

# NO STONE LEFT UNTURNED AT STONEBRAE FIELD DAY

On the tail of a Nationwide Tour event at **TPC San Francisco Bay at Stonebrae**, members of the **Northern California Chapter of the GCSAA** gathered recently at the David McLay Kidd-designed course for the **2009 Superintendents Field Day**. Some attendees also took the opportunity to tee it up on the links-style track tagged by *Travel+Leisure Golf* magazine as one of the best new courses in 2007.

This year's field day, entitled Environmental Issues at Stonebrae, provided an in-depth look at a championship golf course, one that's recognized for its strategic design, natural open space and spectacular views of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The course features 66 acres of maintained turf within a 212-acre naturalized environment. Within the native areas are eight acres of improved, protected wetlands and 67 acres of reconstructed, re-vegetated native grasslands. In addition, long-term monitoring programs have been established for wetland development, invasive weed management, and habitat restoration.

Stonebrae was an ideal setting for course superintendents and industry experts to convene and collaborate. In addition to a fascinating tour of the site, the field day included presentations on construction and long-term management planning, water management and filtration, species management, and habitat restoration with focus on the Stonebrae Audubon Certification process. Presenters included **Steve Miller**, executive director of Stonebrae, LP, **Malcom Sproul**, managing principal with LSA Associates, **Karen Swaim**, founder and principal of Swaim Biological Incorporated, **Ali Harivandi, Ph.D.**, with the University of



GCSANC Members gather together for a photo at TPC San Francisco Bay at Stonebrae, site of the 2009 Educational Field Day.

California Cooperative Extension, and Host Superintendent **Dave Davies**, CGCS, at TPC San Francisco Bay at Stonebrae.

This innovative educational event exists through the collaboration of the Northern California Chapter of the GCSAA and the Univer-

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(L to R) Speakers for the 2009 Field Day include: **Malcom Sproul**, managing principal with LSA Associates, **Karen Swaim**, founder and principal of Swaim Biological Incorporated, Host Golf Course Superintendent **Dave Davies**, CGCS, at TPC San Francisco Bay at Stonebrae, and **Ali Harivandi**, Ph.D., with the University of California Cooperative Extension. Included on the impressive list of presenters (but missing from the photo) was **Steve Miller**, executive director of Stonebrae, LP.

sity of California Cooperative Extension. The 2009 planning committee included: **Co-Chairman Ali Harivandi, Ph.D.** (U.C. Cooperative Extension), **Co-Chairman Mike Souza** (Richmond CC), and **committee members Steve Agin** (Ruby Hill GC), **Thomas Bastis, CGCS** (California GC), **Gary Carls, CGCS** (Sunnyvale GC), **Dean Cravalho** (Round Hill CC), **Greg Dunn** (West Coast Turf), **Greg Fernald** (Target Specialty Products), **Gary Ingram, CGCS** Metropolitan GL, **Chris Mains** (Spring Valley GC), **Rodney Muller** (Tilden Park GC), and **Ryan Zuehlsdorf** (Roddy Ranch GC).

“Thanks to the efforts of our education planning committee and host facility we were able to create a field day experience that was environmentally explorative and informative” stated Co-Chairman Ali Harivandi, Ph.D. “It isn’t often you’re able to study a golf course setting that’s had the ecological and environmental considerations like that of Stonebrae.”

Special thanks are extended to Host Superintendent **Dave Davies, CGCS**, and the entire team at TPC San Francisco Bay at Stonebrae for opening their course and clubhouse to GCSANC members for what proved to be, a spectacular field day.

See more photos on page 16.



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# MEMBER UPDATE

## NEW MEMBERS

- Class C     **Sean McPhedran**  
*Mayacama Golf Club*
- Affiliate   **Andrew Staples**  
*Golf Resource Group, Inc.*
- SM         **P.J. Kaner**  
*Santa Teresa Golf Club*
- Class C     **Christoper Bennett**  
*Mayacama Golf Club*
- Class C     **Thomas Doyle**  
*Callippe Preserve Golf Course*

## RECLASSIFIED MEMBERS

- Class A     **Don Naumann**  
*Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, Inc.*



Members **Terry Grasso**, CGCS (Sequoyah CC) and **Vince Keats**, CGCS, Shadow Lakes/Deer Ridge GCs) enjoy the Field Day experience at Stonebrae.



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## LIFE AWAY FROM THE MOWER AND THE SPRAY RIG



by **Tim Powers, CGCS**  
Crystal Springs CG

The golf business can be pretty intense. You must have a special passion to stay in the profession. Many people choose to get out after awhile because it can be too much and affect ones health and family situation. One must have some interests away from the course to create a balance. I come from back east and grew up watching hockey. The action is great to watch especially live. You don't have any idea how big the players are or how fast they can skate until you are there. I met some people when I moved to California who were working in San Jose as off-ice officials for the National Hockey League. I started going to most of the games and they asked me if I would be interested in joining the crew. I now get paid to watch hockey. The crew consists of timekeepers, penalty box attendants, goal judges, and computer operators who keep all the stats. Some of the jobs don't really allow you to watch much of the action but some do. Everybody on the crew grew up playing the game and many still do. It is imperative that we know the rules in order to do our jobs. Most people think that the sport is very violent and the players are a bunch of goons but they are usually very polite and courteous. Their athletic ability is incredible. The physical conditioning must to be top notch. They can skate backwards faster than most people can go

forwards and they change direction on a dime. The fans love the game and things can get very loud as the playoffs approach and intensify with each round. We have to be in the arena 90 minutes before game time. We get a meal and can be eating next to some greats of the game such as Wayne Gretzky, Grant Fuhr, Steve Yzerman, and others. They are all friendly and love talking about the game. Hockey players are usually very good golfers as well so we have that to talk about. Golf course superintendents love watching the game. I remember at the GIS in Atlanta a few years ago, the Atlanta Thrashers were in town and there must have been at least 250 attendees at the game. We really don't have much interaction with the players. There are 41 regular season games plus three preseason plus the playoffs. It can get a little busy at times but we rarely have more than three games in a week. I want the league to send me to Toronto for training in the summer time, as I know many superintendents in the area. I also do a little collecting of memorabilia. It is a family thing. I have a flag signed by all living Masters Champions except two, Jackie Burke Jr. and Severiano Ballesteros. I also have about 10 each of US Open, PGA, and British Open champions as well as various other events. I am working on getting a flag from each of the USGA events. I have many LPGA autographs as well since I watch them about twice a year as I have a friend who has been on tour for five years. It has more meaning when you know someone playing. The only time I rooted against my hometown Mets was when a college friend was pitching for the Atlanta Braves. I have stuff from all of the major sports but the concentration is on golf and hockey. It will be a pain to move as I have lots a framed works. It is fun and gives me something to do at events besides watch.



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## NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

**Gil Stiles** has voluntarily left Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club. An announcement of his new position will follow in a later column. Gil is being replaced by **Jeff Sutherland**. Jeff had been the super at Westin Mission Hills GC in Rancho Mirage...**Jon Christenson** is the new superintendent at Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club. Jon was the Superintendent and General Manager at Whispering Creek Golf Club in Sioux City, Iowa prior to moving out west. He is replacing **Matt Wisely** who is now at Alameda Muni (Chuck Corica Golf Complex) in Alameda...New maintenance shops have been built and are now being occupied at Shoreline Golf Links in Mountain View, (**Steve Crane**, Supt.) and Blackberry Farm GC in Cupertino (**D. Naumann**, Supt.)....

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