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It is heartening to see the Sharp Park Golf Course issue receive positive support from the Pacifica, San Francisco golfer and open space users. The San Francisco Public Golf Alliance Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SFPGA>) page is a great way to say up to date on the issues and progress. The need for continued public and environmental education about the positive impacts golf courses for the environment prompted the GCSANC Board of Directors to donate \$1,000.00 to this effort.

If you are looking to recycle some equipment or other items take advantage of the Jasonslist at www.gcsanc.com it's free, people from around the world visit it and you just might discover you can trade for items you need.

Electronic data collection from the Web site and Thru the Green track many items. The user profiles developed by Google, Adobe, and Apple are real. While our data is generic in scope, we do know that the Apple products (particularly the mobile user) are rapidly growing in the maintenance world. The analytic features are useful to gauge outreach users of equipment, materials and products. I am asked less and less about number of members and more about how many hits on landing pages and visits to sites. I find it interesting that the GCSANC web site visits come from around the world. Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Russia, Greece, UK, Romania, Morocco, Georgia, Australia. Length of time vary but the second longest read times belongs to New Zealand. Visits totaled 2,585 from 22 countries or territories

Please mark your calendars for July 25 when Sequoyah Country Club will host the Fifth Annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament. Details and registration is active at the web site. Gather your four man teams. This can be four from your company, four from your crew, four friends, etc. This year we will be doing a raffle purchase and auction list at check in. Terry promises to get you on the road by 3:00pm! If you have donations for this event, contact Jim Sherman, Dave Wilber or me.



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

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

SEPTEMBER 26-27
Assistants Bootcamp
Monterey

NOVEMBER 6-8
California GCSA Annual Meeting
Silverado Country Club

DECEMBER 9
Holiday Gathering
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More Details? www.gcsanc.com "Events" tab

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SUPERINTENDENT CERTIFICATION RENEWALS

Michael Simpson, CGCS, director of maintenance at Los Altos Golf & Country Club, Los Altos, Calif., has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Simpson has been at Los Altos Golf & Country Club since 2001. A 25-year GCSAA member, he initially achieved his certification in 1996. Approximately 1,700 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold "CGCS" status.



GLENN MATTHEWS

The Course at Wente Vineyards

I hope you all have been keeping up with the latest from *Thru the Green*. Over the years, the GCSANC newsletter has evolved into one of the best in industry by taking advantage of the latest media technologies and by providing fresh, insightful, and relevant content to our members. The goal of the Newsletter Committee is to produce a product capable of capturing the attention of our membership and increase readership.

In the past several years the newsletter has been threatened by increasing production and printing costs, which were outpacing newsletter revenues. It became obvious a change was in order. Since 2009, *Thru the Green* has been delivered to its members in an electronic format saving chapter dollars, minimizing member's dues assessments, and most importantly, helping us produce a more sustainable product with a higher level of quality for all our members.

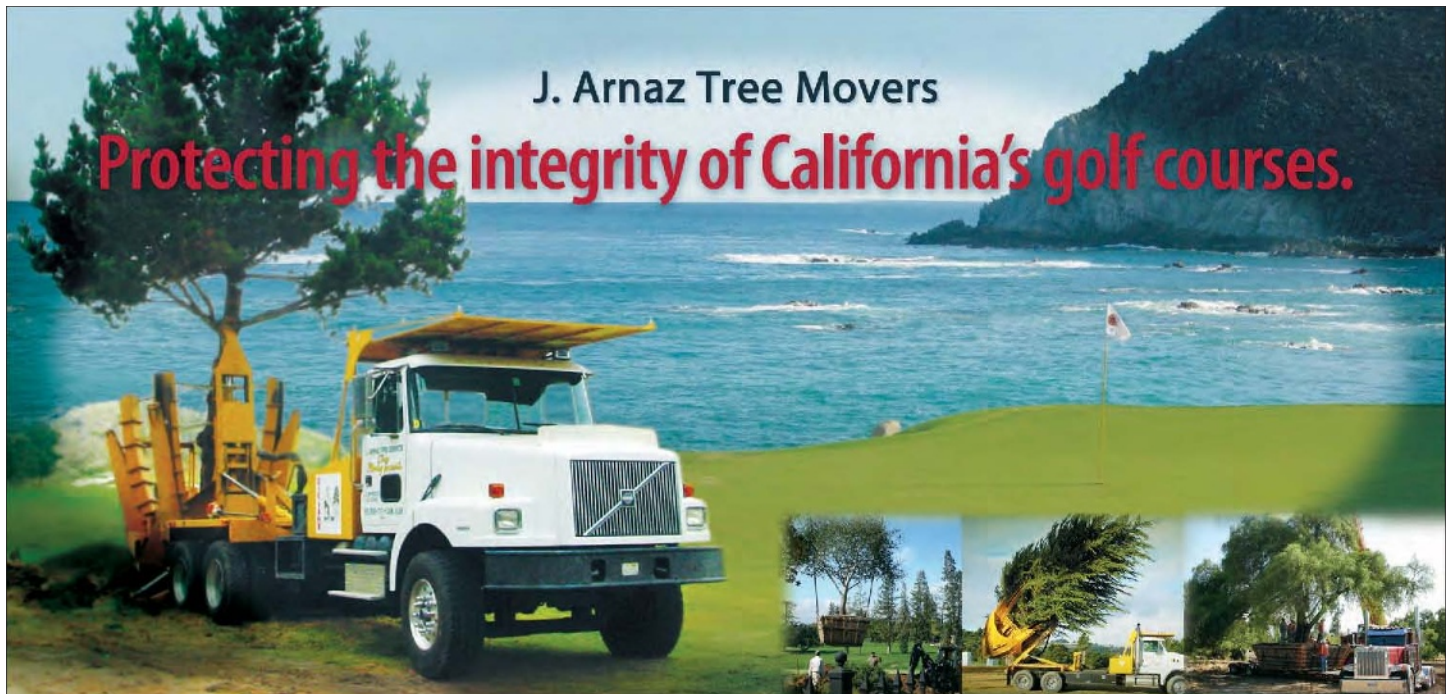
Today's cutting edge newsletter is a full color, printable, and savable electronic magazine jam-packed with interesting, funny, and relevant member information. Our

Editors, Brian Netz and Mike Souza, are making huge efforts to avoid producing a newsletter that lacks interest by constantly searching for member produced articles and pertinent industry news. Help them out by contributing to our rag, *Thru the Green*.

Last issue we expanded the newsletter from 16 to 17 pages and we expect it to continue to grow in the future. We featured a new column by Ken Williams, Bunker Shots. Thanks for the thoughts Ken. Would anybody like to rebut? The forum is open and intended to be used by those wishing to be heard. The issue also contained educational and government relations updates, affiliate news from Dave Wilber, and an introduction to a superintendent you may not have known, Dean Cravahlo, Round Hill Country Club

All content in our newsletter is geared toward you. So, if we are missing the target we would like to know. If you have material you would like to have considered for publishing please contact Brian. We would love to hear from you.

Until next time,
Glenn Matthews



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BUNKER SHOTS

Ramblings from a Semi-Warped Perspective
By Ken Williams, CGCS

I made it through another Masters' Week. It has to be a superintendent's most favorite and least favorite week of the year. Thank god it falls when our Nor Cal courses are generally looking great. Could you imagine the comparisons if Masters' Week fell in mid-August!

Does anybody know what happened to former GCSAA CEO Mark Woodward, CGCS? Not that I was a huge fan of his, but it was like poof, and he magically disappeared from his CEO position. I understand that there are some confidentiality issues involved here, but what, are we some secret society? How about just a little explanation please, he was our CEO? Now I do know he has landed with Landscapes Unlimited, due to the suddenly friendly mass emails he has sent out!

Now I do like new GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. But what's up with another guy from the city of Mesa, Arizona? Somehow that doesn't appear that the GCSAA did a very wide candidate search. And please tell me some minority candidates were considered! Our profession needs to start separating itself from the ugly look of white executives controlling a largely minority workforce. I will say that it was great to see Rafael Barajas, CGCS, a man of Hispanic descent, finally elected to the GCSAA Board. Hopefully he'll pave the way for others to follow suit.

Have you seen the news lately about the local water districts raising our water rates? The reason given was that revenue was down because we've been too good at conservation. WHAT THE (HECK) is that? Something is definitely wrong with this model! This is another example that proves government agencies shouldn't be running anything!

I do agree that water use should generally be cut back on golf courses. It is not just for playability, but to be good environmental citizens. In fact, there are two things in golf that need to be cut back, #1) Water use and #2) Distance the golf ball travels. Maybe if we worked hard at #1, the USGA might finally be able to do #2.

I'm still ticked off that the PGA Tour still allows steel spikes in golf shoes. If one of their claims is that the players use the same equipment as we do, how about finally banning steel spikes? It has been about time for the last 12 years!

And finally, last month we had the NCPGA Section out for a tournament. 108 Professionals were competing in one of their early events in a season-long competition. Rounds averaged well over 5½ hours. I found it a bit ironic that these local PGA pros are generally the people charged with speeding up the pace of play....

CADDYSHACK MOMENT



ABOVE: Half-full water truck was rolled down the hill by vandals from construction site above green...Luckily, no major damage done...I ended up laughing because one of the water department guys said, "You're always complaining about not getting enough water." That wasn't exactly how I envisioned the delivery!

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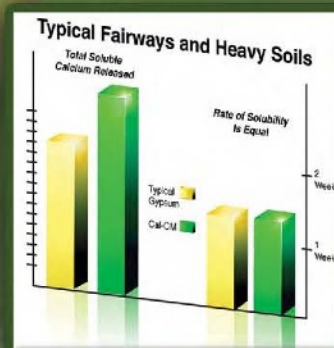
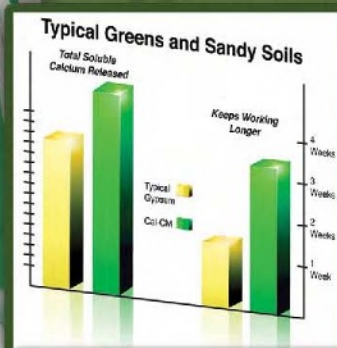
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San Francisco Public Golf Alliance Moves to Intervene in Lawsuit Against Sharp Park Golf Course, Joining City and Mayor as Defendants

The dispute over the fate of northern California's historic **Sharp Park Golf Course** took a noteworthy turn May 19 with a move by the **San Francisco Public Golf Alliance** to legally intervene in the case. Filing its Motion to Intervene at U.S. District Court in San Francisco, the Alliance asserts that Bay Area golfers "have legally protectable interests in their use and enjoyment of Sharp Park."

Earlier this year, environmental advocacy groups, including the **Sierra Club**, sued the city, along with **San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee** and other officials, to shut the 80-year-old municipal course in the name of protecting endangered snake and frog species. But the Public Golf Alliance, with nearly 4,500 members, says no one has been looking out for the rights of Bay Area golfers who have made the links-style course an area landmark.

Environmental advocacy groups led by the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity and the Wild Equity Institute, filed suit on March 2, seeking to shut down the historic, 79-year-old seaside course in the name of protecting a frog and snake listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Sierra Club joined the suit for the limited purpose of protecting the animals, without specifically calling for closure of the golf course.

Renowned for its design by legendary architect **Alister MacKenzie**, and spectacular natural surroundings, Sharp Park is modestly priced to attract golfers of all levels from throughout the region. Among the course's frequent users are public high school teams, the Chinatown YMCA, various senior center golf teams, and other players.

Morrison & Foerster filed the motion in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, in San Francisco. The SFPGA represents a highly diverse group of Bay Area golfers, who "have legally protectable interests in their use and enjoyment of Sharp Park" that "cannot be adequately represented by any existing party" to the lawsuit.

The SFPGA's petition is based on supporting declarations from a diverse cast, including: Carole Groom, President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors; Kari Lee, Executive Director of the San Francisco Chinatown YMCA; Riley Jameison, a 90-year-old African-American golf pioneer and retired California Highway Patrol employee who for 20 years has hosted an annual tournament at Sharp Park benefitting San Francisco's Western Addition Seniors Services Center; Julius Yap, coach of the men's and women's high school golf teams at San Francisco's St. Ignatius Prep; Julie Lancelle, the recent-past Mayor of Pacifica; Herb Lee, a 78-year-old retired San Francisco police officer; and San Francisco favorite son and United States Open Champion Ken Venturi.

Created in 2007, the 4,500-member SFPGA contends that extensive studies undertaken by the City and County of San Francisco and others demonstrate that continued golf at Sharp Park "is compatible with protection of the San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog," the species at the center of the lawsuit. The SFPGA points to recent studies undertaken by City and County officials demonstrating that "it is not only possible, but very feasible" to accommodate golfers

and the two species in an improved Sharp Park environment.

Sharp Park's modest greens' fees, classic design, and spectacular scenery attract a diverse range of golfers from throughout the Bay Area, including public high school boys' and girls' golf teams, and fundraising golf tournaments for a wide variety of civic, business, and political organizations.

"Other public 18-hole courses in San Francisco and northern San Mateo County are either too expensive, too busy, or too hilly for the profile of low-income, racially diverse, juniors and seniors at Sharp Park," said SFPGA spokeswoman and Sharp Park Women's Club member Lauren Barr. "It is imperative that we preserve this historic public jewel. For nearly 80 years Sharp Park has served as an important recreational outlet and gathering-place for people of all economic means in our region."



Legendary British golf course architect Alister MacKenzie designed Sharp Park, which remains one of the few public courses he created. U.S. Open Champion Ken Venturi, the Honorary Chairman of the SFPGA, calls Sharp Park "Alister MacKenzie's great gift to the American public golfer." The Course opened in 1932, 15 years after the land was turned over to the City on the condition that it be used "only for a public park, or public playground."

Chris Carr, an environmental and land use partner at Morrison & Foerster, said, "This is an historically important course that upholds the best tradition of public access. Most golf courses with the heritage and location of Sharp Park would be exclusive private clubs and available to only a narrow sliver of the population. The Alliance is committed to the conservation of protected species while adhering to the original vision of Sharp Park as a course for everyone."

Mr. Carr, chair of Morrison & Foerster's Environment and Energy practice group and co-chair of its Cleantech group, regularly handles matters involving the federal Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and their California counterparts. Morrison & Foerster has a long history of supporting environmental causes in the Bay Area.

A hearing on the SFPGA's Motion to Intervene will be held on June 24, before Federal Judge Susan Illston of the San Francisco Division of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

AFFILIATES CORNER



Name: John Grund, *GCSANC Affiliate Member*

Company: Grund Guide

City: San Rafael, CA

Position: Owner/Founder and company rep for the Grund Guide. John works closely with experts in manufacturing and golf course maintenance where he provides measurement services and yardage marking system consultation. Products

include yardage markers and yardage books, scorecards, and an array of related accessories.

Years in the Golf Business: 25 years

Previous Employment and Golf Experience: Competed on the PGA Tour, and the Canadian, South African and South Pacific tours, and in one U.S. Open. Was later employed as a PGA golf professional working at both public and private clubs.

Education: Graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Political Science ('81) and was a member of the golf team. Served as an assistant coach (1983-84) under the leadership of golf legend Mr. Eddie Merrins. John was at UCLA during the same era as standout players Pate, Pavin, Pernice and Waldorf.

Hobbies, Interests: When his schedule permits, John still enjoys teaching golf and works with players of all skill levels at McInnis Park GC in San Rafael. He is an avid reader and enjoys studying California Art & History with focus on Plein Air art spanning mid-1880s to mid-1930s.

Association Involvement: Besides being an affiliate member of

the GCSANC John is also a member of the So Cal Chapter. Has been a supporter of turf research projects for several years. He participates annually in the superintendent's State Meeting where he also served as hospitality wine host. He is a vendor at the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show.

Other affiliations: John is a Class "A" Member of the PGA of America, serves on the Bay Area Chapter Board for the NCPGA, and is a member of the Nor Cal Golf Reps Association.

What's the best bit of professional business advice you can share with others? The quote "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" always seems to be appropriate. I think it makes good business sense. Today more than ever, it's important that golf course superintendents should not undervalue their contributions to the facility, for they are "the experts" and bring immense value to the success of a golf course operation. I believe if someone has a way to improve the course and its conditions, it is important to speak up and be heard!

From a business perspective, what are your thoughts about the future of golf? As turf care and golf industry professionals we should use our ability/talents to make the game better. We should also do our best to make the game more fun and more enjoyable.

If you weren't in the golf business what would you be doing? I would probably be an art historian.

Favorite foursome: My favorite foursome would include my dad, who introduced me to the game. It would also include my many friends who favor the game as much as I do.

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MEMBER PROFILE



Name: Josh Lewis

Employer: Pasatiempo Golf Club

Position: Assistant Superintendent

Years in the Business: 13

Previous Employment:

Old MacDonald, Eugene Country Club,
Bandon Trails, Bandon Dunes

Education: Bachelor's Degree from Oregon
State University in horticulture with a turf management option.

GCSANC Work or Interests: I intend to pursue board level positions when I become eligible, but for now I try to stay actively involved by attending as many chapter meetings and events as possible.

Other Organizations: GCSAA, Oregon Chapter GCSAA, as well as staying involved with student mentoring and program support within the turf program at Oregon State University

Family: I will have been married for 7 years this June, and I have a son that will be 5 in July and a daughter that will be 2 in July.

What did you learn that they never taught you in college?

A lot of things, but I would say that the biggest is how to deal with people. The daily interaction with members, guests, pro shop, etc. has been a bit of a learning curve, but equally important has been figuring out ways to motivate a staff.

What's the best bit of professional advice ever tossed your way? Brad Owen at Augusta told me that one of the biggest keys for him and his career success has been making sure to keep things in

perspective, and remembering the real priorities of life. Work to live, don't live to work.

What accomplishment are you most proud of? Definitely my kids.

Favorite course to play: It's a tie between Pacific Dunes and Cypress Point.

Name your top superintendent influences: Chris Gaughan at Eugene Country Club, Ken Nice at Bandon Dunes and, of course, my current boss, Paul Chojnacky.

Name your top life influences: God, my parents, and my wife, in that order

If you weren't in the business of growing grass what would you be doing? I've always been interested in the medical field, so I'd probably be a doctor.

Worst place you have ever slept? In between split shifts at last year's U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, I slept in the front seat of a Cushman Truckster...not good.

Lowest score you ever shot and course: I don't know if it is the lowest round I've ever shot, but the best round of golf I've ever played was when I shot 72 at Bandon Trails, which I still feel is one of the most difficult courses I've ever seen.

Favorite hobby: Spending time with my family.

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NORCAL'S MACKENZIE INFLUENCE

Over the last 10 years I have had the pleasure of working at Meadow Club in Fairfax, CA. On my first visit to the course I had an interview with David Sexton for the Assistant Superintendent position. During the interview we discussed the restoration for the golf course that was in its first year. I mentioned to David that I had an interest in Alister MacKenzie and golf architecture and he opened up a drawer in his desk and showed me an original manuscript of the "Spirit of St. Andrews." I knew without a doubt that I had found the job that I thought only existed in my dreams. How many Superintendents have something like that just sitting in their desk?

Over the next couple of years as we continued to restore the course I started digging a little deeper into the early history of the course, the members, and Alister MacKenzie. I found some correspondence that covered the formation of the Meadow Club and the involvement of Robert Hunter in introducing the club to Alister MacKenzie. I then dug deep into the San Francisco Chronicle and found some other mentions of the club and came across information on other area clubs. As I continued my research I kept coming across new and interesting information on many Bay area clubs that I thought I was familiar with.

My focus on Meadow Club continues--along with an interest in the golf courses of the Bay area from 1890-1930. I have always been interested in the Golden Age of golf course design that was prominent from 1925-1930. California was rich with many golf courses designed by William Bell Sr., George C. Thomas, Alister MacKenzie, and Max Behr during this period. Yet, as I starting digging into the golf courses that came before these courses I became intrigued by their design and seemingly lost history of many golf courses for the period from the 1890s-1920s.

As I continued my research I was put in contact with Bob Beck a noted historian with an interest in MacKenzie and Marion Hollins of Pasatiempo fame. Beck had started the Alister MacKenzie Chronology with Nick Leefe of The Alwoodley Club in England and Alister MacKenzie Society. The Chronology is an attempt to figure out what courses MacKenzie was involved with, where he was, and what he was doing. It started when Beck was trying to figure out when MacKenzie was at Pasatiempo and it just grew from there with additional information provided by Leefe and The Alwoodley Golf Club. I took over for Beck in 2007 and have produced two revisions that have

added greatly to what we already know about MacKenzie. We are also compiling photos of MacKenzie, a list of all the courses that he worked on in one fashion or another, and his writings. The research on the Chronology is ongoing and a number of other researchers from Australia, England, and Scotland are taking part in retracing the life a work of Alister MacKenzie.

In the fall of this year, Claremont Country Club will be hosting the Alister MacKenzie Society. The Society is made up of 15 clubs from around the world that represents the work of MacKenzie and his many partners and celebrates that fact with an annual meeting at one of the participating clubs. Since last fall I have been working in conjunction with a group of undergraduate students from the University of California under the guidance of Professor Donald McQuade on a research project on Robert Hunter, Alister MacKenzie, and Claremont CC. We are hopeful that we can find some new and interesting information that will be part of a presentation given at the Alister MacKenzie Society Meeting.

Giving my introduction and an overview of my interest in research, I will be doing a column for the forthcoming issues of our chapter's newsletter. My focus will be on the history of golf in the Bay Area and beyond. I have a number of topics that I can choose from, but I am very interested in answering questions that you may have as well.

Please feel free to contact me at:

tullfescue@yahoo.com

PHOTO QUIZ

I love photo quizzes and will feature one in each column that I do. Can anyone figure out the course in this picture? Hint: This course hosted an amateur event in 1932 and one of the competitor's preparation for the event was climbing Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County!

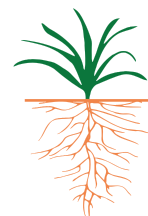


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