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Contra Costa Country Club

COVER

Contra Costa Country Club

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Thru The Green published bimonthly by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California.

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OFFICE NOTES



BARBARA MIKEL

July/August 2009

We have just completed the membership renewal process, albeit somewhat late this year. The tardiness was due to an interesting payment issue involving our new logo. The upside is that the new logo has done a great job of branding us to the GCSAA. The downside was that many payments were sent to Kansas, which were due to the local chapter. This happened to other affiliated chapters as well, so we did delay our deadline.

The usual non-renewal of membership (moving to other courses and companies) has decreased membership but not to any greater extent than in past years. It was encouraging that we did not have more non-renewals related to economic issues.

The new GCSANC web site www.gcsanc.com is in final review by the board of directors. I am anticipating it will be up and running with a new membership listing by the end of July. The directory and member sections will be password protected and open only to GCSANC members. A member profile and membership directory will be available 24/7. You can sort by any field in the membership directory profile. It is currently an online tool but will be developed to a downloadable feature, which you can print or store for your offline use.

Content and use recommendations for the web site are being solicited! Part time web site maintenance will be open for bid proposals. For interested parties, on a professional level, please contact the office for details.

A GCSANC benefit you receive is the GHIN Handicapping system. If you need to establish an index, please call the office. We can do it the same day! Once established you can visit the website: www.ncga.org for updating your scores and mailing information. You will receive emails with special promotions, NCGA membership card, and the monthly magazine only if your information is current.

IN MEMORIAM

MULKH RAJ, CGCS

September 14, 1942–June 1, 2009

42-year member of GCSANC

Las Positas Golf Course Superintendent, Retired

Mulkh Raj, resident of Livermore, was born on September 14, 1942 in Suva, Fiji and passed away peacefully on June 1, 2009 in Castro Valley, CA at the age of 66. Mulkh was born and raised in the Fiji Islands and migrated to the United States in 1962. He worked for the City of Livermore at the Las Positas and Springtown Golf Course as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent for the last 40 years. Mulkh was also one of the founding members of the Shri Guru Ravidass Temple in Pittsburg, CA. Mulkh is survived by his wife Kartar and their three sons as well as four brothers, four sisters, and three grandchildren. Mulkh was a great husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed.

COME JOIN US

2nd Annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship Research Tournament, August 24 at Contra Costa Country Club.

Set in the shadow of Mt. Diablo, the club is located right in the heart of the Bay Area. The championship 18-hole golf course measures 6,550 yards and is consistently rated one of the top private courses in Northern California. This wonderful course was originally established in 1925 and was renovated in 1992 by Robert Muir Graves. All of the greens were reconstructed with a drought-resistant design. The course is routed through 145 acres and landscaped with mature native oak, eucalyptus and redwood trees. The course gives all players a perfect blend of challenges and dramatic views. Proceeds from the Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament benefit Northern California Turfgrass students and research projects undertaken by the association.

NEW MEMBERS

AUSTIN DANIELLS

Monterey Pines Golf Course
Superintendent Member

HAROLD SMITH

San Ramon Golf Club
Assistant Superintendent

CONGRATULATIONS

to Terry Grasso, CGCS on his recent
GCSAA Recertification.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CHRISTOPHER MAINS
Spring Valley Golf Course

Greetings, everyone!

Summertime is here! That wonderful season that shows us all what we are made of! It is the time of year that shows us how well we have planned and trained our crews. Summer fully displays both your irrigation system's weaknesses and the effectiveness of your Anthracnose prevention program. It stresses us out as we watch our turf stress, but it is also the time of year that brings out the golfers and the accompanying revenue. Young and old alike, people come out to enjoy some quality time outdoors. It is a nice to see families coming out to the courses to play a round of golf together. I enjoy the summer season because it means that I can bring my children to work a few times and let them see what Dad does during the day.

Hopefully, everyone has also scheduled in some down time. It is important to get off the property for a little vacation and do whatever you enjoy that is not golf. Personally, I am planning on wheeling my jeep a couple of times this summer and doing some family camping.

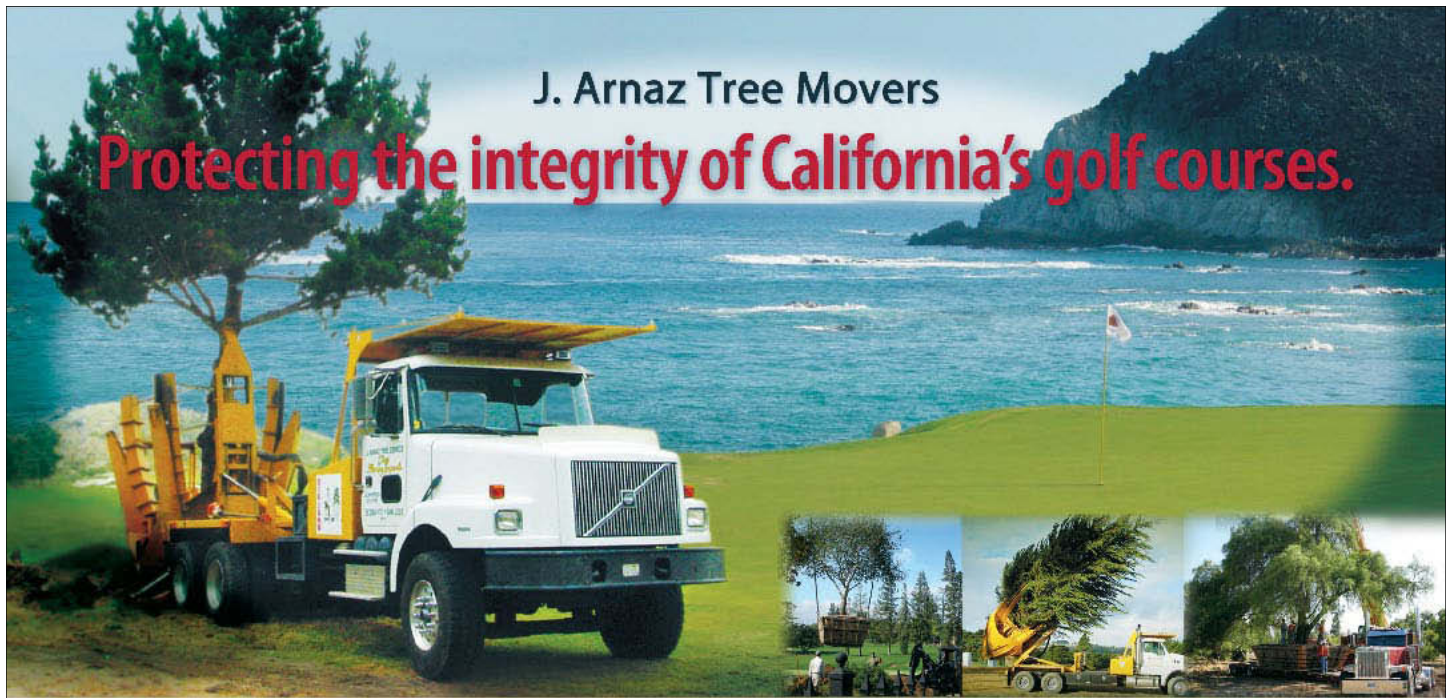
The Superintendent/Pro tournament was fantastic. **Bob Lopic, Mike Senneca** and the entire staff at Orinda did a great job with the course and the food. My thanks go out to them and to guest speaker, Chaplain Corbin Cherry, Ret., for his inspiration presentation. If you did not make the event, you really missed out. Even

the weather was wonderful. I would encourage you to make time to play in this special event in the upcoming years.

I hope that you have marked your calendars for the upcoming GCSANC events. On July 22nd, we will be heading out to the ballpark for an afternoon with the Oakland A's for our annual Crew Appreciation Day. The turnout for last year's event was record breaking, and we hope to have an equally successful event again this year. Also, on August 24th is the Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship Tournament at Contra Costa Country Club. **John Martin** will be our host and is excited to have us out. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Finally, your Board of Directors is working very hard on putting the finishing touches on our new website so that it can go live. It is a very exciting project that will be a one stop site for association information. Be on the lookout for further information in your email inbox.

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NORCALENDAR

JULY 22

Crew Appreciation Day

Oakland Coliseum: A's vs. Minnesota Twins
Clay Wood, Host Superintendent



AUGUST 24

Wagon Scholarship and Research Tournament

Davey-Nor Cal Cup Event

Contra Costa Country Club
John Martin, Host Superintendent

SEPTEMBER 14

Oakmont Country Club
Steve Good, Host Superintendent

SEPTEMBER 20-22

Assistant Superintendents Bootcamp

Asilomar, Pacific Grove

OCTOBER 19, 20

Superintendents Institute

Davey-Nor Cal Cup Event

The Course at Wente Vineyards
Glenn Matthews, Host Superintendent

NOVEMBER 1-3

California GCSA Annual Meeting

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Terry Vassey, PhD

DECEMBER

Holiday Gatherings

JANUARY 2010

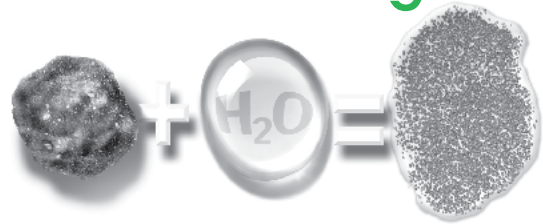
Election Meeting

Spring Valley Golf Course
Chris Mains, Host Superintendent

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Mike Vickers has left Dublin Ranch Golf Club and is the new superintendent at Boundary Oaks Golf Course in Walnut Creek. Boundary Oaks was under a long-term lease agreement with Professional Golf, **Bob Boldt** and **George Claus**. Course Co. is the new operator.....The new superintendent at Dublin Ranch is **John Jorgensen**. John was the superintendent at Trinitas Golf Club in Valley Springs prior to his move..... Congratulations to **Ruben Silveira** who recently celebrated his 35th year with the Stanford Golf Course.

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2009 SUPERINTENDENT PRO TOURNAMENT

Orinda Country Club

SUPER/PRO TEAM RESULTS

First Place (\$500 each)*

Glenn Matthews/Steve Ficovich 68*
The Course at Wente Vineyards

*Won card-off with birdie on 1st hole

Second Place (\$350 each)

Steve Good /Rod Metzler 68
Oakmont Golf Club

Third Place (\$250 each)

Nick Checklenis/Jeff Sanchez 69*
Silver Creek Valley Country Club

*Won 4-way card-off with birdie on 1st hole

PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

First Place (\$1,000)

John Snopkowski 70
Santa Teresa Golf Club

Second Place (tie) (\$600 each)

Rodney Wilson 74
Harding Park GC

Jeff Stimack 74
Bennett Valley GC

SUPER/AFFILIATE LOW GROSS RESULTS

First Place (\$200)

Glenn Matthews 81
The Course at Wente Vineyards

Second Place (tie) (\$100)

Mike Hill 82*
Moffett Field GC

*Won card-off with par on 1st hole

SUPER/AFFILIATE LOW NET RESULTS

First Place (\$200)

Ronnie Rogers 74*
Ewing Irrigation

*Won card-off with net birdie on 1st hole

Second Place (\$100)

Greg Fernald 74
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Mike Hill (\$100)
Moffett Field GC

Non-professional prizes were GCSAA Gift Certificates.

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2009 SUPERINTENDENT PRO TOURNAMENT



LEFT: He may have lost his leg to a landmine in the Vietnam War, but that didn't stop **Chaplain Corbin Cherry, Ret.**, from teeing it up at Orinda County Club. He is extremely passionate about playing golf and living life. RIGHT: (L to R) PGA host professional, **Shim LaGoy**; sponsor **Craig Faris** with E-Z-GO; sponsor **Adrian Meyer** with E-Z-GO; **Matt Moore** with TMT Enterprises; GCSANC President **Chris Mains**, guest speaker **Chaplain Corbin Cherry**, and host superintendent **Bob Lopic** of Orinda Country Club.

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2009 SUPERINTENDENT PRO TOURNAMENT



TOP LEFT: When it comes to hosts, it doesn't get any better than this duo. Golf Course Superintendent **Bob Lopic** (left) and PGA Master Professional **Shim LaGoy** provided a first-class event at Orinda CC. **TOP CENTER:** A good time was had by all at the 2009 Superintendent Pro Tournament at Orinda Country Club. This event was kindly hosted by E-Z-GO. **RIGHT:** Talking more than "just golf" are GCSANC Board Member **Dale Simpson** (left) and Guest Speaker **Chaplain Corbin Cherry**. Both gentlemen are involved with outreach programs that provide wheelchairs to the underserved. **BOTTOM CENTER:** Congratulations to Superintendent Pro first place team winners **Glenn Matthews** and **Steve Ficovich** from the Course at Wente Vineyards. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Second-place team honors were earned by Superintendent **Steve Good** (left) and his Pro Partner **Rod Metzler** of Oakmont Golf Club.

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When it comes to the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative JUST ASK GARY...

People often wonder what is OTEI? Actually, it stands proudly for the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative home-based from Metropolitan Golf Links located in Oakland, CA. Below you will find an insightful Q&A with two GCSANC members who are deeply involved with this community outreach program, Gary Carls, CGCS, (City of Sunnyvale Golf Course Division) and Gary Ingram, CGCS, (Metropolitan Golf Links). It's through their dedicated work and with the support of CourseCo, Inc. (a progressive golf course management company) and other loyal supporters that they are able to introduce youth to the turf & landscape industry and also to the game of golf.

How did you get involved with OTEI?

Gary Carls: In 2001, I was asked by Ray Davies, CGCS, to be part of the OTEI planning group as a representative of the GCSANC. At that time OTEI was helping develop curriculum for courses at Castlemont High School in Oakland. Shortly thereafter, we started developing a two-year Sports Turf Management program at Merritt College.

Gary Ingram: When interviewing for the position at Metropolitan GL, I was informed about a new “community outreach program” for youth and was told I’d have a chance to be actively involved with the initiative and help fuel its success. I liked that idea! At the time I was planning to begin a career in teaching, so OTEI was a wonderful opportunity to combine my passion for golf course maintenance with my desire to teach.

How many years have you been involved?

Gary Ingram: The day I commenced employment at Metropolitan Golf Links was the day I became involved with OTEI. It’s been seven great years!

Gary Carls: 8 years. When OTEI gained its non-profit status in 2006, I was asked to serve as President/CEO, and I gladly accepted.

As a member of the OTEI board of directors, what does it entail?

Gary Ingram: We focus on the future direction of OTEI... everything from funding to individual program development and implementation.

What are your responsibilities when serving as president of OTEI?

Gary Carls: Besides serving as chair for OTEI’s board of directors, I also have oversight for the day-to-day operations. I continue to seek partnership opportunities where we can work with other organizations (like the newly-founded, The First Tee of Oakland) in an effort to reach even more kids within the community. Last fall we were able to hire a person (on a part-time basis) who assists with reports, website and newsletter, plus coordinating transportation & meals for our study tours, etc.

Many OTEI activities are based from Metropolitan Golf Links. How do you manage it all?

Gary Ingram: CourseCo (my employer) has been very supportive of OTEI evidenced by the deep involvement that our facility has had with the program since its inception. Doing what is right for the

environment, the industry, and the community is what CourseCo is all about. I also have a very supportive family who understands that OTEI is one of my life passions. Our maintenance staff at Metro continues to be involved, and they too, are extremely helpful and understanding. When handling OTEI responsibilities along with my regular duties at Metro, the old saying prevails: If there is a will there is a way!

What other GCSANC members have been involved with OTEI?

Gary Carls: Ray Davies, CGCS, has been involved since the start and was instrumental in getting OTEI going. He continues to serve on our board of directors. Numerous other GCSANC members have provided support throughout the years, some serving as guest speakers at various activities. Others have helped us through donations to our annual charity golf tournament and/or by participating in the event.



Gary Ingram, CGCS, explains to OTEI students the importance of safety when operating equipment on the course.

Gary Ingram: Gosh, there have been so many folks who’ve helped us over the years. Some that come to mind are Ray Davies, CGCS, Terry Grasso, CGCS, Cord Ozment, CGCS, Dave Davies, CGCS, Alan Andreasen, CGCS, Rodney Muller plus Pat Gross and Dr. Ali Harivandi. I know there are others (whose names I may have forgotten), that have given generously of their time and service, and to all of them, we are very appreciative.

Biggest challenges with a non-profit such as OTEI?

Gary Carls: The biggest challenge has been to “keep everything going” with an organization that is primarily volunteer-based. Now that we have a staff person it has helped ease some of the responsibilities, yet nearly all of the study tours still require a lot of time from our volunteers. We’re always in search of superintendents who can assist with the study tours. When it comes to securing funds for worthy programs, we, like others, are faced by the challenges that come with today’s tough economic climate.

Gary Ingram: Committed volunteers to participate in the every-
(Continued on page 10)

JUST ASK GARY...

(Continued from page 9)

day working of the organization. And of course, funding.

Biggest rewards for being involved?

Gary Carls: The biggest reward for me is seeing the smiles on the kids' faces every time we have a study tour. It's also great to see the support we receive from the players at Metropolitan Golf Links who are always asking about the kids and the work we are doing with them. They too, often walk away with a smile on their face.

Gary Ingram: I find it rewarding to know that we can make a positive impact in a young person's life. I am confident to say, that students involved in our program will not be a detriment to their community, but rather a benefit. I've seen the kids take what they've learned and use it to help find solutions within the local community, which is important during these ever-changing times. Additionally, I appreciate the one-on-one conversations I have with the students, as they always seem to put things into perspective for me.

What is your favorite OTEI project or learning experience? And why?

Gary Carls: Although the study tours we conduct are always enjoyable, I'd have to say the trips to the Golf Industry Show (GIS) are always the most memorable for me. It's great to take a few kids to the GIS since it is out of their local area and we make sure they experience the whole event. While we keep them focused on education and the trade show for the first few days, we always try to incorporate a fun element towards the end, where they spend a day at Disney, Sea World or somewhere similar.

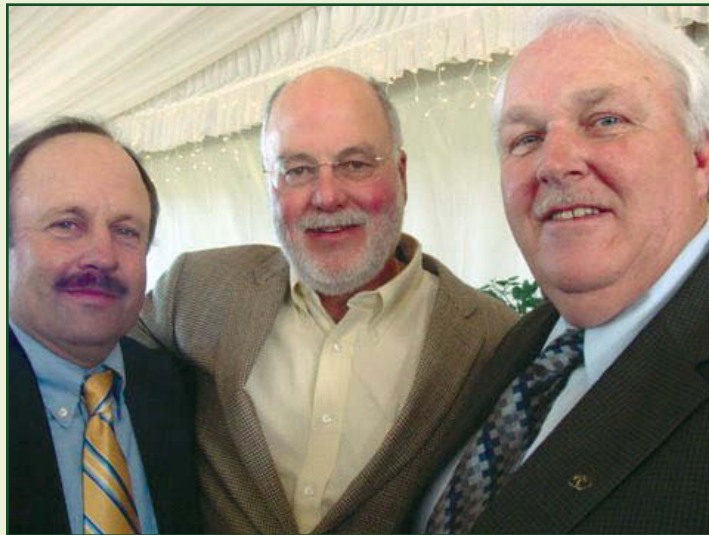
Gary Ingram: I really don't have a favorite outing, as each learning experience has its positive, rewarding, (and challenging moments) too. The events on-site at Metro often give the students a chance to not only learn about the environment but to experience it. (On a lighter side, just the ability to watch the kids be themselves or even play with our dog Kendra, is fun to observe, too).

Have any of the students sought employment or further education in turf care or related fields?

Gary Ingram: Most of Metro's Guest Service staff have been involved with OTEI as either interns or participants in study tours. This summer, a former high school intern has been hired to serve on our maintenance staff/team. We will have four high school interns at Metro this year. Some of our older OTEI students are now in their

second year of college. A couple have joined our men's club and indicated a desire to pursue a career within the turf care industry or a related field.

OTEI is a community outreach program for Oakland's inner-city youth. This initiative offers middle school and high school students the opportunity to explore the turf and landscape industry and the game of golf through: field trips, classroom guest speakers, internships, industry conferences, after-school programs, scholarships, career and job fairs, golf outings, special community projects, agricultural chemistry and plant biology courses, and turf seminars for high school and college level students.



A trio of supporters: OTEI Board Member **Gary Ingram**, CGCS with **Tom Isaak**, President of CourseCo, Inc. and OTEI President **Gary Carls**, CGCS.

Additionally, the OTEI encourages students to investigate career paths through higher education programs offered through the Peralta Community College District, including Merritt College's Professional Turf and Landscape Management Program. To learn more about OTEI visit www.oaklandturf.org.



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