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Clubhouse view from Oakhurst

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Office Notes

BY BARBARA MIKEL



The Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament at Sonoma Golf Club produced a new record for funds raised. Thanks to the auction talents of Dave Wilber, the generous contributions of industry partners and golf facilities and the wonderful venue provided by Sonoma Golf Club the association will continue support of turfgrass research and turf education in Northern California. A special “get well soon” to Myrtle Wagoner, one of the namesakes for the scholarship tournament who has been recovering from hip surgery for the past few months. Clifford has discovered a talent for nursing and is doing a wonderful job too.

GCSAA recognizing the importance of funding nationally for turfgrass research and has introduced Rounds4Research. You have already received an information email with request for your participation in this public auction of golf rounds, resort stays, and golf vacation packages. Support of this program by Northern California courses will bring 80% of the net auction amount back to the research programs of Northern California. Stay tuned for more to come on this national/local fundraising program.

A big “thank you” for using the association meeting registration website. The website provides a 24/7 resource to keep up to date on activities and educational opportunities. The calendar section contains links to other meeting and educational opportunities. A

new link to the GCSAA website provides free web education offered to members. The member login page will bring you to the protected portions of the website. Use your association email and password to update your business information, make meeting reservations and pay for any items using a credit card.

Those of us using smartphones (iPhone, android, etc.) now have the ability to access some of the more frequently used features of the website. Use your phone browser to search for the GCSANC or enter directly GCSANC.com. You will be presented with:

- Jason’s List
- NorCalendar
- Membership Directory
- Photo Archive
- Jobs
- Thru the Green
- California GCSA
- GCSAA

You may also register for meetings with the NorCalendar function. You can also send the year view of the NorCalendar to your phone. This presentation is not available for your iPad.

Assistant superintendent should take a look at the website for the upcoming NCGA Bootcamp. Scheduled for October, more detailed information will be posted shortly. This has been a popular assistant’s event so mark your (and your superintendent’s calendar).

It’s back! **The 31st Superintendent Institute** is scheduled for November 11-12, Oakhurst Country Club. Again, mark those calendars and stay tuned...more details shortly.

Nauman’s Nor Cal News

Joel Brinkman has left Coyote Creek Golf Course in San Jose. He is going to Fresno and will be the new superintendent at Sunnyside CC. He is replacing **Rob Williams** who went to Stockton CC. Leaving Stockton CC to go to Southern California is **Jim Alwine**. He has accepted the superintendent position at Bernardo Heights CC in North San Diego Co.....**Paul Tarasoff** has left Monterey Peninsula Country Club and is now the superintendent at Turlock Country Club in Turlock.....**Josh Lewis** a little over a year ago was the assistant under Paul Chojnacky at Pasatiempo GC in Santa Cruz. He went up to Chamber Bay GC in Washington in order to help with the upcoming U.S. Open. He is now the superintendent at Chambers Bay and another ex-Nor Cal guy, **Eric Johnson** (from Spyglass Hill years ago) is the Agronomist for Chambers Bay and the US Open.....

NorCalendar

OCTOBER 15
Assistant Supt. Bootcamp
“Chart a New Course”

Poppy Hills

NOVEMBER 12-13
Superintendents Institute
Oakhurst Golf Club

DECEMBER 7
Holiday Golf and Dinner
Del Monte Golf Course

More Details?

Visit www.gcsanc.com/events/next/

New Members

Brad Griffing
City of Walnut Creek
Associate

Gary Puckett
Cypress Lakes GC
Class A Life

John Pine
Inactive
Class A Superintendent

GCSANC Has Gone Mobile

To increase the ease and experience of our website for our members on the go, the GCSANC has created an optimized mobile web site. The address is the same, www.gcsanc.com, but when typed into your smartphone or tablet you will see an easy-to-use interface.

You will have access to all the key features of the website and you can register for meetings directly from your phone or tablet. You will also be able to take pictures with your smartphone or tablet and directly post them to Jason’s List.

Please visit the website and we encourage any feedback you may have.



President's Message BY RODNEY MULLER



Research Fundraising Finds New Life in California

Nor Cal recently had an impressive showing of support and fundraising efforts at the Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament. Thank you, to all of our members for your donations—your generosity, once again, set the bar for this event. The result will not only help our turf students and legacy scholarship award winners, it will also allow our association to secure two twelve-month research studies through Dr. Baird at UC Riverside.

You may remember the GCSANC research topics survey you submitted not long ago. The Board of Directors used the information gathered from our survey to help select local research to implement over the course of the year. Based on your suggestions, the Board chose the following two studies: 1) colorant/pigment, and 2) wetting agent. Both research studies will be held at two locations with drastically different weather and turf type in Northern California. Concurrently, Dr. Baird and his team will conduct ongoing Poa and salinity research trials. We are excited to fund the colorant and wetting agent projects through the Wagoner S&R Tournament proceeds, which leads me to a new fundraising opportunity available through the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG).

We have been asked to support a GCSAA and EIFG initiative, Rounds 4 Research (R4R). This program has been successful in the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendent Association and has now reached the national stage. Rounds 4 Research uses an online auction site (BiddingForGood.com) to award a foursome of golf to the highest bidder. The service has over 650,000 registered bidders, and rounds of golf are its top-selling item. As a Board we have been discussing how Nor Cal fits into this effort.

Our key responsibilities would be: 1) solicit and obtain donated rounds to give to the EIFG for auction; 2) promote the program to golfers, allied associations, and media and members of our organization; and 3) provide an annual summary of how the money was used. Due to the high time and staff requirements of these responsibilities, our proposed solution is as follows:

We are proposing to State chapters that we centralize the administration and marketing of securing golf rounds with the California State Association by designating donors (clubs) based on regional chapters. To this end, each regional chapter that participates will only solicit rounds for donation exclusively for the CGCSA. There is obvious overlap between chapters, and a single golf club could

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Golf's Purest Striker Rarely Missed A Fairway

Reprinted with the permission of Bruce Selcraig, published in USA TODAY September 28, 2004

likely get requests for donations from two or more associations. By using the CGCSA as a central donation clearing-house, we believe this effort will evenly distribute each chapter's workload, provide a single reporting entity, and help reduce competition between allied associations. California needs a national presence in turfgrass research and R4R can help establish this.

If the track record of R4R is as successful in California as it has been in the Carolinas, it will help propel turfgrass research, education, environmental programs and scholarships state-wide. In the upcoming months when you receive a donation request from the CGCSA, please know that this is a worthy cause and we would appreciate your support.

Thank you,
Rodney Muller

America's sports pages barely acknowledged the fatal heart attack September 4, at age 75, of eccentric Canadian golfer Moe Norman—a supernaturally gifted yet cruelly misunderstood athlete. Norman was a stocky cartoon character with thick Popeye arms and wispy Einstein hair who generations of golf superstars—from Sam Snead to Lee Trevino to Vijay Singh—have said was the purest striker of a golf ball they had ever seen.

In 50 years, Moe Norman had 17 holes in one, nine double eagles, won more than 50 tournaments and set more than 30 course records.

Not the farthest hitter. Not the greatest trick-shot artist or putter—putting bored him.

Just the most stupefying accurate golfer on the planet. Norman played competitive golf more than 50 years, and witnesses say he played 11 of those years—that's

(Continued on page 7)



1968 Canadian Press Photo

"Tame Your Turf"

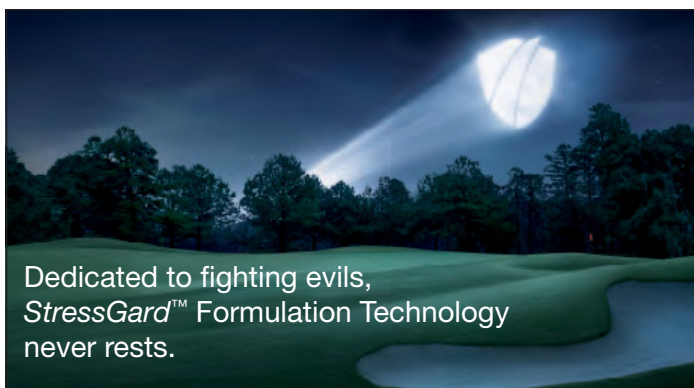


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Golf's Purest Striker (Continued from page 5)

about 230,000 golf shots—without hitting a ball out of bounds.

A model of hand-to-eye coordination, Norman once hit 356 consecutive drives off a standard wooden golf tee without so much as disturbing it from the ground, much less breaking it. In the real world that's like saying you've never swatted at a fly and missed.

He hit everything straight. Never left. Never right. Everything perfectly arched like the cables on the Golden Gate Bridge.

When I first saw Norman give an exhibition, about 10 years ago in Florida, he began by hitting simple little pitching wedges about 90 yards. A small sunburned crowd of seniors didn't act all that impressed until they realized that the balls were landing on top of each other in a space the size of a bedspread, colliding like little neutrons when they hit. Then he did nearly the same thing with 7-irons, 4-irons and drivers. "Same shot. Same as the last," Norman chortled.

The fans started giggling with delight and disbelief, like a magician had yanked out their underwear.

Sensation Was Self-Taught

Completely self-taught, Murray "Moe" Norman, raised in Kitchener, Ontario, swung the club like a sledgehammer, with his legs wide apart, using his sturdy forearms and wrists for clubhead speed, not the classic swing of the cookie-cutter dandies on tour. Once a physicist declared that Norman had the most scientifically sound swing in golf.

Today's greatest golfers count their career holes in one on a few fingers. Norman had 17. He also had nine double eagles and three sanctioned scores of 59, won more than 50 tournaments and set more than 30 course records.

He became a sensation on the Canadian amateur circuit, winning the amateur title twice, even as he hitchhiked to some tournaments. He shot 61 four times in 1956. His finest year as a pro was 1966, when he won five of 12 Canadian tournaments he entered, came in second five times and finished no lower than fifth. When Norman turned 50, in 1979, he torched the senior tour, winning seven consecutive Canadian PGA senior championships. One of his sanctioned 59s came at age 62.

So why have so few Americans heard of him?

Norman was so deathly afraid of strangers and stress that after winning a tournament in Canada he once hid on the banks of a nearby river rather than accept his trophy in public and perhaps have to speak. I once had an hour-long dinner with him in which he did not utter a word.

He did play in America, briefly, but it was a disaster. After twice winning the Canadian Amateur Championship, he qualified to play in The Masters but twice fell apart in the strange surroundings, overwhelmed by the Augusta aura and the sight of his heroes.

In school Norman was ostracized for being goofy and overbearing. He would pinch kids or give them brutal bearhugs, thinking it was great fun. He called himself "Moe the Schmoe" and was known as a slow student except in math, where he amazed everyone by multiplying two-digit numbers instantly in his head. If he were counting pennies scattered on the floor, he wouldn't count one by one but in groups or pictures, finding the total in seconds.

His photographic memory made him nearly unbeatable at cards, and he could remember the distance and layout of virtually every golf hole he played.

Norman would speak in a repetitive, high-pitched, Pooh-like voice. "Ooooooh, I'm Moe from Canada. It's cold in Canada. Cold in Canada. Ooooooh." He gave free golf balls to little children but often angrily snapped at adults who just wanted an autograph. He remained estranged from his parents and siblings for decades, wrongly convincing himself that they hated his only passion in life—golf.

Lately, the highlight of Norman's year was always being welcomed at the driving range at the PGA Tour's Canadian Open to hit beside the greatest young players, who uniformly stood in amazement. He died just before the event this year.

"Have you ever actually mis-hit a ball?" Fred Couples once asked Norman, in jest. Norman stopped hitting for a moment and scratched his head.

"Yes," he said softly, as if confessing. "In 1962."

Golfer Likely Suffered From Autism

Nothing could prepare you for a visit to Planet Moe. He routinely drank 24 Cokes a day—and had the missing teeth to prove it—never had a phone, credit card or date in his life. He hid rolled-up wads of hundred-dollar bills in his old Cadillac's trunk and wore three watches on his left arm, all set to the same time. Obsessed with routine, he went to the same restaurant every day for months and insisted on being served by the same waitress.

When the movie *Rain Man* came out, starring Dustin Hoffman as a middle-aged autistic man, everyone who knew him said, "That's Moe." One of the film's screenwriters bought the film rights to his story.

Friends and physicians felt certain Norman was probably an autistic savant, a term coined in 1978 for autistics who often have exceptional math, memory or music skills, but he was never tested and refused to see doctors until his life depended on it. (A small network of loyal friends literally saved him from homelessness, bankruptcy or worse many times.)

Lee Trevino once said that if Norman had simply come along 30 years later and had had a full-time handler to insulate him from the anxiety of public life, we might be speaking his name with Hogan's and Snead's.

I never heard Norman speak about autism, but I know that he understood its cruelties. In his car, which was filled with old newspaper clippings and the motivational tapes that helped rescue his life, he once had a well-worn article about autism sitting on the front seat.

In the article the outdated term "idiot savant" was discussed at length.

Norman had crossed out the word idiot.



Labor Day is right around the corner and we soon will be enjoying college and NFL football and hopefully some Giants and A's play-off baseball. Seems like summer just started, how time flies!

As most of you are all too familiar with, we live in a frantic and fast-paced world that puts a lot of demands on our time. With that being said, GCSAA webcasts provide an efficient way to supplement the terrific educational opportunities that are offered monthly by our affiliate chapters.

Brought to you in partnership with Syngenta, these webcasts allow you to learn from turfgrass and golf course industry leaders in the comfort of your own home or office. Best of all, the webcasts are free to GCSAA members!

Each webcast is 90 minutes in length and uses Microsoft's Live Meeting Software which can be downloaded at no cost before your session. Members can also actively participate in the webcast through a microphone or text chat feature. Webcasts are available live and On Demand and focus on a variety of topics including agronomy, business, communication, environment and leadership.

Additionally, you can earn .2 education points for each 90 minute session by completing the evaluation survey following the webcast.

Our members are finding these webcasts to be a great educational tool and member benefit. A matter of fact, as of YTD May 31, we have had 1,337 members participate in live webcasts and 2,655 participate in On Demand programming.

Upcoming live events include "Why Care about Organic Matter?" on Sept. 13 and "Managing for Winter Injury of Cool-Season Turfgrasses" on Sept. 20. To register for a webcast or to view the live and On Demand offerings, visit www.gcsaa.org/education/webcasts.aspx.

In other news, I have officially set up my GCSAA Twitter account. I can be followed @GCSAA_SW and will provide weekly updates on meetings, events and other news relating to the world of golf. Also make sure to check the GCSAA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GCSAAFB>) as I often post photos and updates from the various meetings throughout the Southwest.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events. Until then, if I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to email me at jjensen@gcsaa.or

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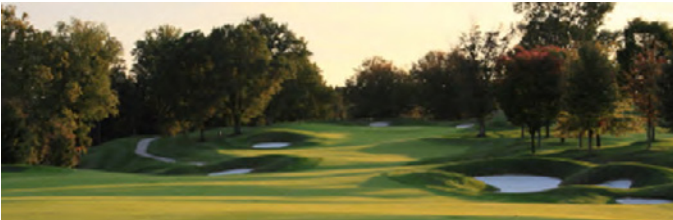
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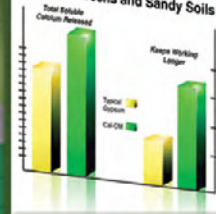
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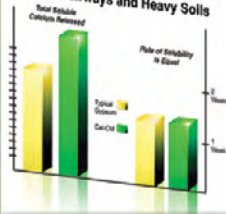
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