert. Frank is replacing Jeremy Lehman after Jeremy's resignation......Bob Klinesteker, Superintendent at San Francisco Golf Club, reports that at his club there has been an extensive update and renovation to the clubhouse. During the reconstruction, it was discovered that there was a fire between the first and second floor at sometime within the last 50-75 years. No structural damage was found because the fire put itself out before any occurred. No member or employee remembers when this could have taken place .....

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# **GCSANC Celebrates** 75 Years of History

By Emmy Moore-Minister

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California celebrated its heritage at a 75th Anniversary Celebration on Monday, October 15, 2007 at Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland. The meeting started with a special recognition from President Jason Green to Past President Cliff Wagoner, CGCS for his extraordinary contributions to the GCSANC. As to be expected, a standing ovation followed immediately.

As attendees entered the meeting at the historic Sequoyah Country Club (an original charter club of the association) they were surrounded by golf and greenkeeping memorabilia. Most rare items came from the extensive collections of two golf historians, Assistant Superintendent Sean Tully and Rick Lund. From antique mowers and hole cutters to rare photos and scorecards as well as several hand-made clubs, the breathtaking display of items drew much attention from the attendees.

During the event local course superintendents and affiliate members were able to view a video depicting the rich history of the GCSANC, dating back to 1932 when 20 dedicated greenkeepers gathered in San Francisco to form what was originally called the Northern California Greenkeepers Association.

Special guests addressing the membership were GCSAA President Ricky Heine, CGCS, and GCSAA National Director Patrick Finlen, CGCS, of the Olympic Club. During the morning session **Bob Murphy**, *The Voice of Stanford Sports*, was formally named as an Honorary Member of the GCSANC, a coveted distinction last bestowed on an individual nearly two decades ago. Murphy gave a compelling presentation sharing some of his great experiences with golf. President Jason Green presented a formal commendation to Murphy and Affiliate Member John Holmquist presented the honoree with a sentimental photo from his early days with the Modesto Reds.

The day was made possible through the help of many individuals including Host Superintendent Terry Grasso and Associate Member Tom Schunn, as well as the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee led by Brian Bagley and closely supported by Association Manager Barbara Mikel. The reflective video was made possible through the generous support of J. Arnaz Tree Movers, Target Specialty Products, Sierra Pacific Turf, West Coast Turf, Simplot/Best, and The Davey Tree Expert Company.



# GCSANC 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SEQUOYAH COUNTRY CLUB, OCTOBER 15, 2007

By Barbara Mikel

As another year passes into history, this particular year was truly historic. The Golf Course Superintendents of Northern California celebrated its 75th birthday and Sequoyah Country Club was the site of the birthday party. Sharing this special event with our membership was GCSAA President, Rickie Heine, CGCS, GCSAA Director and GCSANC Past President, Patrick Finlen, CGCS and Bob Murphy. Murphy, known for many years as the "Voice of Stanford Sports", was presented with an honorary GCSANC membership.

Sequoyah CC was a great host for the event. We are very appreciative of the hospitality provided by Sequoyah Superintendent, Terry Grasso and Club Manager, Tom Schunn.

At the event, the group previewed an excellent commemorative video documenting the association's history. (The video is being prepared for membership distribution.) Over 100 guests also viewed maintenance implements, golf equipment and other historical items associated with the GCSANC. One item of particular interest was a hand greens mower, provided by Leonard Walsh. It was used at the Olympic Club around 1900, having been given to Leonard by John Fleming's father, Jack.

Adrian Bertens, Hydro Engineering, provided a wooden irrigation pipe installed around 1910 unearthed at Lake Merced Country Club in 1999. Another interesting item was a greens aerification auger from the 1950's. It was also used at Lake Merced CC and provided interesting testimony to the ingenuity of superintendents. The aerification technique used a piece of plywood with holes (in a grid pattern) laid on green. The auger drilled thru each hole into green to make an aerification hole. When holes are drilled through all the holes in board, the board is then moved repeating the process. Adrian also provided a tee marker from Castlewood CC 1950's, an 'Orr' brand sprinkler, "one of the oldest impact sprinklers" and a 1926 'Rocker jet' sprinkler.

Turf Star's Gene Warne provided 30" 'Park Special' mower from late 30's to early 40's. He also had historical Toro catalogues that were special to review from an equipment and marketing standpoint. Historic Buckner sprinklers and valves were on loan from Don Kuhl. And HV Carter Company provided a 1928 walking greens mower and other historical equipment.

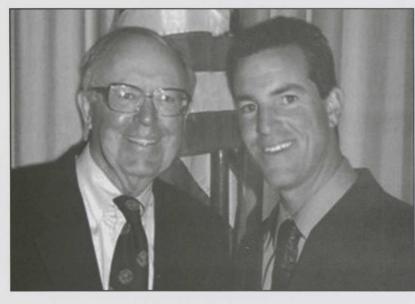
Past President, Jim Ross brought photos of California Golf Course Superintendents presenting money to GCSAA for scholarships, photos of Jim and Al Braga, winners of the first Superintendent-Professional Tournament held in 1980 at The Villages Golf and Country Club. Jim also brought his collection of "Scotts Turf Talk" magazines (first issue dated 1928) given to him by outgoing superintendent and GCSANC Past President, Vern Conklin. Vern handed them over on Jim's arrival in 1963 at his first superintendent job at La Rinconada Country Club.

Sean Tully, Assistant Superintendent at The Meadow Club, provided extensive historical material on golf course design and construction in the Northern California area, including materials that were incorporated into the production of the 75th anniversary video. And there was Rick Lund, golf historian, who traveled from Auburn, California to share his extensive and treasured golf memorabilia.

Following the meeting, the celebration was concluded with attendees playing 18 holes of golf, albeit under rain threatening conditions. It was a fitting way to end a wonderful day of remembrance.

# Gallery

# 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



(Left) Bob "Murph" Murphy, best known as "The Voice of Stanford Sports" joins GCSANC President Jason Green for a photo at the chapter's 75th Anniversary Celebration. During the ceremonial meeting President Green presented Murphy with a formal commendation listing the honoree's numerous contributions to the game of golf.





Leaders unite at the GCSANC 75th Anniversary Celebration. (L to R) GCSANC Sec-Treas Chris Mains, GCSANC President Jason Green, GCSAA President Ricky Heine, GCSANC Vice President Brian Nettz, and GCSAA Director Pat Finlen.

The Chapter's 75th Anniversary Celebration was rich with history thanks to Golf Historians Rick Lund and Sean Tully (Assist. Supt. at the Meadow Club) whose personal golf collections lined numerous tables in the elegant entryway at Sequoyah CC. Joining them for a quick photo (and also an event supporter) was Past President Randy Gai of Claremont CC.



The GCSANC 75th Anniversary Celebration at Sequoyah CC brought together industry leaders, including Cliff Wagoner, Past President for both the GCSANC and GCSAA, and current GCSAA President Ricky Heine.

## Gallery

# **75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



GCSANC history has been well-documented over the years through the dedicated work of former Executive Secretary Myrtle Wagoner and Association Manager Barbara Mikel.



GCSANC Directors gather for a quick photo: Brian Morris, Pete Bowman, President Jason Green, joined by Honoree Bob Murphy, Sec-Treasurer Chris Mains, Vice President Brian Nettz, Steve Byrne, Joe Kurung, and Event Chairman and Past President Brian Bagley.





Myrtle and husband Cliff Wagoner (a GCSANC and GCSAA Past President) take a moment to admire a memory table created in their honor in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the GCSANC. The table graced fond photos, special awards and memorabilia spanning more than five decades of volunteerism to the organization by the Wagoner Family.



Standing proud at Sequoyah CC is the GCSANC 75th Anniversary Planning Committee. Led through the dedicated efforts of Past President Brian Bagley (back row-center) and Association Manager Barbara Mikel (right thereof), the group worked closely together in the months leading up to the memorable event.



#### **January 7**

Annual Meeting San Jose Country Club

#### February 11-12

**GCSAA** Regional Seminars Crown Plaza Pleasanton

March **USGA NCGA GCSANC** 

> **April - May** Field Day

June Superintendent Pro





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(Continued from page 3)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Association. Without them, we would be in dire straights.

I am truly grateful for all of the support we have received this past year. The generous financial contributions from our Affiliate Members were awesome. Without our loyal Affiliate supporters, we'd be unable to host such high-caliber events. They continue to give month after month, year after year, and in return, deserve our support. Please remember them when you are considering products or services for your facility.

A huge thank-you to all the volunteers, host superintendents, participants, and again, our sponsors who've contributed to our success in 2007!

Finally, please mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting at San Jose Country Club on January 7th, 2008. Hope to see everyone there.



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