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Cinnabar Hills Canyon Course hole 1

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Thru The Green • JULY/AUGUST 2010
Rodney Muller and the education committee provided a great field day program at Pasatiempo. Over 90 members enjoyed the topic and the first golf outing of the year for GCSANC and the weather actually cooperated for the day.

The GCSANC website has just undergone a “makeover.” A new logo and layout makes navigation easier and more organized. Board Director, Jason Oliver headed the web committee for the makeover. Great job, Jason! Be sure to look for some interesting and informative items using the links below:

- Chris Dalhamer recognized by Mike Davis, USGA Senior Director of Rules & Competition for his great work and the outstanding conditioning of Pebble Beach Golf Links in preparation for the 2010 US Open. Click here for link: www.gcsanc.com

- The California Government Relations Network Announcement provides a second reminder about upcoming Water Diversion Use Reporting. Forms are due July 1 for the 2009 water diversion usage. The links on the web site will take you to FAQs and the forms to be filled out and submitted if this applies to your facility. California Water Diversion Use Reporting

- An online membership application is now available. Click here: Membership Online. The paper form is also available for printing and faxing. Due to Bylaws changes enacted January 2010, attester signatures are no longer required. Payment can also be made online via credit card.

- Thru the Green newsletter and sponsorships are now available online: Thru the Green Industry Partner Opportunities. Click here: TTG Industry Partner Opportunities.

- GCSANC 2010 Scholarships applications are due July 15. Click here: Scholarship Application

Hello from Greg Dunn, I’m pinch hitting for Don this issue. I suspect that’s due to nearly identical hairlines.

- Congrats to Chris O’hare, new superintendent at Adobe Creek Golf Club

- Reminder to all, visit the GCSANC website, www.gcsanc.com, if you haven’t checked it out in a while. It’s loaded with many more easy to use features. Check out the calendar of events and don’t forget to support the 2010 Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Turfgrass Scholarship & Research Tournament, Monday, July 26, 2010 at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. Affiliate members who have been waiting for our new and improved sponsorship opportunities, please take a look and support our association.

Congratulations to Glenn Matthews and Wente in your efforts to continue sustainable and environmentally-sensitive operations.

Welcome New Members!

- Daniel Anderson
  - Northwest Environmental
  - Specialties: Affiliate
  - Josh Lewis
  - Pasatiempo Golf Club
  - Associate
  - Chris O’Hare
  - Adobe Creek Golf Club
  - Superintendent Member

- Manny Pina
  - Ewing Irrigation Products
  - Affiliate
  - Nick Rothweiler
  - Tilden Park Golf Course
  - (Class C) Assistant Superintendent
  - Bob Stoeckle
  - Valley Seed
  - Affiliate

Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for The Course at Wente Vineyards

OCTOBER 31 (RESERVATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1)
NorCal OTEI (Raiders vs Seattle Seahawks)
Oakland Coliseum

NOVEMBER 7-9
California GCSA Education Conference
Pacific Palms Hotel and Conference Center, Industry Hills (L.A.)

NOVEMBER 15-16
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Carmel Valley Ranch, Carmel

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THOMAS BASTIS, CGCS
California Golf Club

Looking into our bright future, it’s always nice to hear back from those associated with you for guidance. Recently, our Chapter sent a survey out and we had fantastic feedback from our members. Full results will be posted on the website. With over 180 responses, there were a couple take home points and a few “eye brow raises” as well. For instance: 4 hours of education and 18 holes of golf overwhelmingly the format of choice and a golf only event is now taboo.

The broader picture also revealed condensing the number of events and provide a half day of education. So, guess what? Look for our Board to make a few changes starting with our Scholarship and Research Tournament July 26th at Cinnabar Hills. This year we really want members to bring a team of 2, 3, or 4 guests to the event for the great golf, camaraderie, and auction items. Tee times, golf equipment, and sporting memorabilia are perfect items for those not in the golf industry to bid on. So let’s raise the stakes and really make this a sellout event helping support some fantastic research projects in our area. This is a sure bet for a great time.

Helping spread the word about how well our NORCAL Superintendents do their jobs, we are pursuing matching funds from the GCSAA Chapter Outreach Grant Program. This program was created to help chapters engage in communications that will complement GCSAA’s efforts to communicate the value of GCSAA membership within the national association and its chapters. Since its inception, the program has dispersed nearly $40,000 in grants to 19 chapters. Building our professional image is more important than ever after the great success of the US Open at Pebble Beach, Chris Dalhamer, staff, and volunteers. We have a great opportunity to capitalize yet again by spreading the Superintendent message.

Thomas

Survey can be found on the website: www.gcsanc.com
Membership tab, last item
**Name:** Marty Boyer  
**Employer/Company:** Communication Advantage  
**Position:** Owner/Principal  
**Years in the Business:** 15  
**Previous Employment:**  
Public Affairs (Alameda County);  
News Reporter (East Bay)  
**Education:** B.S. political science, journalism, Santa Clara University

**Share your involvement with the GCSANC:**
Affiliate member for almost a decade—passionate (okay, obsessed) golfer who, when lucky, gets to provide public affairs and public relations work to build support for sensitive golf projects and operators confronting those issues. It’s a great joy and escape from the pressure of working mostly for local government issues.

**Other organizations/affiliations:**  
California State Association of Counties, Santa Clara University Alumni Association.

**Share a little about your family:**
I have one grown daughter who sadly, does not share the passion for the game. Despite that, she is a great person and positive contributor to society.

**What is #1 on your bucket list?**
Professionally: To get closer to the role/service I provided a decade ago, that is, to help see a new course to reality, from the vision of a developer/owner to the opening day event and onward to a top-rate status.

I want to knock off more of the 75 courses on my list of dream courses, which I began to develop 30 years ago. To date, I’ve played more than 20 of them, including some in Scotland. Personally: I wouldn’t mind meeting a wonderful guy who loves music, the outdoors, laughter, decent wine and better Scotch, and of course, would help me knock off the remaining courses on the dream list and maybe add some new ones too.

**What’s your favorite restaurant?**
I’m a trash-to-class kind of girl. On the trash end, Henry’s World Famous BBQ in San Jose. Moving on to class: oh, maybe Nora’s in Washington, D.C. or The Tap Room at Pebble Beach.

**What’s your favorite vacation spot?**
I have to say, it’s my own house in Graeagle on the 16th fairway of Plumas Pines GC.

**Favorite hobby or pastime:**
Do I really have to say? Followed by theater arts, hiking, occasional blackjack, music, and exercise.

**What’s in your closet at home?**
The really important stuff: passport, a couple of suits in which I can earn a living, blue jeans, photo albums, soft spikes, and a perfect little black dress…(don’t all our members have this last one?)

**What’s in your office? Anything interesting?**
Computer, files piled high on the desk, an “I love me wall” of news clippings and awards (small wall), and a practice putting green.

**What magazines do you subscribe to?**
Any online sites you favor? As for magazines: Governing Magazine, Golf Digest, and Cooking Light. Online sites: Expedia and its offspring, news clipping sites (the news is my business, after all), and several sites that keep me up on State legislative activities that affect my local government clients.

**Do you expect to collect on social security?**
Absolutely. Estimated retirement age at this point: 103.

**What’s the funniest comment you’ve ever heard from a GCSANC member?**
Tough one, but whatever it is, I’m guessing it came out of the mouth of my great affiliate buddy, Peter Herrera. I mean, it was Petey who taught me that two over is a duckin’ flibble, while three over is a truckin’ tipple.
GCSANC Member Profile

Name: Jon Christenson
Employer: American Golf
Facility: Monarch Bay GC (San Leandro)
Position: Golf Course Superintendent
Years in the Business: 27
Previous Employment: Santa Clara Golf & Tennis
Education: Diploma in Park and Golf Course Management

GCSANC Interest or Involvement: Currently on the Education Committee and would like to also support the GCSANC and its members eventually through board service.

Other organizations you are/were involved with: Currently serving on the GCSAA Standards and By-Laws Committee, and have served on both the GCSAA Education and Membership Committees. Also a past president of the Iowa GCSA.

Share a little about your family: I am married with two children, Alex (17) & Allie (15).

How did you get into the business? At the age of 10 I started playing the game of golf at a private club near our family home. At 14, I was parking carts and raking bunkers. Since all I did during the summer was play 36 holes a day (and swim in between), the club manager figured out I may as well start working there, since I rarely went home anyway. Thus, my start in the golf business.

What did you learn of value, that they never taught you in college? How to deal with customer concerns.

Name your top superintendent influences: I can’t really pin down just one. I would say that I’ve had the pleasure of working with many fine folks over the years, some at neighboring facilities, others I’ve served with on committees or GCSAA related projects. These relationships have enabled me to learn from their professionalism and dedication as I strive to be a more effective superintendent. I try to model myself after those who have influenced me in a positive manner and I make a point to share what I’ve learned with my assistants.

Strangest thing you’ve ever seen on a golf course: An ultra-light plane landing on my 6th fairway with a pilot who asked me if I wanted a ride.

California GCSA News

For a number of years little information has come out of the state, despite the very important work that has been done by some very committed individuals. In the future updates from the State Association will be frequent and informative in order to keep members up to date on what the association is doing on your behalf.

The California GCSA annual meeting the 18th of May was held as a summit of all chapter managers, and all local chapters were represented by at least one board member, where everyone contributed to answering the question of where the state association goes in the future. The better part of 4 hours was spent on this topic and some items that were considered important to serving the members of the CGSA where: The Government Relations Committee, and the forum that the state association creates for local chapters working together on common topics such as research, newsletters and e magazines. The CGSA “California Room” held annually at the Golf Industry Show was discussed as an important program; however the cost of the event compared to the member benefit was not looked upon equally by all in attendance at the meeting. It was agreed upon that the cost of the facility, and the time and resources that the CGSA puts into the event will need to change in the future. The CGCSA annual meeting was looked upon as being historically poorly attended despite being a good value and a quality event. The inclusion of more turf industry professional organizations into this event was considered as key to increasing attendance.

In the coming months, the CGCSA is going to be working with local chapters and GCSAA to create partnerships with the web sites. The CGCSA will be looking to work with allied associations at the state level who are participating in the national We Are Golf initiative. And most importantly, the CGCSA will be working cooperatively with all local chapter representatives who make up the state board, in order to operate as a service organization to the dues paying professionals that make up these organizations.

The officers elected to the 2010 CGCSA Board are:

PRESIDENT
Kevin Friesen, CGCS
VICE PRESIDENT
Rafael Barajas, CGCS
SECRETARY TREASURER
Mike Swing, CGCS
PAST PRESIDENT
Kevin Breen, CGCS

Local Association Representatives/Directors:

CENTRAL
Kevin Friesen, CGCS and Michael Swing, CGCS
SIERRA NEVADA
Scott Dickson, Jeff Couwenhoven, and Jim Alwine
NOR CAL
Glenn Matthews, Jason Green, Tom Bastis, CGCS
SO CAL
Terrance Mayo and Rafael Barajas, CGCS
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Dear GCSANC Member,

Many of you may not be familiar with our program called the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative. Our program focuses on introducing youth in the Oakland area to potential careers in the green industry and related industries. Throughout the school year we conduct numerous study tours with students in middle and high school where students get a brief introduction to environmental science as well as an introduction to the game of golf. We also have provided several summer internships for students the last several years. Each year we also try and take several students to the Golf Industry Show. You can also visit www.oaklandturf.org for more information on our program.

In these tough economic times finding funds to support our program has become increasingly difficult. We have been challenged to find creative ways to raise funds so we can continue the work we are doing in the local community.

You will find a link to a flyer* for a new partnership OTEI has entered into with the Oakland Raiders for the upcoming season. As you can see by the flyers, there are tickets available for all home games for the upcoming season. We can start selling tickets right now (they will not be on sale to the general public until early late July/early August) and for each ticket we can sell OTEI will retain a portion of the sales price. Tickets need to be purchased a minimum of 30 days in advance of each game. Depending on the number of tickets we sell, the Raiders will donate other items to our program to use in our fundraising efforts. For example, if we sold 500 tickets during the year we would be eligible to get two sideline passes or an autographed jersey to use however we choose. If people are interested in purchasing full price tickets in other parts of the stadium we can also help facilitate that through our Raider contacts.

We would hope that GCSANC and its members will help us spread the word about this great program that will help support our efforts in Oakland. Please feel free to share the flyers with as many people as you can. For this year, I will be the primary contact for getting orders done.

Please also note that October 31st is designated as OTEI Day with the Raiders. We may get scoreboard recognition that day depending on how many attendees we may have at that game. I am pleased to hear that the GCSANC Board of Directors will be designating this day as a GCSANC calendar event. We hope to see many of you that day or throughout the season.

Thanks to all for helping spread the word about this new program that will help support our OTEI program in Oakland. I hope to see you at a game soon.

Gary K Carls, CGCS
OTEI CEO/President

*See web home page www.gcsanc.com lower left for download.
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Pesticide Use In and Around Golf Course Ponds and Streams: What Superintendents Need To Know

By Michael Blankinship, Blankinship & Associates, Davis, CA

Introduction
Challenged by floating green algae slime pea soup green water, pesky cattails, or submersed pond weeds? Or maybe an unidentified growth in your pump station or that rotten egg smell neither nor your membership can stand? The maintenance of your lake or pond, whether for irrigation or aesthetic reasons, often presents unique pest management challenges to superintendents.

Vegetation in and around water is a subspecialty that always requires the implementation of integrated pest management (IPM). A superintendent's best bet is to use IPM to indentify an acceptable threshold of weed presence and then select from a tool box of biological, mechanical, operational and chemical control options. Don’t forget to monitor pest pressure along the way and change your plan as needed. Remember: Just because it is the 3rd Monday of the month, this doesn’t mean you need to make a pesticide application.

This permit, in place as a result of a fish kill due to the misuse of aquatic pesticides in the Talent Irrigation District in Oregon in 1996, is currently being revised by the State Water Resource Control Board staff. Although under revision, it is still active and available for use by aquatic pest managers throughout the state.

You need this permit if you make an intentional application of pesticides to “waters of the United States” which include:
- All interstate waters and waters currently used, used in the past, or susceptible to use in interstate commerce;
- All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;
- All other waters, including intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, intermittent streams, wetlands, wet meadows, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
  - Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; or
  - From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
  - Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
- Tributaries to waters of the U.S.
- Wetlands adjacent to waters of the U.S.

Examples of “waters of the U.S.” in Northern California include any of our major rivers (Russian, Feather, Bear, American, Napa, San Joaquin, Merced, etc.), the Delta and of course the Pacific Ocean. As “waters of the U.S.” are defined above, no sane superintendent is likely to make a pesticide application to these waterbodies. The catch, however, is the “tributary” concept. Because many Northern California golf courses have creeks, streams and ponds that drain directly to, or are tributary to a “water of the U.S.”, this permit may apply to those courses and the treatment of pests in these golf course waterbodies. Think connectivity here. If you are hydrologically connected to a “water of the U.S.”, you need to consider this permit.

The Chemical Tool Box: Three Rules to Follow

Rule #1: Read the Label
No excuses here. Reading and following the label is the mantra we have to follow religiously. Label compliance along with strict adherence to California Department of Pesticide (CDPR) licensing, reporting and personal protection rules is also a must.

Going “off-label” is not only illegal, but may risk the health and safety of you and your employees. Plus, if you are going “hot” (i.e. applying at a higher rate than described on the label), you are likely to be wasting material and money. “A little is good, a lot is better” doesn’t apply to pesticide use.

Rule #2: Get a Permit:
California’s Aquatic Pesticide Permit
Applying pesticides to water may require a permit. The one that superintendents need is the statewide general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Discharge of Aquatic Pesticides for Aquatic Weed Control in Waters of the United States.