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Orinda Country Club

## COVER

Cinnabar Hills Golf Club

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# OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2009

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## OFFICE NOTES



**BARBARA MIKEL**

*May/June 2009*

The verdict is out on the new *Thru the Green* magazine's electronic version, and all feedback proves that readership has been great!

The average view/read time for January/February 2009 issue (the first one) was six minutes. The second issue was eight minutes. Our circulation is larger than the membership so people are linking off the California GCSA web site, or some of you have read the instructions and help menu to learn how to send it to your family. If you haven't already, please take advantage of the wonderful instructions and "help" function provided with the magazine. These instructions give you options to tailor the magazine

to your viewing and reading needs. For future reference, you may want to keep the links for each issue. You can go back and review the publications using the custom link for each issue.

Each email address and web site provided in the publication is "e-enabled." That means immediate access to our advertisers and sponsors web sites or their company representative through email. To those of you advertisers that haven't already provided color updates for your ads, please do so ASAP. Color really makes the magazine more interesting and your advertising more noticeable too.

## PRESIDENTS CUP 2009

### *Harding Park Golf Course*

#### **VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY**

*Monday thru Sunday, October 5-11*

- We need 10 volunteers each day, Monday and Tuesday
- Also, 20 volunteers each day, Wednesday thru Sunday  
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- We are also looking for vendors to sponsor coffee and donuts/bagels each morning from 4-5 A.M. and then a meal each day between 9-10 A.M.  
*The total number of staff and volunteers will be about 60 people. If you want to participate, please contact:*

**Mike Garvale**

*Kemper Golf*

[mgarvale@kempersports.com](mailto:mgarvale@kempersports.com)

#### **2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

##### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5**

Team Practice Rounds (course closed to public)

##### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6**

Team Practice Rounds—All day

##### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7**

A.M. Team Practice Rounds

4:00 P.M. Opening Ceremonies

7:00 P.M. The Presidents Cup Reception

##### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**

Foursome Matches

##### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**

Four-ball Matches

##### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10**

Foursome Matches, Four-ball Matches

##### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11**

Singles Matches, Closing Ceremonies  
following completion of play

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#### **FOURTH PLACE**

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#### **FIFTH PLACE**

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#### **FIRST PLACE**

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#### **FOURTH PLACE**

Barajas/Martinez

#### **FOUR BALL III NET**

#### **FOURTH PLACE**

Baker/Nolf

#### **CHAPTER TEAMS GROSS**

#### **FOURTH PLACE**

*California Team #1:*

Tom Elliot

Mike Stieler

Mark Warren

Scott Lewis

#### **CHAPTER TEAMS NET**

#### **FIRST PLACE**

*California Team #9:*

Dennis Kerr

Don Naumann

Brian Netzt

Donald Allen

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### CHRISTOPHER MAINS

Spring Valley Golf Course

Greetings everyone!

Spring is once again upon us and with its arrival comes a multitude of tasks such as aerification, broadleaf weed spraying and the constant sharpening of mowers to keep up with the topdressing sand that dulls them. It is a time that makes us go from being busy to being really busy! I imagine that a lot of you are either in the middle of or done with aerification or in the midst of some other spring practice. Regardless, I hope that everything is going well with your spring programs.

Speaking of programs; as you are all aware of the tough economic times that we are in, this is a great time to take a close look at all of your maintenance programs and find areas that can be tightened up to increase efficiency and save money. Many of you use the winter time to evaluate, repair, and perhaps replace equipment that is broken, neglected or just plain worn out. Why not take a second look at your fertility, spray, labor, and irrigation programs to see if anything is 'broken, neglected or just plain worn out.'

It appears that everyone is enjoying the new electronic version of the newsletter. The feedback that we have been getting has been very positive and encourages the newsletter team to strive to deliver relevant and timely content in each issue. Also, in case you

weren't aware, the ads that are in the newsletter are all linked to the advertiser's websites. Please take some time to visit their websites and support them, they are a very important part of our association.

The board of directors have been very busy putting together an exciting series of education and social events for you. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual superintendent/professional event at Orinda Country Club on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The host superintendent, Bob Lopic, is a past president of the association and is known to deliver an outstanding golf experience. We also have a golf outing at the beautifully maintained Cinnabar Hills Golf Course on June 15<sup>th</sup>. I am sure host superintendent Brian Boyer is looking forward to challenging us with his layout. Both of the events mentioned are Davey-Nor Cal cup events. The participation in this series has been very good and brings an element of friendly competition to the events. I look forward to seeing you there at both events.

Let us all hope for a prosperous and successful season! Play golf!

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# GCSANC HAS PRESENCE AT CA GOLF WRITERS BANQUET

The California Golf Writers Association turned 50 this year and its annual awards banquet at Pebble Beach was almost like a birthday party. Several GCSANC members were in attendance, not just to help blow out the candles on the birthday cake but in support of colleague **Steve Byrne** (Mira Vista Golf & Country Club) honored as *Golf Course Superintendent of the Year*.

Byrne shared the stage with fellow honoree **John Abendroth** recognized as *Golf Professional of the Year*. Abendroth co-hosts *Hooked on Golf Radio Show* (KNBR 680AM) an assignment shared with his good friend, **Mitch Juricich**. Both gentlemen are GCSANC advocates and frequently remind their listeners about the significant role of the golf course superintendent.

For those who've never attended a golf writer dinner, you should. Held during the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am week, the event attracts golf writers, producers, amateur and professional players, celebrities, golf historians and industry leaders. A few local superintendents attend, but others are absent (and rightly, so) as they prepare their respective course/s for the PGA TOUR event slated that week.

While the golf writers are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year, it's been just less than a decade that the GCSANC has been formally included on the VIP invitation list. Thanks to the support of CGWA members like **Bob Murphy** (master of ceremonies), **Kristen Hunter** (event chair and co-owner of Hunter PR), and **Ron Agostini** (golf writer for the *Modesto Bee*) and others too, the GCSANC Superintendent of the Year is now recognized at the banquet along with other dignitaries.



Award recipient Steve Byrne with golf broadcaster and fellow honoree Roger Maltbie, Jason Green and Mike Souza.

Recent GCSANC honorees join the ranks of respected **Class "A" Life Member Clifford Wagoner, CGCS**, a former *Golden State Award* recipient, honored at the banquet in 1988. His wife, **Myrtle**, (a loyal GCSANC supporter) recalls, "It was the year they moved the awards dinner from Monterey Peninsula Country Club over to The



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## WRITERS BANQUET *(Continued)*

Inn at Spanish Bay so they could accommodate the huge crowd.” The event still attracts more than 350-450 golf enthusiasts.

“It’s a special evening not just because of all the networking that goes on,” stated **GCSANC Past President Jason Green**, “but because you never know who might just show up out of the blue.” Sure enough, Actor **Bill Murray** popped in towards the end of the dinner hour, tossed out a couple one-liners about his good friend/honoree **Bob Murphy** and followed it up with a few light-hearted words about golf course superintendents. Before you knew it **Carl Spackler** himself, slipped out the back door and was on his way, but not before a local paparazzi captured a photo of the Caddyshack star with honoree **Steve Byrne**, witnessed by **GCSANC Members Mike Souza** and **Jason Green**.

After dinner, guests remained in the ballroom visiting with friends, colleagues and celebrities, reminiscent of good times past. Last year, ESPN’s **Chris Berman** posed for a photo with chapter members. This year former PGA TOUR Player and **NBC Broadcaster Roger Matlbie** joined GCSANC’ers for a quick visit and snapshot, too. “It’s moments like this, that golf course superintendents have an opportunity to visit with others closely associated with the game,” stated **GCSAA Director Pat Finlen, CGCS**. “It’s also an excellent forum for folks to learn more about our members and their commitment to professional excellence.”

GCSANC Superintendent of the Year Steve Byrne stands proudly with his wife Samantha, at the California Golf Writer’s Banquet at The Inn at Spanish Bay.



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Mr. and Mrs. John Abendroth were joined by GCSANC Member Steve Good and his wife at the Golf Writer Dinner.

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## WRITERS BANQUET (Continued)

Better start saving now if you're interested in attending next year's banquet, as it's a little on the pricey side, but it's worth it. There's also a raffle associated with the event and funds raised benefit youth scholarships. To learn more about the CGWA awards banquet, contact GCSANC Communications Consultant Emmy Moore Minister at EmmyPGA@aol.com.



GCSANC Honoree Steve Byrne takes time out for a photo with Actor Bill Murray of *Caddyshack* fame.



John Abendroth and Mitch Juricich, long-time hosts of KNBR's *Hooked on Golf* radio show.

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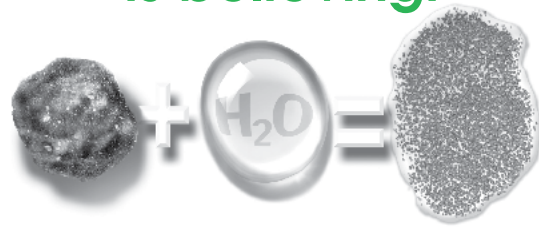
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# IMPACTS TO SURFACEWATER FROM GOLF COURSES IN THE BAY AREA

MIKE BLANKINSHIP, BLANKINSHIP & ASSOCIATES, DAVIS, CA

Over 150 courses are in the greater San Francisco Bay area. Virtually all of these courses have a creek, stream, drainage, pond or lake on or near the course. Significant regulatory pressure exists for municipalities to meet state and federal water quality regulations, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater rules. Regulatory agencies place particular emphasis on eutrophication, depletion of dissolved oxygen, and impacts from fertilizers and pesticides. Golf courses are widely perceived as contributing to these water quality problems.

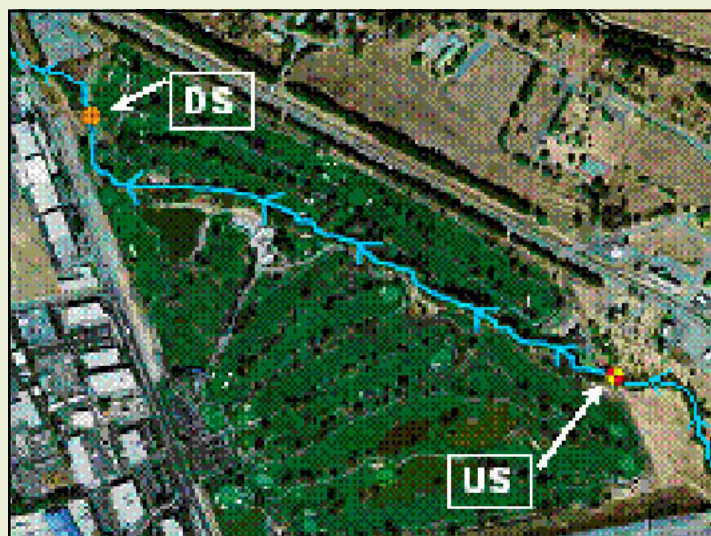


A 6-year study was completed to address concerns over perceived negative impacts to surfacewater quality from golf course operations. Thirty golf courses in Contra Costa County where surface water passed through or adjacent to the course were screened for inclusion in this study. The study focused on differences in upstream vs. downstream surfacewater quality on “organic” vs. “traditionally” fertilized courses. From 2004 to 2006, year-round sampling was done, including 17 storm events. Forty six separate sampling events resulted in over 1,000 water quality measurements. Analyses were done for



dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity and turbidity, ammonia, nitrate and phosphate, and toxicity to *Selenastrum capricornutum* (algae) and *Ceriodaphnia* (water flea). Data on agronomic practices such as fertilizer and irrigation water use, mowing frequency, etc. were collected at each course.

The results of the study suggest that impacts to surfacewater quality from golf courses, including nutrient input, were not occurring. Toxicity to water flea was not seen in any sample, suggesting that insecticides were not leaving any of the courses studied at concentrations adverse to this species. Algae populations were slightly reduced downstream of organic courses, suggesting that organic courses may be imparting some type of algae-limiting characteristic to surface water. Algae populations increased slightly downstream of traditional courses, suggesting that traditional courses may be contributing algae-enhancing nutrients to surface water. This latter finding is at least in part due to the lack of a significant vegetative buffer use.



Courses showing a high frequency and magnitude of downstream algal growth generally had managed turf immediately adjacent to surfacewater with little or no buffer present. In contrast, courses showing the lowest frequency and magnitude of downstream algal enhancement had comparatively little managed turf directly adjacent to surface water. This finding supports the concept that vegetated buffers are effective at protecting surface water quality, regardless of the fertilizer type used.

The overall study-wide average magnitude of downstream algae growth was 3%, suggesting that golf course nutrient input may be occurring but is relatively small. In general, courses with vegetated buffers had better water quality, regardless of the type of fertilizer used. The study concluded that contrary to popular perception, golf course impacts to surfacewater do not appear significant.

Because no studies to date have been as focused, extensive or as scientifically robust, results of this ground breaking work can be used by parties interested in better understanding golf's relationship with water quality in adjacent streams and creeks.