ON THE COVER:
The 9th hole at the Presidio. Photo by Robert Kaufman.

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Thru The Green published bimonthly by the Golf Course
Superintendents Association of Northern California.
Office Notes

By BARBARA MIKEL

It’s that time of year again. Membership renewal began November 1 and will close December 31, 2013 for the 2014 year. The renewal process has been automated since 2009. Each year the software changes with demands of keeping it up-to-date with features and security. Directions for online membership updates and renewal were included with your invoice.

A renewal invoice was emailed to you in November using your association email. Please check your membership profile to make sure we have current information. http://www.gcsanc.com/membership/member-profile/. You may renew online and pay by credit card at any time.

If you have multiple emails and didn’t receive your invoice, drop a note to the office email gcsanc@att.net using your correct email so we can update and resend your renewal information.

Reminder emails will be sent approximately every two weeks until December 31, 2013. You need to make your payment by December 31 to avoid a late fee assessment. If you joined the association after September 2013, your renewal will be prorated for the 2014 year.

While you are on the website take the time to plan your association calendar for the upcoming meetings. The Calendar has information up to June 2014.

The upcoming Holiday Meeting promises to be another exciting networking event. Friday golf at Del Monte Golf Course, Monterey and night meeting with dinner at the Hyatt Monterey Regency Hotel & Spa. Great golf and dinner raffle prizes.

Naumann’s NorCal News

By DON NAUMANN

John Jorgensen has left Lone Tree Golf Course in Antioch and is now the new Superintendent at Spanos Park GC in Stockton.....Kyle Marshall has left SummitPointe Golf Course in Milpitas as is the new Super at San Joaquin Golf Course in Irvine. Replacing him is Matt Shaeffer who is coming to northern California from the Pacific Northwest....The new Superintendent at Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club is Denis Smith. Denis had been the Super at Mount Shasta Resort Golf Course, located in the beautiful Siskiyou County...

NorCalendar

NOVEMBER
Regional Meetings
Check the website for locations
http://www.gcsanc.com/events/

DECEMBER 6
Holiday Party
Del Monte Golf Course & Monterey Hyatt Regency Hotel
http://www.gcsanc.com/events/

JANUARY 13, 2014
Annual Meeting and Elections
Oakhurst Country Club

FEB 1-6
GCSAA Golf Industry Show
http://www.golfindustryshow.com/

MARCH 17
USGA, GCSANC Green Section Conference

APRIL 14
NCPGA, CMAA, GCSANC Invitational
Blackhawk Country Club

JUNE 23
Seventh Annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship Research Tournament

More Details?
Visit www.gcsanc.com/events/

New Members

Charles Almony
Nicklaus Club Monterey
Assistant Superintendent

Steven Hoying
Nicklaus Club Monterey
Assistant Superintendent
Here we are again, the time of year where we start asking for volunteers to serve on the GCSANC Board of Directors. I am sure you are thinking the same as I am right now, where did the summer go and is it really almost the end of the year? I cannot believe this season has gone by so fast, but at the same time, I cannot wait for the rains to come. It has been a LONG season.

When it comes to Board service or volunteering for a GCSANC Committee, I imagine the biggest question anyone will ask themselves is, “do I really have time for it”? Here are a few things to consider:

**Time commitment**
Because of this, chances are you’ll be asked to make a commitment to your role as a board member for at least a year, possibly two or three should you have aspirations to serve as President.

However, the amount of time you actually contribute can vary from just a few hours per month participating in board meetings, to a few more hours depending on what special projects there may be going on. In general, the board meets 8-10 times annually to conduct the business of the Association.

**Why serve on the board?**
So why might you want to consider serving? First and foremost, board service is an excellent way to give back to your peers and profession that has given to you. It enables you to have a possible lasting impact as you aid in identifying long-term goals, seek out diverse opportunities for collaboration, and brainstorm—as well as potentially implement—innovative strategies for lasting change. At the same time, serving on a board can be an invaluable way to meet others in your profession. Not only can these connections help you build new social ties but those you serve with will almost certainly share your passion for the Association and profession.
Other great reasons to serve?
Here are just a few:
• Honing and actively demonstrating your leadership skills (board service looks great on a resume)
• Getting a behind-the-scenes look at the “business” side of our profession
• Gain Valuable Life Experiences and Skills
• Meet Interesting People. The people you are serving with can give you new insights. You’ll find that they have information and ways of looking at the world differently that can broaden your horizons
• Get GCSAA Credits for board service
• Make a Difference
  As I look back on my 7 years of Board service, I can honestly say it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career. I would do it all over again when the time is right. I challenge you, is this your time? If this is your time, contact Barbara or any board member regarding your desire to serve. You won’t regret it!

Proudly Representing:
• TORA Equipment and Irrigation Systems • Pre-Owned Equipment
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Sand plays an integral part in the game of golf; from forming hazards to helping provide quality putting surfaces, it can hinder as much as it can improve the conditions that we play the game over. From golf’s earliest days on the links, sand played an important part in how the game was played and shaped. It has often been said that the original bunkers were formed from animal scratches or areas where animals found shelter from the wind and rain. When golf moved inland sand came with it, but it was forced on the land as golfers tried to recreate golf as best they could, using a bunkering style that more closely resembled military entrenchments than a natural looking wind blown bunker.

A very early bunker that is highly engineered and takes on an almost rhythmic nature was found on the original course at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in 1894. But we need to go back to England and look at the evolution of the course at Royal Mid-Surrey from around 1900 with this highly engineered bunker that guarded the 18th green just behind it. It would be another 10+ years before some of the earliest attempts of “naturalizing” work was done by J.H. Taylor, a five-time winner of The Open and Peter Lees who was the club’s Greenkeeper. A mention of the work at Royal Mid-Surrey in Golf Illustrated in March of 1911 states, “the older methods are being discarded in favour of something more pleasing to the eye, but still sufficiently effective in punishing wrong doers in the golfing sense.” If you go onto Google maps you can still see some of the old mounds around the Mid Surrey Golf Club today!

In the two photos from around 1910, one can see in the background how flat the property was before they worked on adding more natural looking features. Their work would take on the name of “alpinization” and would be implemented by many other golf architects that followed. The last photo is of A.W. Tillinghast’s Somerset Hills Golf Club circa 1919 and it shows some of the same early attempts at trying to recreate natural features on a flat property.

Today we are reminded of these earlier attempts at taking a flat, featureless property and making a golf course that tries to recapture the appeal of a links course. Whistling Straits comes to mind!
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By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

By the time you are reading this column, early registration for the 2014 Golf Industry Show, Education Conference and GCSAA Golf Championships will be moving full speed ahead. The events are scheduled for February 1-6 in Orlando, FL. While the event is being held across the country, GCSAA is expecting a great turnout from all of our northern California members.

The Education Conference, with a new Monday-Thursday format, will feature over 75 seminars (including 16 new seminars), 40 sessions and over 450 hours of education. Two new networking events have been added to the mix, including an Opening Night Celebration that will be held on Feb. 4 and a Closing Ceremony that will be held on the evening of Feb. 6.

The Golf Industry Show will feature over 175,000 square feet of exhibit space and 500 exhibitors highlighting the most innovative products and services in the golf maintenance industry. Numerous exhibitors will be offering show discounts and the floor is a great place to network with fellow superintendents and other GCSAA members.

Conference and show registration for GCSAA members begins Nov. 5 and can be completed online at www2.gcsaa.org/conference/registration. Both events will be held at the Orange County Convention Center.

The GCSAA Golf Championships, presented in partnership with Toro, will take place Feb. 1-3 at six Orlando area courses. The Grand Floridian Hotel, on the grounds of the Walt Disney World Resort, will serve as the host hotel. The featured courses include Disney’s Lake, Palm and Magnolia layouts, Hawk’s Landing Golf Club, Marriott’s Grande Pines Golf Club and Celebration Golf Club.

The four ball event will be contested on Feb. 1 with the National Championship and Golf Classic taking place Feb. 2-3 and a fun-filled scramble for non-tournament participants on Feb. 2.

The National Championship is a 36-hole stroke-play event open to qualifying members (Class A, Superintendent Member, Class C, A-Ret., Superintendent-Ret., Class C-Ret., and AA-Life) within a handicap index range not exceeding 5.0.

The Golf Classic offers a more relaxed competition and is open to all GCSAA members with a verifiable handicap. The 36-hole event uses a point quota scoring system and is flighted by handicap with both a gross and a net competition available in each flight.

Registration for all the golf events is currently open on a first come, first serve basis. Register at http://www2.gcsaa.org/conference/tournament/.

This marks the final newsletter of the year for GCSANC and I want to thank you for your support in 2013. I hope that you all have a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the GCSANC Annual Meeting in Jan. or in Orlando at GIS.
I’m tired of hashtag this and hashtag that. I’d rather have hash browns, and not the overly buttered soggy ones. Maybe I’m getting even more cantankerous and crabby in my years, but I personally don’t care to tell the entire free world where I am, what I think of the dinner I just had, or how that third margarita last night is affecting my job performance. Enough already! There is just way too much mindless chit chat BS out there to take up everyone’s time. I don’t want to accept that much social media. There is just way too much mindless banter out there that everyone is way too interested in reading. I don’t care what Kim Kardashian thinks about the Syrian rebels and what Madonna thinks of Miley Cyrus and what Miley Cyrus thinks about anything. If I want to tell you something, I’ll tell you if I feel it’s relevant. You don’t care about the sandwich I bought which has a mold spot on it. I can appreciate that. Also, I understand that I’m about as subtle as the guy swinging the 18 ounce hammer on the stun line at the slaughterhouse so I prefer to keep my thoughts to myself as opposed to dealing with both the shock and awe of my communication. Call me Phil Robertson. I don’t care. I consider myself more like Si.

While on the subject of shock and awe, I saw where a school in New England banned tag from school recess. Whaaat?? They say it’s too dangerous with all the varying amounts of tagging force, which can lead to injury. So let me get this straight, tag is now too dangerous? It’s no wonder the younger work force is so clueless and entitled. They never skinned a knee and had to get over it and get back to class.

Speaking of getting over things, can’t these congressional buffoons get over themselves and get back to the jobs they were elected to carry out? If we are going to have a wee wee match over the debt, then ALL of you idiots can forgo your pay while I continue to pay taxes without the services my taxes pay for. Can’t that money be put to reducing debt? I mean, really, if these people are going to make the entire country and everyone in it look like the stereotype “dumb Americans” then at least they shouldn’t get paid. Have a nice day.
Leading the industry in quality education, product innovations and networking opportunities, the 2014 Golf Industry Show provides you with everything necessary to keep your career and your facility a step ahead and ready to face any challenge:

**CONNECT** with thousands of your peers, building relationships and picking up tips  
**LEARN** from the most prominent names in the industry who will answer your tough industry questions  
**GROW** your knowledge of golf course management and your network of contacts

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**EDUCATION CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

- **NEW** Monday-Thursday format  
- **450+** hours of innovative education  
- **75+** seminars to choose from  
- **16 NEW** seminars available  
- **40+** sessions throughout the week  
- Two **NEW** networking events

**TRADE SHOW HIGHLIGHTS**

- **500+** exhibitors  
- **175,000** net square feet of exhibit space  
- **New Product Showcase** highlighting the most innovative products and services  
- **20+** hours of education on the trade show floor  
- Hands-on preview of the most **innovative products and services** on the market  
- Countless **networking opportunities** that spark new ideas  
- **Show floor discounts** on products and services that benefit your facility

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**GCSAA Education Conference  |  Trade Show  |  GCSAA Golf Championships**

Orange County Convention Center • Orlando • February 1-6, 2014

For more information visit  
[www.golfindustryshow.com](http://www.golfindustryshow.com)