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California Golf Club
tbastis@msn.com

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Silver Creek Valley C.C.
nick@scvcc.com

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gingram@playmetro.com

TIM POWERS, CGCS
Crystal Springs Golf Course
tpowers@playcrystalsprings.com

JAMES SHERMAN
Turf and Industrial Equipment
jrs@turfandindustrial.com

DAVE WILBER
Sierra Pacific
davewilbur@yahoo.com

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Cypress Point Club
akoni@cypresspointclub.org

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Crow Canyon Country Club
dale.simpson@ourclub.com

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California Golf Club
bmikel@gcsanc.com

EMMY MOORE MINSTER
Turf and Industrial Equipment
emmypga@aol.com

THRU THE GREEN • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011
July 25, Sequoyah Country Club began as a typical Oakland summer day—overcast! It ended with Scholarship & Research history for Nor Cal. A full field of 120 players enjoyed the golf. Sam Samuelsen, CGCS, Haggin Oaks Superintendent, enjoyed a hole in one on hole #2 for a Garia golf cart and airline tickets for two, and Nor Cal raised a historic dollar amount to fund scholarship and research programs for its members.

Thank you to Terry Grasso, Superintendent; Tom Schunn, General Manager and Bill Smith, Golf Professional at Sequoyah Country Club for providing the venue for the most successful Scholarship & Research Tournament in Nor Cal history; Dave Wilber and John Holmquist for auctioneering duties; Jim Sherman; Tim Powers, CGCS; Thomas Bastis, CGCS; Dave Wilber, for your committee service; and entire board for tireless phone calls, soliciting for players and participation.

- Take a moment to review the list of our Preferred Partner Sponsors. These businesses support your association’s meetings, web site and publication throughout the year. A “thank you for your support” to all the companies and clubs represented on the donors list too. When you need products and services, these folks should be on your “first call” list.


Visit the web site www.gcsanc.com click on Jason’s List and view some of the wonderful auction and raffle items and those who donated to the event.

- Want to attend an Oakland Raiders game? Take advantage of a great way to help yourself and the Oakland Turfgrass Education Imitative (OTEI) program that “introduces inner-city youth to potential career paths in sports turf & golf course management, environmental sciences, and the green industry.” Visit the web site and download more information for the game.

- When you visit the Nor Cal web site some things to keep in mind. The job section, as is the membership area, is password protected. Each time we announce a job notice, the password is included in the email. The password for your membership is yours to set. Once you make that change, the office does not have access to your password. If you forget, you can make a request for a new one. If that fails, call the office for a manual reset. Thru the Green is available directly to member via email link. The emails are sent from the membership “Wild Apricot” database-hosting site. If you have having trouble accessing the publication, please give the office a call. You may have to “friend” the email on your company networks.

Robert John Kempainen
Stanford University Golf Course
Class C

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Randy Gai has been promoted to Golf and Grounds Maintenance Superintendent at Claremont Country Club in Oakland. Replacing Randy at golf course superintendent is Josh Cleverger. Josh had been the assistant super prior to his promotion. Mike Higuera Sr. has retired as superintendent at Coyote Creek Golf Course in San Jose. He is being replaced by Joel Brinkman. Joel most recently was at Calabassas CC in So California. Prior to that he was at Blackhawk CC in Danville.......

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Glenn Matthews  
*The Course at Wente Vineyards*

Here we are, mid-summer and fall is fast approaching. For most of us this is the absolute busiest time of year and focus is on business at hand. I hope your course and business are peaking as we approach the crescendo of the golf season, but do not forget the Board has a fantastic line-up of events to finish off the year.

On August 22nd Stockton Country Club hosted the annual Tri-Chapters meeting, November brings the annual State meeting to our region at the fabulous Silverado Resort, in December the annual Holiday Golf & Dinner is revived at Old Del Monte in Monterey, and January starts our new year with our annual election meeting at Wente Vineyards.

Association business has certainly reached a climax with full implementation of our new sponsorship program and the recent completion of the annual Scholarship & Research Event at Sequoyah Country Club. Thank you to those who attended and participated through sponsorship or donation. We had a full field for the first time in a recent history and we raised a record amount of dollars for scholarship and research. The event drew a diverse group of association members and their guests, which included personal friends, club board members, general managers, club pros, and esteemed colleagues. We are already working on next year’s event and hope to announce the venue soon.

For those superintendents interested in showcasing their facility for a future event please contact a member of the Board or Barb Mikel to inquire about possibilities. We are always looking for our next meeting venue.

In the mean time, I know our superintendent and assistant superintendent members will be busy tending to aerification and seeding programs this fall. And our affiliate members will be busy providing the support necessary for them to get the job done. Although our current economy is not as fantastic as we may like, we still work in a fabulous industry providing recreation for those who love to play the wonderful game of golf. Hold your head high, take care of business and stay focused on delivering the best playing field possible.

May your ball land in the short-grass,
Glenn Matthews
Name:  Stacy L. Wallace
Employer:  StoneTree Golf Club
Position:  Golf Course Superintendent
Years in the Business:  25
Previous Employment:  Sonoma Golf Club, Northmoor CC, Prairie Landing Golf Club, Bryn Mawr CC
Education:  Associate Degree, Farm Machinery Technology at Spoon River College Canton, IL;  Associate Degree, Turf Management at Danville Area Community College, Danville, IL
Other Organizations:  GCSAA, USGA
Family:  Single
What was the first car you ever owned?  1970 Ford Mustang Mach I
How fast did you drive it?  Too fast!
What is your favorite band?  Country: Johnny Cash and The Tennessee Three; Rock: Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band (rest in peace, Clarence!).
How did you get into the business?  Brother was Supt. at local golf course.
What did you learn that they never taught you in college?  Staff and clientele management.
Please list your fantasy foursome:  Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, and myself.
What is #1 on your bucket list?  Playing National Golf Links.
What’s the best bit of professional advice ever tossed your way?  Keep it simple, do not complicate things.
What accomplishment are you most proud of?  Tough question.
What’s your favorite restaurant?  Lou Malnalti’s Pizza, Chicago or any good steak joint.
Beer or wine?  Youth: beer; now: wine.
Favorite course to play:  Difficult question to answer since I have been fortunate to be able to play some great golf courses over the years. Modern course: Rock Creek Cattle Ranch; Classic Era: Oakland Hills CC. To play on a daily basis—if I were a member—I have to throw in a plug for Sonoma Golf Club.
Ipod top 5:  Bruce Springsteen, Johnny Cash, Rolling Stones, the Killers and Frank Sinatra.
What’s your favorite vacation spot?  I live in my favorite vacation spot! (Wine Country)
Favorite hobby:  Riding my Harley!
Strangest thing you’ve ever seen on a golf course:  Wow! Where to begin?
Name your top superintendent influences:  Brian Bossert (Bryn Mawr CC, Lincolnwood, IL), Tony Kalina (Prairie Landing GC, West Chicago, IL), Jim Johns (Northmoor CC, Highland Park, IL), Mat Dummyer (Valley Hi CC, Elk Grove, CA), Ron McCarthy (Edgewood Valley CC, LaGrange, IL)
Name your top life influences:  Parents
Lowest score you ever shot and course:  34 at Scripps Park (par 35).

The hardest part of your job:  Managing people.
The most rewarding thing in your job is:  Working with staff.
If you weren’t in the business of growing grass what would you be doing?  Airline pilot.
What’s in your closet at home?  Wine and clothes.
What’s in your office?  Golf clubs & shoes along with work materials.
What magazines do you subscribe to?  GCM, Golf Course Industry, Golf Course Architecture, HOG.
Worst piece of equipment ever owned?  Ransome rough mower (diesel).
Worst place you have ever slept?  Pump House (getting it through the night).
Closest to death you ever came?  Driving the Mustang!
The invention that you thought of but someone else made the million dollars and not you?  Still waiting to think of it!
Do you expect to collect on Social Security?  Since I have paid into it all these years, YES!
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209-944-5714

Agronomic Sales:
Sacramento: Nick Biggi,
916-765-6881
San Francisco: Gary Otto,
209-483-5648
John Deere Golf: Providing Support for Superintendents—When and Where They Need It

Given the changing landscape and the sometime volatility of today’s golf industry, superintendents need to be able to count on manufacturers and distributors for support—on and off the course. And, with an ongoing commitment to helping the golf industry succeed, John Deere Golf strives to help industry maintenance professionals increase productivity, maintain the best possible playing surface and create efficiencies in their day-to-day routines.

Customized Support on a Local Level

Because each and every golf course is different—from varying terrains and weather conditions to membership pressures and players’ requirements—those who support maintenance professionals can’t take a cookie cutter approach. That’s why John Deere Golf representatives focus on the unique needs of superintendents. In Northern California, Regional Sales Manager Bill Ilnitsky emphasizes to his team the importance of being a dependable resource for those they serve.

John Deere Golf encourages all of its team members to develop multifaceted relationships with the customers. It’s their jobs to deliver helpful, effective solutions across the course, along with, dependable service and ongoing commitment to the industry as a whole.

John Deere Golf utilizes John Deere Landscape (JDL) branches as platforms to provide products and service to golf courses in each area. Beyond the normal agronomic products that golf courses utilize, golf course amenities, irrigation, drainage, erosion control, tools, lighting, plants, landscape and hardscape products, can be found through John Deere Golf and John Deere Landscapes.

With fifteen JDL branches located in Northern California, this synergistic approach gives John Deere Golf customers unmatched service to throughout the area. The branches are located in Dublin, Elk Grove, Fresno, Gilroy, Livermore, Modesto, Pacheco, Rancho Cordova, Rocklin, Sacramento, San Carlos, San Jose, San Rafael and Santa Rosa.

Each branch also has its own delivery trucks, and with more than thirty delivery trucks in northern California, John Deere Golf delivers the product to the golf course when they need it.

Working with John Deere means superintendents can tap into reliable, knowledgeable staff and expert resources. Often the job of sales representatives is to act as a consultant and spend time on the course when needed identifying problems and working shoulder to shoulder with superintendents to determine the best solution.

Nick Biggi and Gary Otto, golf sales representatives, both understand the urgency and pressure under which superintendents work and what it truly means to be a partner and service and support provider.

Nick got his start in the Green Industry working in the retail/wholesale nursery market. He has worked as a pest control adviser serving the golf and landscape maintenance industry for 25 years. In addition, he spent a few years in agricultural production. Not only is he a licensed PCA but, he is also a Certified Arborist and Certified Crop Adviser.

Early in his career, Gary Otto was a superintendent, regional superintendent and the director of maintenance of multiple golf courses. Overseeing more than 80 golf courses throughout his career helps him relate to superintendents and their expectations. Gary is also a Certified Golf Course Superintendent and holds a Pest Control Advisor’s License.

In order to develop deeper and stronger relationships with customers, many John Deere Golf representatives look for opportunities to connect outside of their day-to-day duties. Nick and Gary are members of their local chapters, and they value the opportunity to demonstrate their support of superintendents (and the industry) off the course. John Deere Golf is consistently looking for opportunities to help build and grow the local industry. From local sponsorships to charitable contributions to educational opportunities—we work with our local superintendents to create a strong local golf community and we are proud to be Diamond Sponsors for the GCSANC.

Ultimately, John Deere Golf’s goal is to be a partner to local superintendents and their staffs to provide what they need to be successful in their jobs. When superintendents choose to work with John Deere Golf they’re not just getting the best in machines, agronomic products and advice, but the best of a whole organization, dedicated to them.

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Nick Biggi
(916) 765-6881

Gary Otto
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Locally Grown
## Auction Item Sponsors and Winners

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<td>The Course At Wente Vineyards</td>
<td>Wente Vineyards Foursome With Wine Tasting</td>
<td>Len Tallo</td>
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</table>

The Low Net winners with a score of 124:
Thomas Bastis, CGCS, Mark Corso, Phil McKinney, & Steve Kempton, California Golf Club Team.

The Low Gross winners with a score of 140 won on a match of cards:
Craig Kilcoyne, Bob Tomasini, Mike Kren, & Keith Whitaker Guest team of Rodney Kilcoyne (They won over Mike Garvale’s team).
Fourth Annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament
Sequoyah Country Club

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| Len Tallo | Kimball Midwest | Golf Apparel |
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| John Parodi | Iron Planet | Ipod Nano & Excavator Clock |
| Jon Christenson | Monarch Bay Golf Club | Golf Foursome With Carts |
| Gary Ingram, CGCS | Metropolitan Golf Links | Golf Foursome With Carts |
| Daniel Gutierrez | Eagle Ridge Golf Club | Golf Foursome With Carts |
| Greg Dunn | West Coast Turf | Golf Foursome With Carts |
| Gary Carls, CGCS | Sunnyvale Golf Course | Foursome With Carts Sunnyvale GC |
| Tracy Bynum | Sportsturf Irrigation | Dave & Buster’s Gift Cards & TGIF Gift Cards |
| Jerry Bibbey | Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club | Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club Foursome With Carts |
| Don Naumann | Sierra Pacific Turf Supply Co., Inc | Airline Tickets for Two, Hole in One Prize |
| Tom Jackson | Sierra Pacific Turf Supply Co., Inc | Cash Proceeds From Hole In One tickets |
| Bob Miller | Anderson’s Golf Products | Airline Tickets for Two, Hole in One Prize |
| Scott Dickson | Turf And Industrial Equipment Co. | Garia Golf Car Hole in One Prize |
| Nick Checklenis | Silver Creek Valley C.C. | Golf Foursome With Carts |
| Ben Showard | Turf Equipment Services, Inc. | Closest To Pin Sponsor |
| David Piper | Simplot/Best Professional Products | Long Drive Sponsor |

Hole in One

WHO? Sam Samuelson, CGCS, Haggin Oaks (left)
HOLE: #12
WITNESSES: Bob Miller, Jim Ferrin, Andrew Ferrin, Jim Sherman of Turf & Industrial Equipment Co. and Casey Moss of Garia.
Sam won a Garia Golf Car sponsored by Turf & Industrial Equipment Co. plus airline tickets for two sponsored by Sierra Pacific Turf Supply Co, Inc. and Anderson’s Golf Products.

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