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# GCSANC Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Institute at Carmel Valley Ranch

## Focus on Resource Management: Doing More with Less in Changing Times

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) in conjunction with the University of California Cooperative Extension celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> institute and trade show at Carmel Valley Ranch (Carmel Valley, CA). Titled *Resource Management for Golf and the Environment: Doing More with Less in Changing Times*, this educational conference featured prominent industry experts discussing ways to conserve resources while maximizing operational efficiency.

Institute Co-Chairmen **Ali Harivandi, Ph.D.**, an environmental horticulturist with UC Cooperative Extension and GCSANC Director **Rodney Muller**, along with Institute committee members, provided a highly informative conference, spanning everything from managing key resources such as water and power to successful recycling programs for golf facilities. The Institute focused on subject matter which supports environmental sustainability for golf courses and surrounding communities. Open to GCSANC golf course superintendents and affiliate members as well as allied golf industry professionals, the conference also included a trade show and a golf tournament at the fully-renovated Carmel Valley Ranch Golf Course. The Institute was made possible through the sponsorship support of Waste Management Inc. (and its WM EarthCare division), leader in environmental services for golf courses.

The symposium commenced with keynote speaker **Bradley S. Klein, Ph.D.**, award-winning author and architecture editor for *Golfweek* and founding editor of *SuperNews*. Klein's interest in course design and maintenance trail back to his days as a PGA Tour caddie in the mid 1970s. Today he oversees *Golfweek's Best*, a prestigious golf course rating program for *Golfweek*. Klein's presentation focused on how today's superintendents must adjust to an entirely new business model in which golf finds itself more ecology-minded and more budget-minded too.

Monday's afternoon session featured the highly-respected water expert **Robert "Bob" Maddow**, a partner with Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson & Judson, who addressed the reliability of irrigation water supplies for Northern California golf courses. His presentation also provided insight on irrigation water purchases from local water utilities, recycled water use as an irrigation supply, and concerns about continued use of groundwater for irrigation.

When it comes to water issues, Maddow's background is impressive. He is the former General Counsel for the East Bay Municipal

Utility District and has served 18 years as chair of the legal affairs committee for the Association of California Water Agencies. Since leaving EBMUD he has represented numerous water, wastewater, and recycled water utilities (as general and special counsel) and has worked on a wide variety of water and water supply problems for private and public golf courses. He is an advisory board member for the *California Water Law and Policy Reporter*, a publication which keeps a pulse on regulatory actions and proposed legislation relating to water.

Viewed as an innovative leader in sustainable golf course design and management, **Andy Staples**, ASGCA Associate, principal with the Phoenix-based firm The Golf Resource Group, focused his presentation on energy and water efficient design and its relationship to cost responsibility. Staples provided subject knowledge drawn from his years of experience in long-range master planning for golf facilities throughout the U.S. He shared the importance of sustainable development based on the use of green technologies which minimize impact on the environment.

While Staples focused on design and management fellow presenter **Larry Johnson**, CGCS, from North Ridge CC (Sacramento, CA) discussed how to successfully implement a natural resource management plan. He also explained the importance of educating club members and golfers about minimizing turf, thus reducing use of water, chemicals, and labor.

In addition to his primary job as golf course superintendent, Johnson is founder & owner of Irrigation Resource Management, LLC, which prepared him well in discussing the value of a natural resource management plan and how to maximize irrigation efficiency while minimizing electric power consumption.

Presenter **Alan Colby**, founder and president of TurfCentric, Inc. (Baton Rouge, LA) shared best practices for an equipment maintenance operation. Sub-topics included: predicting scheduled maintenance, classifying all costs and labor, streamlining recordkeeping, pinpointing total cost of ownership, and maximizing residual value. Colby and his TurfCentric team have worked and/or collaborated with nearly every outdoor power equipment vendor in the golf & turf-related market.

Golf course superintendent **Terry Stratton** from Little River Inn Golf & Tennis (LRIG&T) in Mendocino, CA, shared his story on



Event Co-Chairman Ali Harivandi, Ph.D. (left) is joined by Institute speakers Robert "Bob" Maddow, Esq.; Larry Johnson, CGCS; Bradley Klein, Ph.D.; and Andy Staples, ASGCA Associate.



Education Committee Members gather at 2010 Institute. (L to R) Gary Ingram, Steve Agin, Dr. Ali Harivandi, Barbara Mikel, Rodney Muller, and Gary Carls.

how recycling efforts at a nine-hole public course paid off for him and his owners. Stratton, who is considered an enviro folk hero by fellow superintendents, explained how he paid his way to two GC-SAA Golf Industry Shows with funds raised from collecting and recycling bottles and cans at his facility. Stratton also explained how he's avoided using ground water when irrigating LRIG&T, as the golf course captures winter rains in reservoirs (with siphons and gravity) moving irrigation water between reservoirs, and with no need for electricity. Stratton, a recipient of the GCSAA-Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Award, discussed the importance of communicating ecological messages to local golfers and community residents.

From recycling to composting, Waste Management is a leader in environmental services for golf courses and that is why they addressed the topic of "Making your Greens Greener" from an ecological perspective. **Jay Ramos**, Director of Waste Management's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Monterey County shared WM's ecological success at the Waste Management Phoenix Open (PGA TOUR event) and also with ongoing programs at The Pebble Beach Company. "Recycling isn't difficult but like any successful endeavor it requires planning," said Jay Ramos. "We're happy to share our experience and offer guidance to course superintendents throughout the region."

Waste Management enhanced the conference by conducting a session on the use of compost and mulch. **Stephen Andrews**, a soil scientist at UC Berkeley and consultant to WM EarthCare, discussed the importance of reducing water consumption while introducing natural nourishment to the greens. It's apparent that Waste Management remains committed in providing solutions that reduce the carbon footprint and produce a "greener" environment.

A successful institute is not possible without the help of many hands. We extend special thanks to Institute Co-Chairmen Dr. Ali Harivandi and Rodney Muller, and committee members Steve Agin, Brian Bagley, Thomas Bastis, Gary Carls, Jon Christenson, Gary Ingram, Pearce Kaner, Gary Otto, Michael Souza, Dave Wilber, Matthew Wisely, and Craig Zellers.

Warm appreciation is also extended to our conference speakers, trade show vendors, the staff at Carmel Valley Ranch, and event sponsor Waste Management Inc.

To learn more about Waste Management, Inc. and WM EarthCare products and services visit: <http://www.wmearthcare.com/>.



Presenters Alan Colby (TurfCentrics) and Andy Staples (The Golf Resource Group) catch up on industry news at the 2010 conference.



GCSANC members and trade show exhibitors gather at the 30<sup>th</sup> Nor Cal Institute.



A good time was had by all at the Institute's trade show and dinner buffet.



Day two at the Institute includes (L to R) Presenter and Soil Scientist Stephen Andrews; Co-Chairman Ali Harivandi, Ph.D.; Co-Chairman Rodney Muller; Presenter and GCSANC Member Terry Stratton; and Presenter Jay Ramos Director with Waste Management's Materials Recovery Facility.



Host Superintendent David Clarke from CVR inspects soil sample supplied by the WM EarthCare team.

# Chapter Delegates Meeting (October 25, 2010)

*GCSAA conducted its 2010 Chapter Delegates Meeting October 22–24. 91 GCSAA chapters, represented by 87 delegates participated.*

The meeting began with an orientation session for first-time delegates at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., followed by a networking reception and dinner. The meeting continued with solid discussion on a variety of subjects for two days at the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, Mo.

## A Positive Experience

“Awesome is all I can say,” said Larry Balko, CGCS at Park Ridge Golf Course in West Palm Beach, Fla. We had great discussion and learned about the outstanding work that is being done on behalf of the members. If a delegate did not leave with a greater appreciation for the association and its members, then they just weren’t listening.”

The meeting included an update on GCSAA including financial metrics, new association initiatives, GCSAA candidate presentations, a town hall question and answer session, and chapter case study presentations. The responsibility of a delegate at this meeting is to represent their members and to take back information to share with them.

“I received several comments from delegates indicating the meeting went well,” meeting chair GCSAA Vice President Bob Randquist, CGCS at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Florida, said. “They came prepared to ask good questions and offer constructive feedback. The meeting is a key element of our governance system and the board and staff got a clear picture of what the members want from their association. At the same time, it allowed us as a board to share information that we need them to take back to their members. The meeting may have ended, but the process continues in pushing the information to all levels of membership.”

## Member Dues Increase Discussion

Certainly the most discussed item was a proposed GCSAA member dues increase which would take effect with May 2011 renewals and new member applications. Class A and SM dues would increase \$20 annually and Class C dues \$10 annually.

Proposed GCSAA member dues are established through a process that was created by the delegates that uses the Consumer Price Index as a guide. The members then vote upon the proposal at the association’s annual meeting in February. The process calls for the association to consider a dues adjustment every two years as a means of ensuring a sustainable organization. The process is not automatic, and the GCSAA Board of Directors may elect not to bring forward dues adjustments according to schedule. Such was the case last year when the board opted to forgo consideration of an increase. Randquist said the board supports a dues increase for 2011 because it represents an opportunity for members to help ensure the success of their career and their facility. Dues account for 27 percent of the GCSAA budget, which is below the average of 38 to 40 percent for associations of similar size.

“The board fully realizes raising dues in this current economic climate is difficult,” Randquist said. “But we see this as a necessary investment by members. The increases allow us to make up the ground lost to inflation, which has been at 5.8 percent since our last dues increase three years ago. It allows us to continue to offer programs the members have deemed valuable to them and their facilities. We also believe the process developed by the members to implement dues increases does not create the hardship of larger increases in the past.

Ultimately, the members determine whether the dues will increase or not by voting on the proposal in February.”

Randquist noted that GCSAA has seen a decrease in revenues of \$5 million over the last three years due to a struggling economy, but proactive expense management by the board and staff has resulted in a reduction of expenses by \$5.4 million during that same period. GCSAA will have projected revenues of \$15.6 million by the end of 2010.

## Field Staff Gains Traction

Popular with the delegates was the presentation of an expanded field staff program first announced earlier this year. The board has made public its desire to have all nine GCSAA regions staffed by a regional field staff representative as soon as possible. It is expected GCSAA will have five field staff employees by the end of 2010 (one at headquarters and four in the field), and seven by the end of 2011 (one at headquarters and six in the field). No timetable for staffing all of the regions has been created, but Randquist noted the success of the program has been duly recognized by the board.

The objective of the field staff program is to create a tie between chapters and GCSAA so that programs are utilized at a higher rate, communication is enhanced and membership is grown. The feedback from chapters who have utilized the program has been overwhelmingly positive.

## Additional Discussion Items:

- The search for a new GCSAA CEO was outlined. The position description has been posted on the GCSAA website and interviews are targeted for January 2011.
- Six chapters made presentation on programs they have instituted with the assistance of GCSAA resources in the areas of government relations, corporate partnerships, consolidation/sharing of resources and communications.
- New program initiatives in the area of web services, environmental programs, marketing communications, surveys and data and media public relations were shared.
- Considerable advancements were noted in the area of professional development resources with the new job board, self assessment tool and webcasting software.
- Outlined were new features for Conference and Show including education programs, networking opportunities and cost-saving options available to attendees.
- Candidate presentations for the offices of president, vice president and secretary/treasurer and a minimum of two and potentially three directors.

## Presentations Available Online

The meeting’s presentations are available online at:

<http://www.gcsaa.org/chapters/delegatemeeting.aspx>

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# Stanford Water Tank & Pump Station Installation

By Ken Williams, CGCS

A new water storage tank and pump station are being installed at the Stanford Golf Course. The tank and pumps are needed to serve the Siebel Varsity Golf Training Complex (SVGTC), as those additional 30 acres of turf have been irrigated with the golf course's system. The golf course's irrigation system was never designed to accommodate the current demand, and it has been a troublesome balancing act trying to adequately irrigate both facilities. It has taken 2½ years to get approvals from Santa Clara County for this project, but now the work is underway. Since most of us don't do this kind of thing everyday, I thought I'd share my experience, mostly through photographs of the construction.

Water to irrigate the turf comes from the Stanford University Lake Water System, which is a non-potable source taken from a combination of creeks and wells. It is piped to the campus in a similar fashion as a domestic water source. Since the campus' pipelines were also undersized to handle the additional demand of the SVGTC, a tank was mandated so water could be taken from the delivery pipes at low demand times (daytime.) So the tank will be filled during the daytime, and the water pumped out during the nighttime irrigation cycles. The tank was sized to provide at least two nights of water at peak demand for the SVGTC, which worked out to 315,000 gallons. It is a circular tank, 46' across and 24' high.

The site for the tank was cleared, and the soil was tested for stability. The tank rests on a reinforced concrete ring, approximately 3' wide x 3' deep. Set into the concrete were 3' x 1" bolts every 6', to which the tank would be bolted down. In the center of the ring was compacted road base, flush with the top of the concrete.

The tank was delivered in pieces and bolted together. Rubberized strips fit between the bolted sections to seal any leaks, and rubber washers help prevent divalent corrosion from the dissimilar metals. Tank walls were thickest at the bottom of the tank (1/4" steel) and thinnest at the top (1/8" steel.) Man doors were provided at both the bottom and the top of the tank. The tank has a 6" inlet and an 8" outlet. Besides the inlet and outlet openings, there were also openings for a drain, overflow port, a float, and a vent.

