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NORCALENDAR

JANUARY 11, 2010

GCSANC Annual Meeting

Spring Valley Golf Course

Host Superintendent: Chris Mains, GCSANC President

Guest Speaker: Mark Woodward, CGCS, GCSAA CEO

FEBRUARY 8-12, 2010

Golf Industry Show

San Diego

MARCH 15, 2010

NCGA/USGA/GCSANC Green Section Meeting

Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club

Host Superintendent: Andrew Morgan

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

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OFFICE NOTES



BARBARA MIKEL

As I write this article, it has been the coldest, snowiest December in El Dorado County in 16 years. The power is out, the roads are impassable, and many offices are closed.

Living in California, most of us never really consider the impact of weather on our lives and our technological world. We rarely have weather so severe to put us “offline” or “off the road.”

What do you have as a backup plan for the occasional 20-year event? For the association office, it's backup, backup, backup. Office computers are on Auxiliary Power Units for a specific period, and then all systems are powered down. Telephones with conventional lines give way to “3G” and “4G” cellular technology. Internet access goes by satellite. While not as fast as other broadband services, satellite connections aren't dependent on conventional telephone or cables. Web or “cloud” based operations don't need to have a local server up and running in a powerless office. So for the week of Dec 7, operations of GCSANC continued from my home via generator, “3G” and satellite. The GCSANC office, after three days, finally had power restored. My staff was then able to continue to mail the 2010 election materials while I watched the snow and ice sickles from my home office.

Weather can halt economic activity for long period of time unless technology is put to best use. We have two options, stay mired in past technology or grow into the future. This usually means learning to be flexible, to experiment, and to try different things. If we fail to act, we can watch the technology parade pass right on by.

Congratulations to **Jim Husting**, CGCS for the well deserved GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. Jim has been at the forefront pending legislation, providing an “early warning” service to the golf industry on environmental and governmental regulation. It's no easy (or fun) task to make time to attend Sacramento meetings and hearings. On behalf of all of us, Thank You!

Hope all will make the time and attend the Annual Meeting at the Spring Valley Golf Course. I'm looking forward to this event. Some great awards will be presented to deserving members. I'm also looking forward to GCSAA's Mark Woodward providing a look forward for GCSAA and all the Affiliated Chapters.

MEMBER UPDATE

Welcome, new members!

SCOTT BROBECK

Assistant Superintendent, Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club

STRAUN EDWARDS

Affiliate Member, Trees 360 Degrees

GARY OTTO

Affiliate Member, John Deere Golf

MICHAEL ROTHENBERG

Affiliate Member, Brookside Laboratories

Congratulations on your reclassification!

RODNEY MULLER

Class A Superintendent, Tilden Park Golf Course

FERNANDO VILLAGRAN-COSTELLO

Class C Assistant Superintendent, Tilden Park Golf Course



Sorry we missed you!

Special “Thank You” and “Sorry we missed you” to Greg Fernald & Pete Bowman, Target Specialty Products for the Sponsorship and registration help at the 2009 Superintendents Institute Trade Show Exhibition



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CHRISTOPHER MAINS
Spring Valley Golf Course

Greetings everyone!

As I write this, my last message to you as president, I am reflecting back on the past year. It has been a year of many challenges. However, as always, the association continues to be healthy and vital. It remains that way because of the group of dedicated and selfless individuals that come together to ensure that the business of this organization gets done. I, of course, am referring to the board of directors, Barbara Mikel, Emmy Moore-Minister and the many others that volunteer to help out on the various committees. It is through this wonderful group of people that this association is able to put together programs and events that are worth attending. The turnout for a lot of the events was not what we had hoped for, but considering the state of the economy, it is not a complete surprise.

Winter is our "downtime." I say it like that because as we all know that winter in California is not like winter in other parts of the country. The northern areas experience snow and ice, so for them they just shut down the golf course and spend their time working on programs and budgets. The equipment gets refurbished and the blades get sharpened. Here, we have to do all that stuff also, but for many of us we do it while we continue with regular daily operations. So, as we manage through our "downtime", I hope that each and

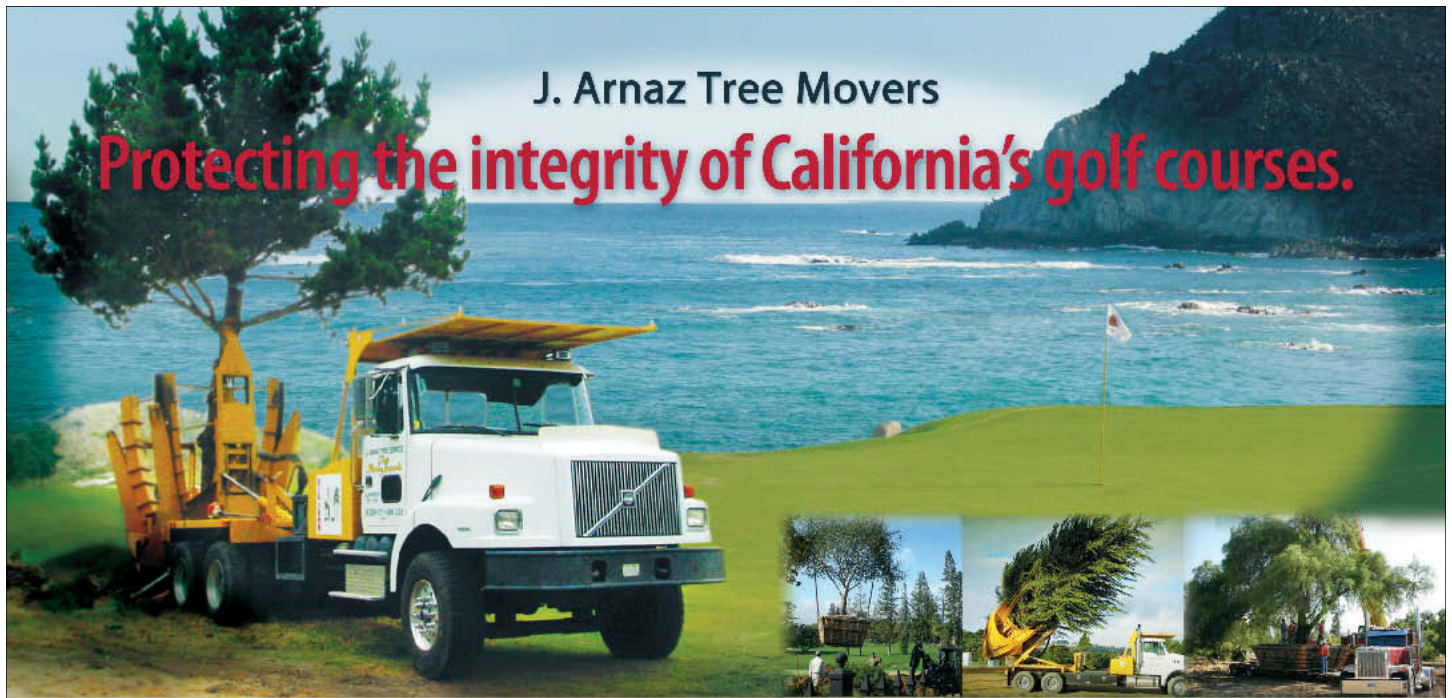
every one of you manages to find some true downtime to enjoy with your families and friends.

In February, the GIS will be in San Diego and I can't think of a better place to go for a little education and fun. Be sure to register for the show and I hope to see you all down there. You should have all received an email from the state association notifying everyone of the preregistration requirements for the California Room event. It is a minimal cost of \$20 if you do it early and \$30 at the door. This is to help defray the costs of renting the room for the evening. Please take a few minutes to pre-register.

Another important event that will be occurring at the GIS is the election of the board of directors for the GCSAA. Our own Pat Finlen, CGCS is running for the position of secretary/treasurer. Pat is currently a director for GCSAA and a past president of the GCSANC. As you can tell he has been an active member of our association and he has carried his energy and enthusiasm onto the national board. He has our complete support in the upcoming election.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone to take a look at the ballot for our upcoming election on January 11th at Spring Valley Golf Course. The roster of candidates is strong, so please plan to attend the meeting. If for some reason you are unable to attend, be sure to send in your proxy so that your vote can be counted.

It has been a pleasure to serve you. Thank You!



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NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS



DON NAUMANN

Neil Hladik is the new superintendent at Napa Golf Course at Kennedy Park. Neil replaced the retiring **Ray Layland** this past autumn. Neil was the construction superintendent at Cache Creek prior to his move.....**John Pina** at La Rinconada CC has been busy with some construction activity. He has recently rebuilt the entire driving range and a number of tees on the course.....The San Francisco PUC is making things interesting for both **Bob Klinesteker** and **Lou Tonelli**. The utility commission is replacing a 100-year-old riveted 30" water main with a new 36" pipe. The 75'-wide easement runs through both the properties of San Francisco GC and Lake Merced GC.....**Jim Stark** is the new Supt. at Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course. Jim had been the super at Ridgemark Golf & CC in Hollister prior to his move. Jim is replacing the retiring **Chris Gose**, who has moved on to easier pastures and is now enjoying the good life. **Gary Carl's** position is unchanged at the Golf Course as the Director of Golf Maintenance Operations...

FALLEN HEROES BENEFIT

The Fallen Heroes Golf Benefit— hosted by Sequoyah Country Club— raised an astounding \$85,743.34!

Many GCSANC members either played, donated money, or provided tee prizes to this wonderful event. The event distributed proceeds of \$21,435.83 to each of the families of Oakland Police Sergeants Dunakin, Romans and Sakai.

Proceeds distributed \$21,435.83 to each of the families of Sergeants Dunakin, Romans and Sakai. The fourth policeman, Officer Hege, had no dependents and his family asked that donations in his honor be given to specific charities. The Committee made grants of \$10,717.93 each to the California Transplant Donor Network and to OPEN, the Oakland Police Emergency Network.

The money given to OPEN has been designated for sending the officers' families to Washington, D.C. next year for a special ceremony at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Again, a huge 'thank you' goes to Tom Schunn, the Sequoyah Board, the Fallen Heroes Committee, Tri Valley Community Foundation and all the many members and employees who contributed so much to this cause. *(Article summary courtesy of Terry Grasso)*

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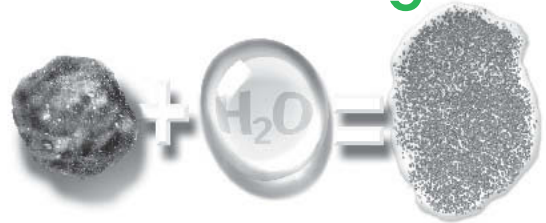
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ARBORWELL'S SORTWELL HONORED



Arborwell's Peter Sortwell was honored as Most Admired CEO In A Small Business by San Francisco Business Times. He joined thirteen other honorees at the gala.

The San Francisco Business Times has named Peter Sortwell, President and CEO of Arborwell Professional Tree Management, as one of the Bay Area's Most Admired CEOs in a Small Business. Sortwell was honored among thirteen other accomplished CEOs at the Business Times' Awards Gala.

Sortwell was joined by fellow award winners Peter Darbee, Chairman, CEO, & President of PG&E Corporation; John Chen, Chairman, CEO & President of Sybase Inc.; David Cush, President & CEO of Virgin America; and Robert Corrigan, President of San Francisco State University, among other well-respected Bay Area leaders. Sharing the "Small Business" category with Sortwell was Paul Levitan, President & CEO of Galaxy Desserts.

"I am honored and humbled to be recognized and associated with such a prestigious group of CEOs," said Sortwell.

Sortwell was recognized by the San Francisco Business Times for his outstanding leadership as a CEO.

As an innovative entrepreneur, a talented salesman, and a dedicated boss, Sortwell has made Arborwell a force to be reckoned with in the world of tree care. Utilizing his vast experience and entrepreneurial skills, Sortwell has brought Arborwell from six employees and \$500,000 in annual sales in 2001 to eighty-five employees, over \$12,000,000 in sales, and two new branches in 2009. Sortwell has been able to grow a successful company by hiring an outstanding staff, developing a strategic, relationship-based marketing approach, and by consistently looking towards the future of his industry.

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2009 DAVEY NOR CAL CUP RESULTS

GROSS

Jeff Hart, <i>Affiliate, Southern Links</i>	149	1 st Gross
John Pina, <i>La Rinconada Golf Club</i>	160	2 nd Gross
Glenn Matthews, <i>The Course At Wente Vineyards</i>	163	3 rd Gross
Dale Simpson, <i>Crow Canyon Country Club</i>	171	4 th Gross

NET

Dave Sheldon, <i>Fountaingrove Athletic Club</i>	138	1 st Net
Greg Fernald, <i>Target Specialty Products</i>	148	2 nd Net
Jim Duhig, <i>Arrow Golf Construction Inc.</i>	149	3 rd Net
Mitch Frasier, <i>Turf Star, Inc.</i>	149	4 th Net

First Place	\$300.00
Second Place	\$200.00
Third Place	\$150.00
Fourth Place	\$100.00

All winners awarded GCSAA Gift Certificates for the event.

The purpose of the Davey NorCal Cup is to encourage members to participate in GCSANC events by creating a competitive atmosphere by emulating the "Fed-Ex Cup" on the PGA Tour. Only GCSANC members are eligible for prizes, but all can participate.



RULES

- There will be a minimum four tournaments a year.
- There will be a Net and Gross division.
- Members must have a USGA GHIN handicap index or they will play scratch for the Net division.
- The current month's USGA GHIN handicap index will be used to calculate each individual's Net score.
- A minimum of two 18-hole tournament scores will be used to calculate a tournament total for the winners.
- The winners of the Net and Gross divisions will each receive a \$300 gift certificate and a silver plated cup engraved with "Davey Tree NorCal Cup", the winner's name, the date and "First Place Net (Gross) Division"
- Second, third and fourth place winners will receive \$200, \$150, and \$100 gift certificates respectively.

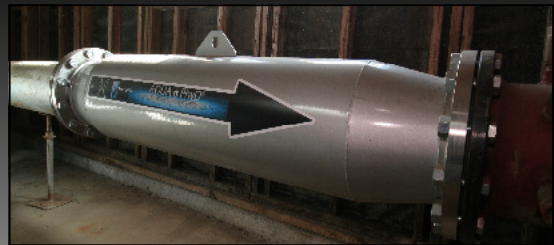
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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC GOLF ALLIANCE



The San Francisco Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee (“PROSAC”) at the conclusion of a December 1 public hearing overwhelmingly endorsed retaining the 18-hole Alister MacKenzie-designed Sharp Park Golf Course.

By a 14-1 vote, PROSAC endorsed preservation of the golf course, in conjunction with a Rec & Park Department plan to rehabilitate habitat at the western end of the property for two threatened species, the S.F. Garter Snake and the California Red-legged Frog. By a separate 13-2 vote, PROSAC approved a resolution encouraging the Rec & Park Department to continue efforts to cooperate at Sharp Park with the City of Pacifica and County of San Mateo. On a preliminary procedural vote, PROSAC members declined to include the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (“GGNRA”) in the “cooperation” resolution. All of PROSAC’s recommendations will be forwarded to the Rec & Park Commission, which will conduct a continued public hearing on the Sharp Park matter.

At six monthly meetings since July ‘09 PROSAC has heard a series of reports and public testimony about various aspects of the golf, financial, and environmental restoration issues at Sharp Park.

Prior to PROSAC’s December 1 votes, Committee members also heard public testimony from David Monroe and Karen Swaim, the lead scientists and principal authors of the Sharp Park Conceptual Alternatives Report. Monroe (from Tetra-Tech, an environmental consulting firm) said that retaining the 18-hole golf course, with some modifications in the area of two large ponds at the SW corner of the property near the sea wall, conferred substantial habitat enhancement benefits for the frog and snake, at significantly lower cost than eliminating the golf course or reducing it to 9 holes. The projected high expense of the no-golf and 9-hole alternatives, Monroe explained, reflect extensive earthmoving costs necessary to excavate and remove the non-native and highly invasive kikuyu grass from the golf fairways.

Dr. Swaim, the city’s frog & snake expert, identified herself as also the principal snake consultant for the GGNRA’s ongoing S.F. Garter Snake-restoration project at Mori Point, which adjoins the Sharp Park GC immediately to the south. Habitat at the Golf Course’s Laguna Salada and Horse Stable ponds, she said, will be significantly restored under the city’s Sharp Park Plan, which will also improve “connectivity” for the

snakes to move back and forth between the ponds and the Mori Point habitat restoration areas.

Dr. Swaim strongly dis-recommended an alternative plan—which has been advocated by the “Restore Sharp Park” project of the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity—to construct new frog ponds and snake habitat east of Laguna Salada toward Highway 1. New habitat in that area, she explained, would constitute an “attractive nuisance” for the species, drawing colonization away from Mori Point, and creating an unsustainable habitat that would be marooned between the freeway and the adjoining residential neighborhoods in the event of long-term sea level rise, which would cut-off the area near Highway 1 from Mori Point.

At the Rec & Park Commission’s public hearing (Nov. 19), Dr. Swaim opined that in the event of closure of the golf course, there would be increased predation on the frog and snake by cats, raccoons, skunks, and rats, which would be neither discouraged by golf operations nor controlled by “alpha predators” such as coyotes, because Highway One cuts the property off from the open hills.

Following presentations from Swaim, Monroe, and Rec & Park Planning Director Dawn Kamalanathan, the PROSAC committee members heard testimony from 10 citizens, all of whom testified in favor of retaining the 18-hole golf course.

The Dec. 1 meeting was first PROSAC meeting since July ‘09 at which no representative of the Center for Biological Diversity appeared to argue for closing the golf course. In Sept. ‘08, that organization served a Notice of Intent to Sue letter on the City of S.F, citing alleged “take” and threatened “take” of endangered species at the golf course. No suit has been filed to date.

The Nov. 6, 2009 Sharp Park Report is the third outside study commissioned by Rec & Park since Feb. ‘07 to conclude that the Sharp Park GC should not be closed.

With its Dec. 1 resolution, PROSAC joins Congresswoman Jackie Speier, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and the Pacifica City Council, in calling for the preservation of the 18-hole Sharp Park GC, consistent with habitat restoration for the threatened species. In a Nov. press release, Congresswoman Speier promised to lead a multi-county, multi-agency effort to “help identify the revenues necessary to complete this very worthwhile project.”

This article was supplied courtesy of Richard Harris, Esq., and co-founder of the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance.



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GCSAA'S CEO MARK WOODWARD, KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT NOR CAL ANNUAL MEETING



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony is set for January 11 at Spring Valley Golf Course. Members will gather to discuss chapter business and recognize five golf course superintendents for their outstanding contributions within the turf care industry.

Keynote speaker for the event will be **Mark Woodward, CGCS**, chief executive officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). According to Christopher Mains, GCSANC president and meeting host, more than 100 association members, allied representatives and industry leaders are expected to attend this ceremonial event.

Woodward accepted the assignment as CEO of the GCSAA after a successful tenure as golf operations manager for the City of San Diego, where he also served as host for the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course. He is the first golf course superintendent to serve as the “permanent” CEO for the GCSAA and its philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf. He is keenly aware of the organization’s needs, having served as the 68th president of the association. He is well-respected in golf circles, as evidenced by his appearances in Golf Inc. Magazine’s annual “Most Powerful People in Golf” lists.

Woodward’s presentation will focus on the health of the association and about GCSAA’s upcoming environmental initiative. “We are really looking forward to have our association’s leader with us at the annual meeting,” shared President Mains. “As a chapter delegate

I’ve had the chance to meet Mark, and listen closely to his vision for our organization. Now, my colleagues will also have that same opportunity.” Mains is hopeful that Woodward will also provide a brief behind-the-scenes-look at what it was like to host the highly successful ’08 U.S. Open.

This meeting will also serve as a venue for addressing Nor Cal chapter business (i.e. committee reports, Year-in-Review, election of new directors/officers). An event highlight will be the awards presentation where GCSANC members/superintendents will be recognized for their superior service and accomplishments within the profession. The Awards Committee led by David Sexton, CGCS, has carefully reviewed all award nominations, determined the winners, and is prepared to introduce and congratulate them in the presence of their peers.

The **Superintendent of the Year Award** will be presented to **Gary Ingram, CGCS**, from **Metropolitan Golf Links**, a busy facility owned by the City of Oakland. In addition to his responsibilities as golf course superintendent at this CourseCo-managed facility, Ingram actively serves on the board of directors for the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative (OTEI), a program that introduces inner-city youth to career paths in sports turf and golf course management, environmental sciences, and the green industry. Throughout his career Ingram has helped expand education opportunities not just for youth but for his peers too. In addition, he has assisted with community outreach programs such as the chapter’s ball mark repair education initiative (in conjunction with Play Golf America) and The First Tee (Oakland Chapter).

In support of the GCSANC honor, Ingram will be recognized at the

