

Golf Course Superintendents Field Workshop

Creeks & Crawlers: Stream and Habitat Restoration in the 21st Century

On May 20th Jay Neunsinger hosted a very informative and enjoyable discussion and walk of recently completed restoration project at his course. The project, from inception to completion, took almost 5 years and three superintendents. Not only was the permitting, design, and monitoring team in attendance to explain the project during the morning session during our walk, but GCSANC superintendents Rodney Mueller, Luke Bennett and Jay Neunsinger contributed their insight into the project. We took a stroll through the beautiful East Bay Regional Park Golf Course looking at plantings, grading changes, and rock outcroppings that created pools for natural habitat populations to thrive. The management team and Jay did a wonderful job of explaining the goals, expectations, challenges, and successes that this project possessed. It was a wonderful chance to evaluate what is now required to complete a successful 21st century environmental restoration project.



▲ It was a very warm day so we carry plenty of water as we walk through the beautiful Tilden Park Golf Course.

▼ A hands on look and explanation from the management team overlooking the creek restoration project.



▲ Lunch and discussion were at the unique 1939 World's Fair Brazilian Room adjacent to Tilden Park Golf Course.



▲ Jay Neunsinger checking Dry Water packets which are used to provide moisture to the plants during initial grow in. Thanks Jay!



From the Field

By **JEFF JENSEN**, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

I hope this finds all of our Northern California GCSA members doing well and getting a respite from the early heat that hit the area this year.

I recently had the opportunity to participate as an instructor at a First Green field trip hosted by Metropolitan Golf Links in Oakland, CA.

For those of you who may not be aware, First Green is an innovative environmental and educational outreach program using golf courses as environmental learning labs. Golf course superintendents host students on field trips where they may test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, design plantings, assist in stream bed restoration and are involved in the ecology and environmental aspects of the golf course. The students, many of whom have never stepped foot on a golf course, are also introduced to other benefits and aspects of the game including history and the rules of golf.

This particular field trip marked First Green's initial entry into the California market. Previous events had been conducted in Oregon and Washington and this trip was held in conjunction with the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative (OTEI) which is headed up by Sunnyvale superintendent Gary Carls, CGCS, and Metropolitan superintendent Gary Ingram, CGCS.

Several superintendents from Northern California including GCSANC board members Kyle Marshall and Jay Neunsinger attended the event to learn more about hosting a future field trip at their facilities. I found the event to be a great opportunity to interact with kids and show them the benefits that the golf industry has on our local communities.

For more information on hosting a First Green event, visit the website at www.thefirstgreen.org or contact Dr. Karen Armstead at (425) 444-2618.


In other news, entries are being accepted for Lebanon Turf's 2014 Dog Days of Golf Calendar and Dog of the Year contest. Enter a picture of your golf course canine companion today. If selected for the calendar your dog will also have a chance to be crowned 2014 Dog of the Year, garnering a \$3,000 prize for your affiliated chapter, a \$500 donation to your local Humane Society, and a \$500 prize for you.

Lebanon Turf's 2014 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be delivered to your doorstep with the November issue of Golf Course Management magazine. Submit your entry at www.gcsaa.org/dogcalendar, or email a high resolution photo to lebturfdogcalendar@gcsaa.org.

I hope you all have a great summer and look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event. If I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to email me at jjensen@gcsaa.org.

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The Heroes That Walk Among Us

By **BRIAN NETTZ**, GCSA

Even though Memorial Day is over, I wanted to reflect on the meaning of heroism as it relates to my staff. Recently I had an employee die. Mesothelioma. As many of you know, its lung cancer from exposure to asbestos and asbestos was commonly used in the Navy during the fifties; asbestos was at that time the "wonder material". Chuck was an assistant equipment tech. He was in his late seventies when he "retired" here but he often came by and did welding for us. He looked like he was in his mid fifties. He was a former Navy deep sea diver, rodeo clown, rodeo rider, welder, alcoholic, and hell raiser. He was a neat guy.

We never really understood the significance of Chuck's armed forces services. He didn't talk about it, but we did know that Chuck went to a support group once a week on Thursdays and that Chuck was monitored for radioactivity weekly as well. You see, Chuck was in Operation Crossroads- the tail end of the nuclear bomb testing in the bikini atolls. He dived for a salvage ship examining the wreckage underwater

to submarines, ships, etc. that had been placed within the blast radius. It was dangerous work. The ocean floor was sandy, the dust kicked up and reduced visibility and they cut and welded alongside heavy naval chains and ship hulls.

As if all that was not enough, the salvage ship was so "hot" radioactively, that they were not allowed into harbor. They had to anchor outside of Tokyo harbor for two weeks washing the ship and themselves constantly with a special soap to remove the radioactivity. I asked Chuck if it upset him that he had to deal with all this stuff based upon his service to our country. Like nearly everyone in his generation he replied very matter of factly, "We were full of piss and vinegar at the time. We knew it was important work. It meant something important to our country and we'd be damned if we were gonna let the Russkies beat us."

So for me, Memorial Day hit just a little closer to home.

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