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Mid-March brought Vice President, Rodney Muller and me to Lawrence Kansas for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium. This gathering of 44 chapter leaders and executives is a yearly event made possible by the financial support of the Williams Leadership Endowment through The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA.

The objectives for participants included:

- Gain practical skills and knowledge to help successfully be a golf facility leader and chapter leader
- Explore the challenges and changes impacting today's association operating environment
- Understand how to build a stronger chapter and maximize membership value by working effectively with board, volunteers, staff and members
- Build an ongoing professional network of peers and share best practices and innovative ideas

Our thanks to the Williams Family for the opportunity to participate once again and the continued support for chapters.

The efforts of the late Jason Oliver and the support of Ken Williams, CGCS provided the opportunity for the board of directors to approve forwarding Thru the Green issues from 1987 to 2008 to the Michigan State University Libraries for digitizing, preservation and availability on MSUL Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) website. We maintain paper copies of these issues. The next challenge will be to provide the issues from 1932 to 1986. Anyone out there looking for a challenge please contact Editor Brian Netz, CGCS...or me.

Congratulations to Past President Thomas Bastis, CGCS, Cal Club, on his selection by TurfNet as their 2011 Superintendent of the Year. Get the full details by linking to the Turf Net web site. <http://www.turfnet.com/super/>

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MAY 23
Superintendent-Affiliate
Equipment Demo Field Day
La Rinconada Golf & Country Club

JULY 25
Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner
Scholarship & Research
Tournament
Sequoyah Country Club

AUGUST 22
Tri Chapters Meeting,
GCSANC/SNCSA/CGCSA
Stockton Country Club

NOVEMBER 6, 7 & 8
California GCSA
Annual Meeting
Silverado Country Club

DECEMBER 9
Holiday Gathering
*Ole Del Monte Golf Course,
Monterey Hyatt Regency*

JANUARY 9, 2012
GCSANC Annual Meeting
The Course at Wente Vineyards

More Details? www.gcsanc.com "Events" tab

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Wilbur Ellis
Affiliate

Tanveer Ali
Affiliate

Scott Dickson
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Superintendent Member

Eric Feldhusen
Oakhurst Country Club
Class A Superintendent

David Karp
The Olympic Club
Class A Superintendent

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Class A Life

Thomas Laycock
Monterey Pines Golf Club
Class C Asst. Superintendent

Kyle Marshall
Monarch Bay Golf Club
Superintendent Member

Jay Neunsinger
Franklin Canyon Golf Course
Superintendent Member

David Proctor
The Olympic Club
Class C Asst. Superintendent

Callas Richardson
El Macero Country Club
Superintendent Member

James Young
Round Hill Country Club
Class C Asst. Superintendent

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Tom Doyle is the new Superintendent at Callippe Preserve Golf Course in Pleasanton. Tom was the assistant under the direction of **Mike Garvale** prior to his promotion. Mike is still at the golf course and is now the Director of Agronomy and Maintenance..... **Billy Hausch** is the new Superintendent at Pasadera Golf Club in the Monterey Area. Billy had been the Assistant Superintendent at Pebble Beach Golf Links working with **Chris Dalhammer** prior to his move....



GLENN MATTHEWS

The Course at Wente Vineyards

Spring is here and the first two events of the year, the Annual Meeting and the NCGA/USGA Meeting, are already behind us. Participation was outstanding; with more than 100 attendees for the meeting portion of both events. The Board is working hard to build on the success of these first two meetings by developing programs designed to meet the needs of members and by providing valuable continuing education and networking opportunities.

The next event on the calendar is the annual Field Day. At press time, we are close to finalizing details with the host course and will release forthcoming details through our website and e-mail communication. This year, in an effort to provide greater value to both superintendent and affiliate members, we are taking the Field Day in a different direction than the typical educational program featured in the past. This year's event will feature product demonstrations by participating affiliates. This will create face-to-face networking opportunities for affiliates while providing superintendents an opportunity to evaluate different product lines in a working environment.

We are proud to announce this year's annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship Research Tournament will be held July 25th

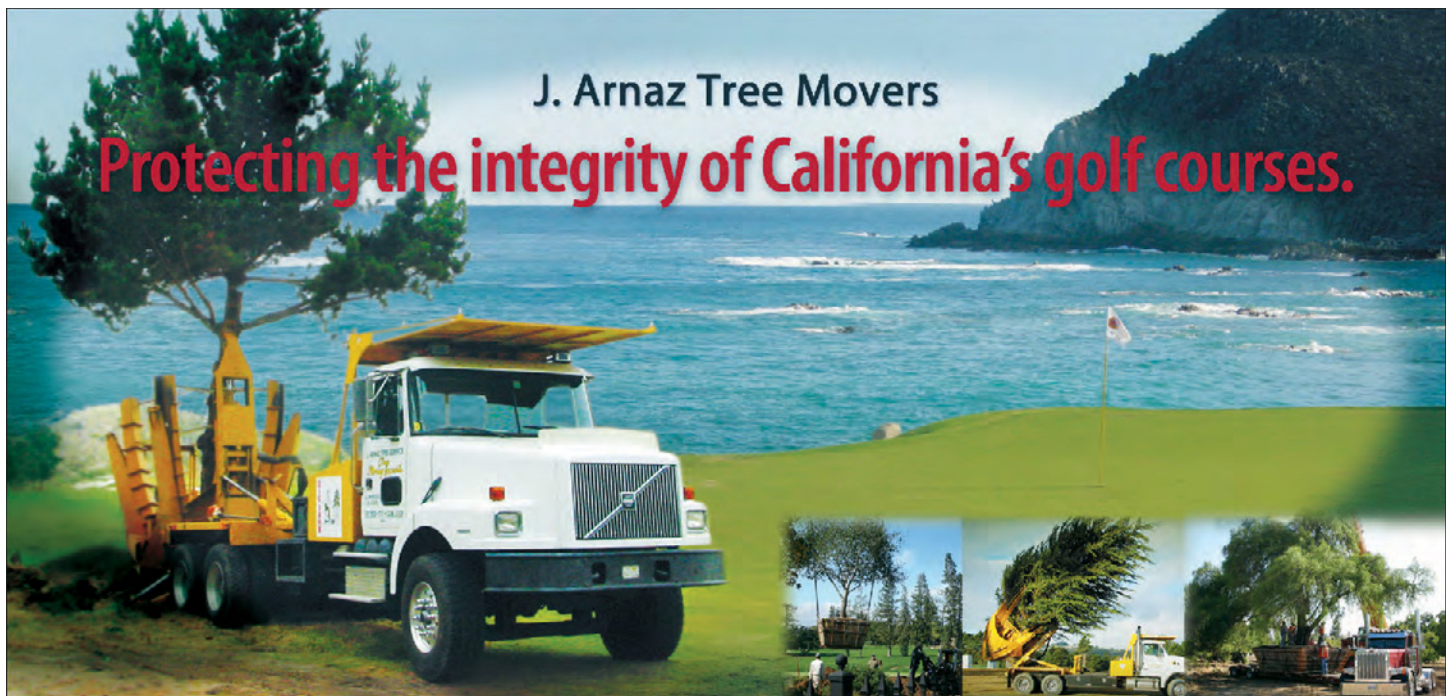
at the Sequoyah Country Club. In order to increase member participation and attendance, this year's event will take the form of an Invitational. The goal is to expose key members of our clubs to our professional association by inviting them to our premier outing of the year. Superintendents and affiliates will have the opportunity to form teams of four to compete in a two-best ball format. Participants are encouraged to invite club members, general managers, owners, club professionals, or other key members of their organization. We look forward to your active participation.

In August GCSANC will partner with the Sierra-Nevada and Central California chapters to hold a first ever Tri-Chapters meeting at the Stockton Country Club. By joining forces, we hope to give superintendents and affiliates from the three regions a great opportunity to network and discuss current industry affairs and issues. We expect a great turnout for this special event.

As we finalize our 2011 calendar of events, we are also working on events for 2012. So, if you are interested in hosting an event please do not hesitate to contact a member of the board.

I look forward to seeing you at a future meeting,

Glenn Matthews



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BUNKER SHOTS

Ramblings from a Semi-Warped Perspective

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Bubba Watson is now on my S-List. Not only did he complain about the greens being slow in the Tucson Match Play event and use it for an excuse for losing, he showed up wearing a \$500,000 watch. You're from the swamps of Florida, your name is Bubba, and you played high school golf with Boo Weekley. Get real, Bubba!

Donald Trump is another one who irks me. "There are no good private golf clubs in Chicago." What an idiot. Well, it definitely won't be any better if he puts another Trump International there. Fake waterfalls don't make a good private club.

A funny exchange was heard during the run up to March Madness, Bill Rafferty: "The ball handler exposed himself in the lane." Sean McDonough: "That's never a good idea!"

Below are some of my random thoughts from the NCGA-USGA Green Section Meeting @ Green Hills CC:

Next time we have a meeting at Green Hills, we need a designated volunteer to yank Walt Barret off the golf course—and into the meeting. Walt, it's okay. Relax, the place looks immaculate as always! Unfortunately, I think handcuffs might be required to keep him inside!

Golf Professional Trevor Miller welcomed the group and was surprised by the Coat and Tie dress. He unfortunately suggested, "The upstairs locker room was available to change clothes, or even the parking lot, since it's just a Monday." Big mistake!

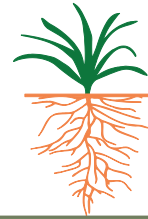
Michael Jordan might look good in Hanes, but our guys sure don't. I didn't know which way NOT to look when walking out into the parking lot. Luckily I got there before the rain squall hit. Can you imagine seeing our guys out there in wet skivvies? Yiiiikes!

OK, that being said, is it FINALLY time to dump the coat and tie requirement for this meeting? USGA, I hope you are listening. It is a breakfast/lunch meeting with golf afterwards. We don't want to be lugging a dang suitcase to our meetings. Many supers have to go from work clothes to coat and tie and then to golf clothes, lugging the pile along the way. Sorry, I know you mean well, but we're just not Diva types. I know the blue blazer gang from Far Hills is notoriously slow to change their ways. But look around, it is the year 2011, and Coat and Tie is overdressed for dinner these days....

And if you're like me and have been to the last 5 of these meetings, you've heard Mike McCullough and Pat Gross both talk about water. This meeting was no different. I have to admit my eyes were glazing over. But you know what? I'm finally thinking they are trying to tell us something.

And in conclusion, I have a couple comments for Ron Read, our fantastic moderator for the meeting. Thanks again for volunteering your time with us and congratulations on your new granddaughter—born mid-meeting! My only gripe, and I know you meant no harm, is to please not refer to the superintendent at your club as "my superintendent." We still get that quite a lot from golf professionals. The term "my" infers ownership. It is bad enough that we are already a slave to the 10 billion blades of turf, along with everything else. We all need each other in this crazy business. Hopefully this one small detail will help us to continue to build the great relationships we need, not alienate one another!

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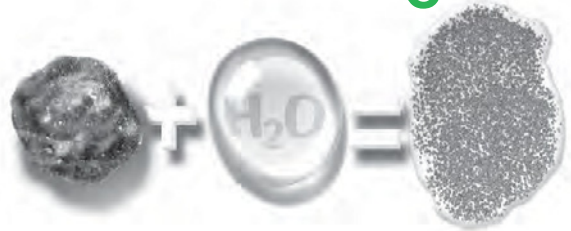
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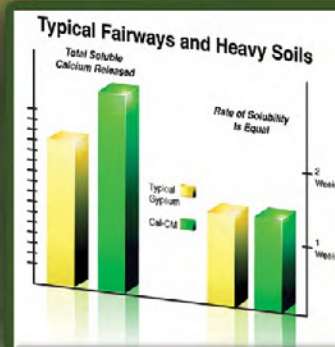
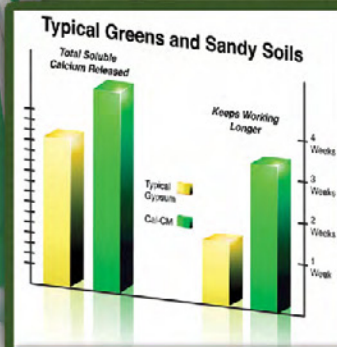
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Better Build an Ark: When it Rains, What Superintendents Need to Know About Stormwater

By Michael Blankinship, Blankinship & Associates, Davis, CA

Introduction

Due to the unusually wet winter of 2011, runoff and stormwater management are important issues for superintendents and create questions like:

- What is eroding and where is the runoff going?
- Will my ponds overtop and if they do, where will that water go?
- If I have runoff, will anyone care?

Back Up Your BMPs

Your arsenal of best management practices (BMPs) to control erosion and stormwater runoff can range from the permanent (stormwater and sediment detention basins, culverts and drainage inlets leading to storm sewers, etc.) to temporary (sand bags, straw waddles, silt fences, trash pumps, generators, etc.) The idea is to have what you need and then some. If you need ideas on what works, the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) is an excellent resource. Non-members have access to some useful BMP-related information at: <http://www.cabmphandbooks.com/>.

What is in Stormwater?

If you think that the only thing that comes off of your course is some silt, you are probably wrong. Results of a 6-year golf course stormwater study done in 2004 in Contra Costa County showed that although small and variable, nitrogen and phosphorous do leave golf courses when it rains (See description below). Don't be ignorant: golf course fertilizer, and in some cases pesticides, can end up in stormwater.

Common constituents of golf course stormwater runoff:

- Ammonia
- Nitrate
- Salt
- Water-soluble herbicides

Be careful of your fall fertilization program and use agronomically correct amounts that have a reasonable chance of soil incorporation before it rains. Use extreme caution with organic fertilizer that may not biodegrade sufficiently due to cooler fall soil temperatures that result in lower microbial activity necessary to generate the nitrate that is usable by turf. This organic material, if not degraded and incorporated, can end up in stormwater.

Although maybe unimportant to you, the quality of stormwater is important to state regulators and various environmental advocacy groups (DeltaKeeper, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Pesticide Action Network, etc.) Keep in mind that the latter have the ability to challenge you using the citizen lawsuit provision of the Clean Water Act.

The No-Brainer: Buffer Strips

There is no doubt: Buffer strips slow water flow, filter and allow for settling, and increase soil infiltration. These are all good things to prevent what you put on the course from getting where you don't want it. Buffer strips can be as prominent as an 8 foot tall wall of cattails around a pond or as subtle as raising the height of cut adjacent to a green's collar or fairway rough. You choose. Your only bad choice is not to use them.

Where Will All That Water Go?

Knowing where stormwater runoff will go a long way in determining what you do with it. For example, if your stormwater drains to a creek or stream that is fish-bearing, you need to be mindful that greens drainage should be diverted away from these creeks and streams. Why? Some fungicides and some pyrethroid-based insecticides are not particularly fish-friendly. For those with USGA or modified California greens, take advantage of your subsurface drains and develop depressions, swales or permeable soil nearby that can accommodate this drainage.

Plan for the Peak: Do You Have Enough Room?

The 25-year, 24-hour storm for the Bay Area is approximately four inches and the average annual rainfall is almost 20 inches. So although you think that your 5,000 sq. ft. green doesn't generate much water when it rains, a 25-year storm can generate over 13,000 gallons in a day. Drawing down ponds and making room by creating swales and depressions in fairways is good insurance against having water leave the course without your permission.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs)

If your construction project exceeds 1 acre, you need to develop a SWPPP and gain approval from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). More information can be found at: http://www.surcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/.

Although golf is largely exempt from stormwater regulation, your local city or county, or landlord may require that you have a SWPPP or equivalent. This may mean that you do water quality sampling, analysis and annual reporting.

Reasons to be vigilant during the storm season:

- Steep slopes
- Erodible soils
- Proximity to sensitive surfacewater
- Concerned neighbors

Housekeeping Rules: Washpads and Fuel Storage

Is your fuel storage in excess of 1,320 gallons and in something larger than 55 gallon drums? If so, you will need a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan. These plans call for secondary containment and structures and equipment to prevent a discharge in the event of a spill and are especially important to have in place during the stormwater season. Common SPCC plan elements often call for dikes, berms, retaining walls, curbs, culverts, gutters, weirs, booms, diversion ponds, and/or sorbent materials to prevent the release and mixing of fuel with stormwater. These plans are often required by local regulatory agencies referred to as Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs).

If not kept up, washpads and equipment storage will be a problem when it rains. Clippings, dirt, oil and grease are things you want to keep out of stormwater, especially if it leaves the course. A little housekeeping goes a long way to preventing problems here.

2004 Golf Course Water Quality Study Results

Virtually all of the 150+ courses are in the greater San Francisco Bay area have a creek, stream, drainage, pond or lake on or near



Pond drawdown is a good stormwater BMP.



What not to do. No buffer strip between turf and surfacewater is asking for trouble.

the course. Unfortunately, golf courses are widely perceived as contributing to water quality problems. An extensive 6-year study was completed that looked at differences in upstream vs. downstream surfacewater quality. Over 1,000 water quality measurements were made for nutrients and toxicity. Data on fertilizer and irrigation water use, mowing frequency, etc. were also collected.

Results suggest that impacts to surfacewater quality from golf courses, including nutrient input were, for the most part, not occurring. In general, courses with vegetated buffers had better downstream water quality. The study concluded that contrary to popular perception, golf course impacts to surfacewater do not appear significant. *(Continued)*

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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

About the Author: Michael Blankinship has been a GCSAA member since 2001, is a DPR licensed pest control advisor and a California registered professional civil engineer. His Davis-based consulting firm solves problems related to permitting, compliance, water quality and natural resource management for golf course owners and operators throughout the Western U.S. Learn more at www.h2osci.com. Reach Mike at (530) 757-0941 or mike@h2osci.com.



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Cosmetic Bunker Work at Stanford

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Stanford University GC is undergoing some minor bunker re-shaping on its most problematic bunkers. Stanford's bunkers were completely rebuilt in 1994, but many have since shown the negative effects of play, wear, and mechanical maintenance.

Kaminski Golf Construction has been contracted to tackle some of the worst bunkers. The goal is to restore the old contours with minimal disruption. Since the sand quality and drainage is acceptable, nothing is being done to the base of the bunkers.

The first step undertaken was to dig and probe to find the old soil lines of the original bunker edges. In most cases the maintained edges have moved significantly from the original edges. In some locations, over two feet of sand had accumulated on top of the old contours.

Sand blasted toward the greens by players over the last 17 years was beginning to create large mounds between the bunkers and greens. These sandy mounds were abruptly steep, uneven and very droughty in the summer months. One goal with the work was to reduce this mound before it negatively affected the green contours. If left unchecked, this sand accumulation would cause the greens to become bowl-shaped, slowly losing good pin placements in the process.

Once the old contours were "discovered," work began to haul out the sand accumulation. An average of 10 Pro Gator loads of sand were hauled out per bunker.

The end result was a much less intimidating bunker with softer sand slopes and better aesthetics. This minor re-working will extend the life of the bunker and provide improved playability and fairness. It might be a promising solution if your course needs some sprucing up and a full bunker remodeling is out of the question.

