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November/December

I have mixed feelings this time of the year. I look forward to the new GCSANC candidates becoming board members but a little sad to see officers and directors leaving. It's fun and always challenging to work with 10 people on the board. Most superintendent Directors serve at least two years. Those electing to move up to the officer's position have another four years to get to Past President. WOW, that is a lot of time committed to this organization. Often, directors have served on various committees prior to deciding to run for the board. The individual commitment to your professional organization is great...

So my thanks and appreciation to Chris Mains, Michael Souza and John Pina. It was good working with you and thanks for your service.

One other individual leaving us this year is Ken Williams, CGCS. To say I am truly grateful to Ken for all those great newsletters is an understatement. Big shoes to fill editing *Thru the Green*. Ken has done a marvelous job for a long time! I will miss his casual, effective direction of *Thru the Green*. Ken, enjoy your new interests, whatever they may, be and do not be a stranger with your content and candid photos.



Details and registration: www.gcsanc.com "Events" tab

DECEMBER 10

Holiday Party & Golf
Del Monte Golf Course
Monterey Hyatt

JANUARY 10, 2011

Annual Meeting
California Golf Club

FEBRUARY 7

GIS
Orlando, Florida

FEBRUARY 9

California Room
Rosen Centre Hotel

MARCH

Green Section Meeting
Green Hills Country Club

APRIL

Superintendent Field Day

JULY 26

Clifford & Myrtle
Wagoner Scholarship
Research Tournament
Sequoyah Country Club

AUGUST 11

GCSANC/SNGCSA Joint Meeting
Stockton Country Club

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Zac Farmer
Sand Channel Greens, Inc.
Affiliate

Ryan VerHess
Bayonet & Blackhorse GC
Class A

Adric Ryan
Bayonet & Blackhorse GC
Class C

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Chad Twaddle is the new superintendent at Santa Clara G&T Club. Chad is a former assistant superintendent at Sharon Heights GCC. Chad is taking over for **Scott Brobeck** who left for another position in Oregon.....**David Snyder** is the new superintendent at Summitpointe GC in Milpitas. David replaced **Jon Majchrzak** who left to become the superintendent at The Bridges at Gale Ranch in San Ramon. Jon replaced **Tim Youngberg** who is now the superintendent at Mira Vista GCC in El Cerrito.....And GCSANC Board Member **Rodney Muller** has left Tilden Park GC in Berkeley and is the new superintendent at Empire Ranch GC in Folsom.....

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THOMAS BASTIS, CGCS

California Golf Club

Besides putting every extra minute I have in to the Association, I was recently asked what I do on my spare time. So what do I do? I run, ride, and kayak beyond what most people feel is healthy. I compete regularly in a sport called Adventure Racing. It is a team sport that combines Running, mountain biking, and Kayaking over varied terrain all while using map and compass...no GPS! Races start around 2-3 hours in length and can go for as long as 10 days nonstop. I guess the bigger question of what I do is trumped by Why? I guess I enjoy suffering endlessly while pushing my spirit to a new limit. I enjoy the *there* feeling of being unplugged from the cell phone and email. You are so in the race moment that answering a voicemail doesn't register. Call it an extreme vacation with gorgeous scenery. We go places the locals have never been...it's awesome and makes coming back to the real world, after a 10-day race, a bit more difficult.

The real world continues on January 10th with our Annual Meeting at my place, California Golf Club, wrapping up the year.

Other News and Notes

Please check and update your email addresses. You will be receiving a questionnaire by mail for this update. The more we utilize email and our electronic, website, processing features, the more we save. So, get on the technology bandwidth bandwagon.

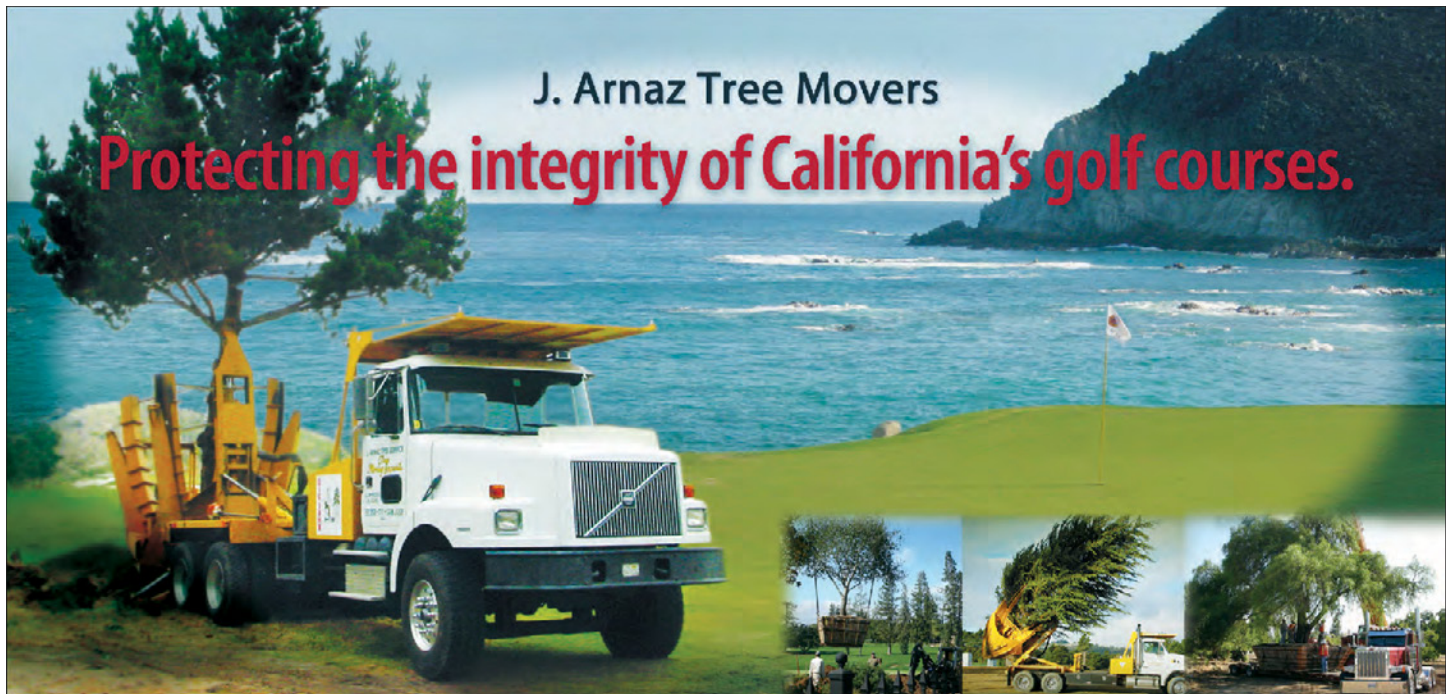
Affiliates! Many of you have received a phone call or email explaining our new sponsorship program. We truly appreciate your kind ears while we explain how this new system improves our overall operation and your image. We are planning a special lunch and 9 hole golf event at San Jose Country Club November 29th to further explain this great concept. New for 2011, GCSANC is rolling out a new sponsorship program.

The main focus of this program is:

- Value added advertisement benefits for your organization
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Look for more details soon.

Thomas Bastis



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FROM THE EDITOR

BRIAN NETTZ, CGCS

Please take a few moments to read the candidate statements (pages 7-9) for the January 10 Annual Meeting at the California Golf Club. You will be electing three Superintendent Directors, one Assistant Director and One Affiliate director this year. You should have received proxies for this election. We urge you to fax or mail them back if you are not able to attend in person. We will welcome a special guest for this event, Lyn Nelson, Executive Director, Northern California Golf Association.

JASON OLIVER REMEMBERED



The **Jason Oliver Memorial Scholarship** is being endowed under the auspices of the Oregon State University Foundation. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student in the Turf Management Program within the College of Agricultural Sciences Horticulture Department. You will find the insert on page 17. Make sure you take a look and print or download this page for use.

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EDITOR NO MORE

By Ken Williams, CGCS

After numerous failed attempts to get myself fired from this position, the time has finally come for me to put down the pen. I've been proud to serve as the Editor of *Thru The Green* for the last ten years. It has been a joy working with all of the wonderful people in the organization that have helped make the magazine a huge success.

It started for me back in 1999, taking over as Editor for Bob Costa, CGCS, who was also in the position for many years. The publisher back then was Jo Harlow, and our communication was primarily by fax. Things sure changed over the years with the widespread adoption of the Internet and the boom of digital media. Things are much simpler now as nearly everyone owns a high resolution digital camera and can send files immediately using their smart phones. The publication has gone from a green mast head, black-and-white newsletter to a full-color online version complete with embedded links.

I will truly miss the involvement with the publication. I will always remember the friendly ribbing I received for breaking out my camera. It was really a pleasure to document many of our good times. And not a single issue went by when I didn't get the chance to ride Naumann about getting his NorCal News in on time. Some of you may even remember one of my favorite things, my short-lived Bunker Shots column that often criticized the golf industry mainstream.

But lately, I haven't been able to delegate as much time to the magazine as I should have. As much as I've enjoyed doing the magazine, it is finally time for me to step aside as Editor. Hopefully someone who has an interest can step forward and take the reigns. I guarantee it will be beneficial not only personal but professional gains.

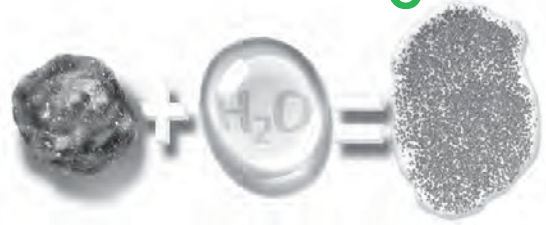
CALENDAR DOG



Way to go, **Shakey Jake...** of Moffett Field Golf Course fame and **Mike Hill** who gets to work with the winner who made the LebanonTurf's 2011 Dog Days of Golf Calendar

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gcsaa.org/dogcalendar/

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Candidate Statements

Candidate Statement for President



GLENN MATTHEWS

Having worked in the golf course industry since the age of 16, a little more than twenty years, I have personally benefitted from the game of golf in ways that will profoundly affect me until the day I depart this life. When I think about the friendships developed, the career I have had to this point, and the opportunities the game has provided over the years I am humbled and genuinely grateful.

For those who spend their lives working in an industry that gives so much, it is inevitable and really a right of passage that at some point during our careers we will have an opportunity to give back to the game which has given so much to us all. Serving on the board for the past four years has enriched my professional career and allowed me to contribute to a dynamic organization committed to advancing the profession of the golf course superintendent, improving the environment, and enriching the game of golf for those who play the game.

In the coming year, as President, I plan to serve the membership of the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association with the highest degree of integrity, professionalism and excellence. My goal is to continue to shape the strategic direction of the association to serve the best interests of its members and the game of golf. Through effective communication and leadership, I and the 2011 Board of Directors hope to continue to provide valuable educational opportunities while managing association business and advancing the profession of the golf course superintendent. I look forward to serving the membership and a fantastic year!

Candidate Statement for Director



GARY INGRAM

I started my career in the golf industry over 40 years ago picking a driving range and washing golf carts. Since then I have had the opportunity to experience the numerous challenges this business has to offer including maintenance, construction, grow-ins, and sales. It has been quite rewarding helping create facilities for individuals to recreate, but the most enjoyable part of the industry is its people. We are challenged with the current state of our economy, but if we continue to keep our glass half full we can enjoy and improve our organization even through these tough times. We must continue to look outside the box, while embracing the traditions of our organization. A strong collaboration with the other phases of our industry is imperative to our success. We should continue to help educate not only ourselves, but also the communities in which we live and work. We are a positive and critical part of these communities and our environment. For our industry and organization to flourish, we must continue to articulate these accomplishments and embrace these responsibilities.

Candidate Statement for Vice President



RODNEY MULLER

GCSANC Director

Empire Ranch GC formerly Tilden Park GC

For the past two years I have been fortunate to serve on the GCSANC Board of Directors. Looking towards 2011, and with your support I would like to serve in a leadership role as Vice President for our chapter.

During my tenure on the board I've had the pleasure to serve on the Education Committee (in the capacity as Co-chairman) and have been committed to providing quality education which assists members, as we continue to make important career decisions along with critical business decisions relating to turf management.

I believe we are currently facing one of the most difficult times within the golf and turf care industry, which requires GCSANC and its leadership to reach out even more when providing tools that readily assist the membership...i.e. quality education, web site enhancement and fundraising efforts to help offset costs for programs and services.

I have enjoyed being involved and would like to do more for our chapter, and welcome the opportunity to serve as Vice President.

Candidate Statement for Secretary/Treasurer



DALE SIMPSON

My name is Dale Simpson. I am the Golf Course Superintendent at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. I have served as a Director on the Board for the NCGCSA for the past two years. It has been a real pleasure serving all of the Superintendents in Northern California as a Director and I would be honored to continue serving as the Secretary/Treasurer. Respectfully, Dale Simpson

Candidate Statement for Director



NICK CHECKLENIS

Golf Course Superintendent

Silver Creek Valley Country Club

I am excited about the opportunity of possibly serving on the board of directors for the GCSANC. After 24 years in the industry, and a long-time member of our chapter, I believe it's time for me to give back. I have the energy, time, and genuine interest to serve you and our association.

I, like many of you, understand the challenges superintendents are faced with during current economic times. You can count on me to work with other board members and chapter staff in uncovering solutions that will assist our members in doing their jobs. The areas that I find of importance are education and employment opportunities for both superintendents and affiliate members. I also value the camaraderie our chapter provides and would work diligently to see that it keeps its momentum.

Over the years I've had the opportunity to host chapter-related events at Silver Creek Valley CC, and would welcome that opportunity again if it benefits our chapter and its members.

My golf course maintenance experience spans 24 years. I started my journey in 1986, working on the crew at Sunnyvale Municipal GC. Next assignment was working for Michael Simpson at Los Altos CC as a laborer, and loved it! After a year or so, Michael asked me to serve as his assistant superintendent (after John Martin left the post). I spent 5 more years as assistant while attending Foothill College part-time. In 1992, I had the opportunity to move to a newly constructed, private golf course, Silver Creek Valley CC (San Jose), where I still remain today as golf course superintendent, a position I appreciate immensely.

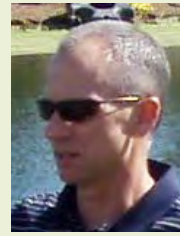
Candidate Statement for Director



JON CHRISTENSON, CGCS

Although I am new to California and the Bay area, I have enjoyed those of you I have gotten to know, along with those I have known before my move here from Iowa. I have been involved on a national level with the GCSAA through both the Education and Membership Committees for 5 years, along with two years as the Iowa Chapter Delegate to the GCSAA. I have also served the Iowa GCSA as Past President and Director and am a 16 year member of the GCSAA. Through these experiences on both the Chapter and GCSAA level, I have gained valuable knowledge of how a Chapter can benefit its members and their needs. As a Golf Course Superintendent for 16 years and a General Manager/Superintendent for 5 years, I have seen many of the challenges we face everyday on both a public and private level. On a personal note, I take great pride in being able to give back to the profession that has given so much to me. The opportunities I have had for volunteer service have been met with nothing but professionalism and dedication. I would appreciate the opportunity for continued service to my profession with the Northern California GCSA. I am sure you will find my knowledge and experience to be very beneficial for the Chapter and GCSAA. For those of you that I have not been able to meet yet, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Candidate Statement for Affiliate Director



MIKE BLANKINSHIP

My name is Mike Blankinship. I founded my firm 10 years ago with the express purpose of solving environmental issues for people that grow things for a living. The project that got our firm started was at the Presidio Golf Course for Arnold Palmer Golf where we prepared an Integrated Golf Course Management Plan. Not only did we successfully address the San Francisco City/County pesticide ordinance issue, but also met National Park Service concerns. Since our start, we've worked on dozens of projects across the country and met some great golf people. We've particularly enjoyed helping superintendents solve problems related to construction and renovation, pesticide and fertilizer impacts to water quality, irrigation, endangered species and stormwater. We are particularly proud of using our golf course knowledge and regulatory agency compliance know-how to navigate through the maze of environmental regulations a superintendent might need to tackle. I am a native Californian and a UC Davis graduate in environmental toxicology and am a licensed professional civil engineer and Pest Control Advisor. I would be delighted to serve on the Board and have the opportunity to give back to the many superintendents that have helped shape my firm. You can learn about me and my firm at www.h2osci.com.

Candidate Statement for Affiliate Director



DAVE WILBER *Director of Agronomy, Sierra Pacific Turf Services*

I'm honored to be asked to serve the GCSANC. I've been a member since 1990 and believe very much in having a strong local association. I've been both a superintendent and commercial member of several boards and I understand what the commitment to being a board member means. The

GCSANC is a storied and respected organization. Strong traditions being held along with moving forward in modern times isn't easy, but it is necessary. I believe in education and networking as primary areas to advance our profession. Thanks to all my friends and associates for their vote of confidence.

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Candidate Statement for Assistant Director



JOSH LEWIS

My name is Josh Lewis. I am 28 years old, married and I have two kids. I was born and raised on the Southern Oregon Coast in Coos Bay, which is about three hours north of the California border, and about 30 minutes from Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. My interests revolve mostly around my young family at this point in my life, but also include golf history and architecture, any and all sports, and obviously playing golf. I have a degree in Horticulture with a turf management option from Oregon State University, and currently hold the position of Assistant Superintendent at Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz.

My previous experience includes six years at Bandon Dunes where I was fortunate enough to be a Forman on the construction of Bandon Trails, and move into the position of Irrigation Technician/Second Assistant during the grow-in of the course. I was also an intern for almost a year at Eugene Country Club where I was able to be a part of their staff during the U.S. Women's Amateur in 2008. While at Oregon State I was elected as President of our turf club, and was also able to participate as a student representative on several committees within the Department of Horticulture. My volunteer experience includes the 2009 President's Cup at Harding Park, and the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

My future goals include continued devotion to my family, achieving certification as a golf course superintendent, and increased involvement in the local and national industry associations. I thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to all of the possibilities ahead.

Candidate Statement for Assistant Director



AKONI GANIR

Assistant Superintendent, Cypress Point Club

I would like the opportunity to work with GCSANC leadership and serve on the Board of Directors as the representative for Assistant Superintendents within our chapter. I have had the privilege to work as the Assistant Superintendent at Cypress Point Club for the past four years. During this time, I've received valuable mentoring by other Assistants and Superintendents within our association.

I'm a strong believer in career and professional development. If elected, I will listen closely to the concerns of our Assistant Superintendents and will seek viable solutions on their behalf. I will share my thoughts and ideas on how to be a more effective Assistant Superintendent while preparing to become a Class-A Superintendent. For example, every Assistant could improve their skills by attending the annual NCGA Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp. I have attended this event multiple times and I always learn new things about what it takes to be successful in this ever-changing industry. As Assistants, we should take advantage of these types of educational events, especially when they're so accessible.

I would also support new ideas and concepts regarding budget-conscious golf course maintenance practices. Most facilities are being asked to do more with less. While the golf industry is changing before our eyes, it's important to put forth efforts to be flexible and make adjustments in our approach to golf course management during these challenging times. If elected, you can count on me to share what I've learned with others. Additionally, I hope to encourage other Assistants to also get involved with our association at the chapter level.

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AFFILIATES CORNER

JIM SHERMAN

*Vice President, Turf & Industrial Equipment Co.
Affiliate Board Member GCSANC*

When I was asked to write this article, like most people, I was very uncomfortable writing about myself. However when told the subject was affiliate board members and their hobbies, I quickly warmed up to the idea. My hobby you see, is wine making. About seven years ago, while in Sonoma with friends, the subject of making wine came up, how hard could it be? We have all made beer or know someone that has, and it doesn't take much to make a decent beer. I was wrong.

The journey started the spring of 2003 with the purchase of a few books and taking a basic wine making class at UC Davis. It wasn't long before I figured out this whole wine making thing was mostly chemistry and marketing. To my surprise, I loved it. Acidity, pH, sulfites, buffers, enzymes...A half dozen books later I felt I was ready for the challenge. On October 1, 2004 with some basic tools, a handful of containers and the kids in tow, we headed to the vineyard for harvest. Fortunately, being John Deere dealer for over 40 years, I've made several very good friends in the vineyard business, which makes it easier to source my fruit. We typically pick a day or two before the commercial pickers, which gives us the whole vineyard to ourselves. I have friends who make wine that just show up and get their bins filled but I have found picking your own grapes to be extremely rewarding. In the vineyard as the sun comes up, picking grapes with your kids, knowing the fruits of your hard labor won't be ready to drink for years to come. It is manual labor but it is one of those life experiences that truly stick.

After all the grapes are in the truck, we rush the cool fruit home to start the crush. This full day event begins with sorting. The fruit starts at one end of a long table where family and friends on either side remove rotten berries, leaves, and bugs until the fruit reaches the other end where it goes into the crusher/destemmer. As the name implies, the crusher/destemmer removes all the stems and gently pops the berries. With the addition of a specific yeast culture, these popped berries go into a large container to begin fermentation. There are a few sayings that summarize this process. The first is "It takes a lot of beer to make a fine wine" and the other is "wine, woman and song." To say the least, it's a party that will inevitably last late into the night.

The next morning the garage is bursting with the smell of fermentation. The yeast consumes the grape sugar and turns it into alcohol. Carbon dioxide is produced during this stage, which forces the grape skins to the top of the container and forms a solid cap. Three to four times a day, with help from neighbors and friends, this cap is punched down and mixed with the liquid below to keep the skins from drying out and always in contact with the juice. Throughout this whole process, multiple chemical tests are taken to make sure the wine stays within certain parameters, which has turned my garage into quite a chemistry lab. If you didn't know better you would think I was up to no good, with a room full of beakers, meters, titrators, hydrometers, and refractometers. For a while there, my wife had thought I had really lost it. The grape mixture ferments for about a week and is then pressed and pumped down to our basement where it will stay cool for the next 9-10 months in barrels before its bottled.

We had established one rule at the very beginning of this process, if you help make the wine; you have to take your share when it's done, good or bad. Unfortunately, the first two years, I must admit, it was bad, bad, bad. Having put so much work into something I

enjoyed doing only to have it come out poorly challenged me even more. Over the next four years and 120 cases, the wine has become much better. My wife came up with a name for the 2008 chardonnay "Finally Drinkable..." Being that every drop is gone, I think everyone agreed! I have friends and neighbors contact me months in advance now to reserve their space on the picking crew to ensure their well-earned cases. I can honestly say this is one hobby I will never master but will always enjoy, somewhat like golf.

