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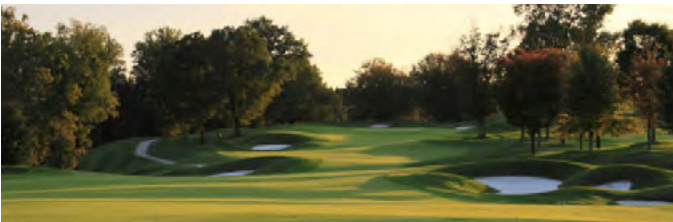
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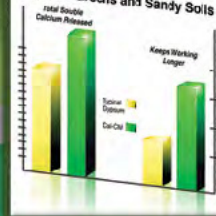
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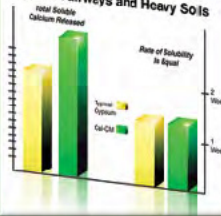
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# Assistant Superintendent Profile, Michael J. Hoesly



**Employer:** Richmond Country Club

**Position:** Assistant Superintendent

**Years in the business:** 9 yrs.

**Previous employment:** Springhill Country Club

**Education:** B.S. Horticulture Oregon State University

**GCSANC Work or Interests:** NCGA Assistance's Bootcamp.

**Other Organizations:** GCSAA

**Family:** Single

**What was the first car you ever owned?** 1973 Chevrolet C20

**How fast did you drive it?** 65

**What is your favorite band?** Modest Mouse

**How did you get into the business?** I took a summer position on a greens crew in Oregon while attending OSU and thoroughly enjoyed the work.

**What did you learn that they never taught you in college?** The business side of maintaining a golf course.

**What is #1 on your bucket list?** Sail to the South Pacific.

**What's the best bit of professional advice ever tossed your way?** Don't take a position unless you are absolutely positive you are ready.

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?** Dual major from OSU.

**What's your favorite restaurant?** Benetti's Coos Bay, OR.

**Beer or wine?** Wine.

**Favorite course to play:** Crosswater Sunriver, OR.

**What's your favorite vacation spot?** Summertime: No vacations. Wintertime: Looking into vacationing in the southern hemisphere.

**Favorite hobby:** Sailing.

**Strangest thing you've ever seen on a golf course:** Recently in the early morning hours I caught a Raccoon crawling out of a drainage basin. He was either looking for food or it was a place to sleep for the night

**Name your top superintendent influences:** Matt Peltier (Springhill Country Club), Mike Souza (Richmond Country Club).

**Name your top life influences:** Father.

**The hardest part of your job:** Frost delay coordination.

**The most rewarding thing in your job is:** Watching a crew member take on a new task and improve on it.

**If you weren't in the business of growing grass what would you be doing?** Growing wine grapes.

**What's in your garage?** Cannondale mountain bike.

**What's in your closet at home?** A lot of coats.

**What's in your office?** TDR 300 Fieldscout Moisture Meter. I need a place to keep in my cart.

**What magazines do you subscribe to?** GCM, *The Economist*.

**Do you collect anything, and why?** Product catalogs, I don't know why.

**Worst place you have ever slept?** Camping outside Reno, NV near Silver Springs. Nighttime low was 25 F.

**Closest to death you ever came?** Rafting the Rogue River.

**Do you expect to collect on social security?** No.

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# Superintendent Field Day OLYMPIC CLUB APRIL 2, 2012, U.S. OPEN PREPARATIONS



Assistant Superintendent Justin Mandon (right) and USGA's Pat Gross demonstrate equipment used to test green firmness and consistency.



Golf Course Superintendent Matt Muhlenbruch provides tour of a green renovation project on the Ocean Course.



Field Day hosts Olympic Club General Manager Greg DeRosa and GCSANC's Patrick "Pat" Finlen, CGCS.



Field Day attendees on the 16th fairway of the Lake Course.

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# From the Field

BY JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA FIELD STAFF, SOUTHWEST REGION



I hope this finds all of our GCSAA of Northern California members doing well and getting ready for a great summer.

As a GCSAA Field Staff Representative, one of my primary objectives is to assist with the continued development of the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG).

For those of you that don't know, EIFG is the philanthropic branch of GCSAA and its mission is to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game.

Recently, the EIFG received a \$1 million donation from the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation to support the professional development of golf course superintendents through participation in the annual GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. The Melrose Family Foundation is supported by Ken Melrose, the former CEO and chairman of the Toro Co. The gift is the largest in EIFG history.

As a donating member, I am asking all GCSAA members to consider contributing to EIFG to fuel innovation through research, expand knowledge of golf course management professionals through education, tell golf's story through advocacy and research and help

bright minds pursue their dreams through scholarships. All donations, small or large, will help preserve the game, the profession and your way of life.

Additionally, EIFG has a completely new look and website that provides up-to-date news, environmental and sustainable education, and the ability to donate online. Visit the new site at EIFG.org.

On a lighter note, I would like to remind all superintendents and fellow dog lovers that photos for the always-popular Dog Days of Golf calendar are due by August 1. Sponsored by Lebanon Turf, the winning dog will be chosen at the Golf Industry Show next February in San Diego. If your dog is the winner, \$3,000 will be donated to your home chapter along with a \$500 donation to your local humane society. To submit your dog, email a high resolution photo to [Lebturfdogcalendar@gcsaa.org](mailto:Lebturfdogcalendar@gcsaa.org).

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to serve your chapters and if I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jjensen@gcsaa.org](mailto:jjensen@gcsaa.org). I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.



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# Olympic Club Lake Course and Sam Whiting

BY SEAN TULLY, GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT AT THE MEADOW CLUB

On July 1, 1921, Sam Whiting spent his first day working at the Olympic Club and he would work there as the Golf Professional and Greenkeeper until his retirement in 1954. He was a skilled player that learned the game from 5-time Open Champion J.H. Taylor and worked at Ilkley Golf Club in West Yorkshire, England before coming to the United States. His first position was at Berkeley Country Club (Mira Vista today) as the head pro, but due to some striking workers that delayed the opening of the club, he was allowed to take the head professional position at Olympic Club.

The original Lakeside Golf Club opened in July of 1917 to much fanfare, but it didn't take long to see that the course suffered from too many blind shots into the greens. The club struggled financially right from the start and as Olympic was looking at getting involved in golf they leased the course and took over the maintenance as well. Both Seth Raynor and Herbert Fowler proposed plans for changes to the course, but it wouldn't be until after the club purchased 300+ acres of land that William Watson and Sam Whiting laid out the Lake and Ocean courses in 1922-3.

It is interesting to note that when the courses were built they used bent grass on the greens and had fescue in the fairways. We are coming full circle as the recent work done by Pat Finlen and his staff have returned bent grass to the greens at Olympic Club.

The Lake and Ocean courses opened in May of 1924 and were heralded as the "St. Andrews of America" in the San Francisco Chronicle. In February of 1925, portions of the holes on the West side of Skyline Boulevard would get damaged by heavy rains. Another slide induced rain event in February 1926 and a subsequent geologists report on the slides forced the clubs hand and changes had to be made to both courses.

Sam Whiting, working on his own, drew up plans for what we now consider the Lake Course in 1926. The club would call in Max Behr, a noted architect, who was responsible for the other noted Lakeside Golf Club in Burbank. Behr made a couple of small changes and some recommendations but he felt the plan as drawn up by Whiting was quite good. The Lake course has seen some changes over the years, but it is the Whiting routing that will be put through its 5th US Open!

As an architect, Whiting was involved in a number of golf courses; Harding Park with William Watson, Sonoma Golf Club, Stockton Golf and Country Club, and Del Paso. As a Golf Professional, Whiting was the President of the NCPGA Section from 1922-30.



## Guess the Hole

From the Jan/Feb issue the photo was of the 15th hole at Orinda in 1928.

This issue's photo is a little harder, but only one course from my article matches up.

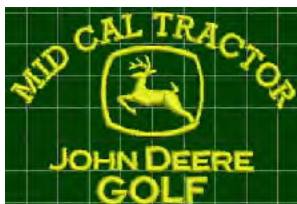




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# California's Growing Marijuana Business Impacting Agriculture

Editor's Note: The following article is re-printed with kind permission of Harry Cline, Western Farm Press, February 8, 2012.

California prides itself on feeding America.

It also has the dubious distinction of being America's biggest dope supplier.

Approximately 75 percent of the marijuana sold in the U.S. is grown in California—not Mexico, according to Sgt. Mike Horne of the Ventura County (CA) Sheriff's Department narcotics bureau. Horne heads a six-man commando-like unit that uses helicopters and rugged all-terrain vehicles to search and destroy marijuana growing operations in the national forest of his county.

This is not the typical article you find in an agricultural publication. However, Horne made his comments in a very typical agricultural setting, the recent California Weed Science Society annual meeting in Santa Barbara, Calif. The weed Horne was talking about has likely never been the topic of the society's annual meeting in its 64-year history, where the presentations center around controlling unwanted weeds like horseweed, morning glory and Johnsongrass—not pot.

Horne was invited to speak on marijuana cultivation as the tentacles of these illegal operations pervade the rural, agricultural areas of the state. Marijuana cultivation has grown to the point where it is making it dangerous for government employees like University of California Cooperative Extension farm advisors to do their jobs.

Michelle Le Strange, UCCE farm advisor in Tulare County and immediate past president of CWSS, said she has been warned by county officials and law enforcement officers that she should be alert in driving a county vehicle in rural areas because marijuana plantation tenders might think she is a law enforcement officer, and she could be in danger.

Horne said Le Strange and any government officials driving vehicles with government plates should be concerned because these marijuana plantations are operated by Mexican drug cartels, the same lawless gangs who are responsible for thousands of murders each year in Mexico. These cartels actually scour the U.S. Forest Service lands in search of ideal growing sites, often adjacent to running streams. The cartels stock these plantations with people, drip irrigation tubing and chemicals to farm the illegal weed.

Horne showed a video and photos of what his men have uncovered in the national forests. As expected, there were neatly planted marijuana rows with drip irrigation tubing, the same as used by farmers. More chilling to the CWSS audience were the photos of not only automatic weapons confiscated in a raid, but pictures of chemicals and fertilizers used in these growing operations. The logos of many very prominent agchem and fertilizer companies were clearly visible. There were also photos of agchem products manufactured in Mexico, brought in by the cartels. Horne said many of those chemicals are not legal in the U.S.



Le Strange pointed out that chemicals and fertilizers used in these growing operations could well find their way in to streams and lakes. The unsuspecting public is likely to put the blame on agriculture for any contamination from these illegal chemicals or misuse of U.S. registered products.

## Marijuana flourishing in California

The national forest marijuana problem is not new, but it is growing, becoming more sophisticated and more dangerous with the cartel involvement. Workers in these plantations are armed with automatic assault rifles.

In recent years, marijuana growing has flourished in California's rich agricultural valleys. This has been precipitated by California's new medical marijuana laws. Illegal drug dealers are operating under the guise of growing medical marijuana. One large-scale growing operation raided by county sheriff's officials just east of Fresno was in an area of small vegetable farms. On the fence surrounding the pot farm letters were posted professing that it was a medical marijuana operation. Many of the letters were duplicated and tacked on the fence of the raided farm. Sheriff's deputies had traced the marijuana grown there to illegal drug sales on the East Coast.

Horne said Asian gangs are leasing agricultural land for these marijuana operations.

Horne cited official statements that only 15 percent of marijuana growing operations on federal land are detected and destroyed each year. He disagrees with that, at least in his county, where he said his task force takes out 50 percent to 70 percent of the operations.

What he did not dispute is the size of the problem statewide. Horne said it has been estimated that there are 71,000 acres of marijuana under cultivation each year in California. That represents 121 square miles or an area equivalent to the size of Sacramento.

Horne said they are so plentiful, it is common for hunters and hikers to stumble across marijuana plantations.

These operations have also been linked to wildlife deaths from drinking polluted water and several have been linked to starting forest fires.



▲ (L-R) ELGA Merit winners Dave Davies, CGCS TPC Stonebrae, and Gary Ingram, CGCS Metropolitan Golf Links, join Peter Jacobson, Tom Doyle, Calippi GC, and Don Paul, Los Lagos GC, in congratulating Tim Powers CGCS, Crystal Springs GC.

▼ Tim Powers, CGCS, Crystal Springs Golf Course receiving the Environmental Leaders in Golf Award from GCSAA President, Robert Randquist, CGCS.



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