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THRU THE GREEN EDITOR
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ON THE COVER:

Richmond Country Club, Richmond California, hole one.

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Office Notes

By **BARBARA MIKEL**

In the course of doing some archive research for Green Hills Country Club, I brought out of storage the 1932 to 1958 association minutes. Green Hills Country Club hosted the 1946 post war reorganization of the “Northern California Greens Keeping Association.”

I usually get distracted reading through the meticulously hand written minutes of your association.

It’s impressive to review the history of professional commitment, industry education and civic involvement of this group. Water issues and its best use were a topic in 1953.

Those involved? USGA, GCSANC, UC Davis. Some interesting items from those minutes are included below.

LINKS KEEPERS STUDY SOIL AND WATERING

FROM THE GCSANC ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES APRIL 14, 1953: a clipping of an article from the Sacramento Bee newspaper. It reads:

Robert M. Hagen of the department of irrigation of the University of California at Davis discussed irrigation and soil management problems at a meeting of the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents’ Association at the Del Paso Country Club.

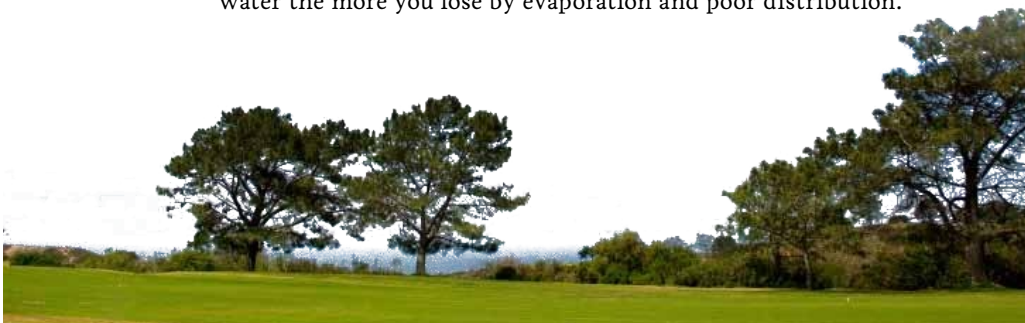
Approximately 40 course superintendents from the central valleys, the bay region and Nevada attended yesterday’s luncheon meeting in which Vince Crockett, superintendent of the Del Paso course, was the host.

Hagan told the association members studies now being conducted at the turf experiment station in Davis are aimed at determining proper irrigation procedures for varying types of soil. The results of the tests may enable the course caretakers to effect (sic) savings in operating costs and avoid wasting water in areas found to require less frequent watering during the summer months.

The Davis turf experiment station was set up last year by the United States Golf Association to study irrigation and turf conditions peculiar to the Western states and determine the best grass varieties for greens and fairways.

From the minutes of Secretary Treasurer, Paul Paulsen of the April 14, 1953 meeting at Del Paso Country Club:

“Speaker Dr. Robert Hagan who stressed the frequency of watering grasses. He believes most of our turf grasses are watered too much. Grasses should be given more water after a longer period of time and not watered so often. He explained that golfers demanded more water on the greens than what the turf does. Dr. Hagen is working with Vince (Vince Crockett, Superintendent Del Paso) on a test plot at Del Paso. The new schedule will call for watering every three nights instead of every two. If this works out it may result in a considerable saving of labor. Dr. Hagen remarked that there more frequently you water the more you lose by evaporation and poor distribution.”



NorCalendar

APRIL 14

NCPGA, CMAA, GCSANC Invitational

Blackhawk Country Club

APRIL 21

Golf Course Superintendent Field Workshop

Sequoiah Country Club

JUNE 23

Seventh Annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship Research Tournament

Stanford University Golf Course

AUGUST 11

Tri Chapter Meeting

Del Rio Country Club

DECEMBER 5

December Meeting

Del Monte Golf Course and

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa

More Details?

Visit www.gcsanc.com/events/

New Members

Jim Paroli

Delta Bluegrass

Affiliate

Max Levitch

ValleyCrest Golf Diablo Creek GC

Assistant Superintendent

Naumann’s NorCal News

By **DON NAUMANN**



Congratulations to Mr Richard J. Lavine, CGCS on his recertification.



President's Message By GARY INGRAM, CGCS

2014 looks to be a very challenging year, however, with these challenges comes wonderful opportunities!

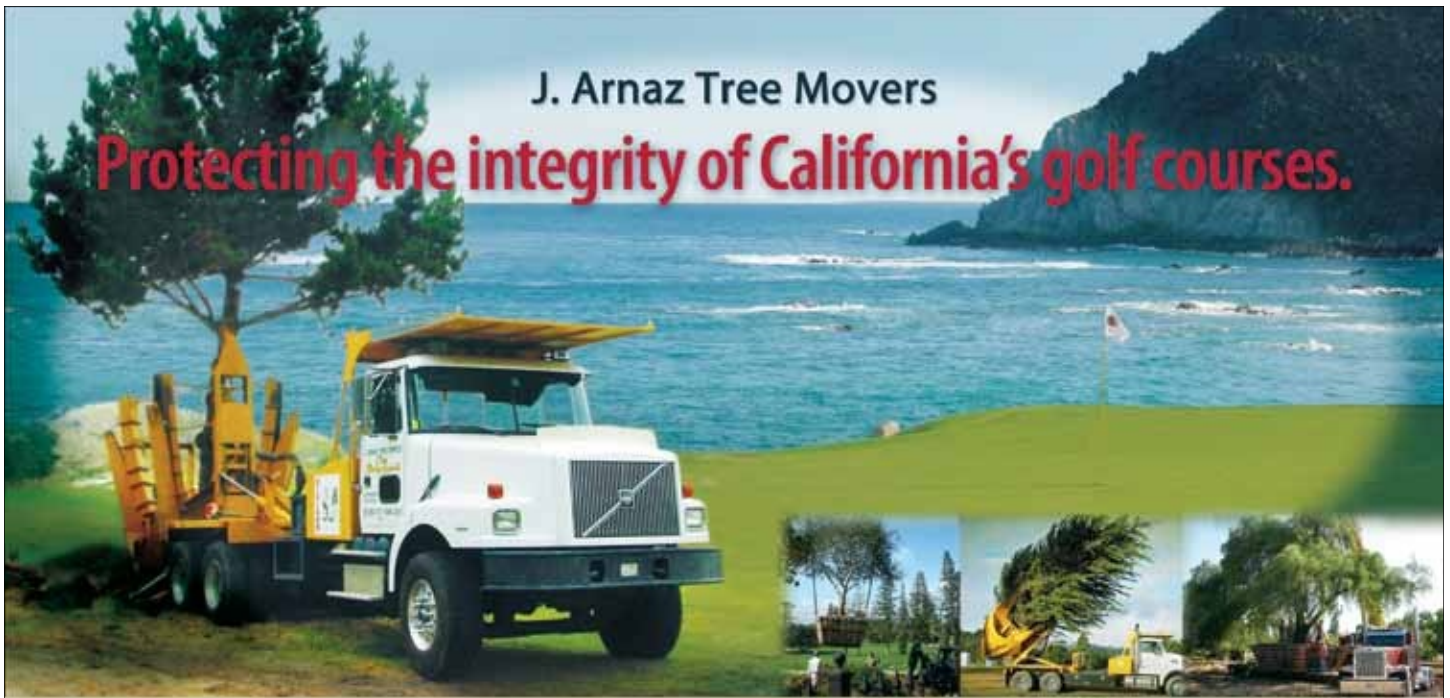
One of our biggest challenges this year is to find a new executive manager. As many of you know, after 23 years with our association, Barbara Mikel has decided to start a new chapter in her life. With her patience and expertise, she has guided us into the 21st century. She has seen numerous boards come and go, strategic plans developed, and has continued to keep our association moving forward, relevant and economically stable. We will not be able to replace her, but hopefully we will find someone that will continue in her footsteps.

The Education Committee is working diligently on developing GCSANC educational and networking events for 2014. We plan to continue our successful regional meetings throughout 2014. Collaboration with other associations will be one of our goals as we continue to focus on our relationships with other golf course industry associations. Please check your email for upcoming events and or visit the calendar on our association webpage. Our plans are to continue supporting University of Riverside turf research through the California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation. We will continue to have numerous research projects throughout northern California golf courses. Information on results of these projects may be found on our website.

As I write this article, we still have one month of possible rainfall, but it looks like 2014 will be one of our most challenging water years on record. We have helped organize northern California regional meetings with superintendents, general managers, head professionals, and water district representatives to discuss potential solutions for our communities and industry. If you need the association to help arrange additional regional meetings in your area please, do not hesitate to call and ask for support. Members can now get on the GCSANC website under research/water and get information and webcasts relevant to water issues

As we focus on the current water situation in California, we must start developing long-range plans so we do not continually focus on immediate problems. Numerous other states have created state BMPs that are now being used by governments and communities for water management, nutrient applications, and IPM programs. In these states the golf community has become a major ally in helping them develop programs and regulations. We have started to investigate how the golf industry in California can develop a set of state BMPs so that we can continue to be recognized as leaders in environmental stewardship and natural resource management. If you are interested in being part of this process, please contact me. We welcome your input and support

I personally look forward to 2014 and the opportunity to work with all of you!



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Editor's Ramblings

By **BRIAN NETTZ, CGCS**

Thank God for Pink Eye...

...because I was sick and tired of Bob Costas smugly inserting his political overtones into something as beautiful as the Olympics. Yeah, Putin and Russia certainly deserve some criticism, but let's move on and let the athletes consume the stage. It's Russia. It's their country and they have a right to run it their way; they have their own culture and we don't have to agree on that. As a Russian friend pointed out to me, you need to grow up in their country and be exposed to the propaganda to understand their way of doing things. Nuff said.

Super Bowl. Admit it: you were happy Richard Sherman "got his" and smiled as the camera panned on him and his crutches. Just admit it. You know you were deep inside. We were all tired of his grandstanding, tweeting, gum flapping, overly self important ways. Why does the media indulge this megalomaniac? Blah, blah, blah. So many things in this country more important and more concerning than him...look at all the issues confronting this country. Look at the congress and presidential approval ratings. Look at the violence. Look at the violence against children. Look at the media outlets tearing down everyone in front of them for the sake of ratings.

Then, on to this stage steps a young man, out of seemingly nowhere: a small rural town called Warroad in Minnesota. Just as Herb Brooks and his team 34 years ago, this young athlete reminds us, if only for a minute, that this country can be great. TJ Oshie, scoring the winning goal(s) in that now historic USA v Russia hockey game shootout. In the biggest stage of all sports save the World Cup: the Olympics. Oshie has the greatest moment of his sporting life and career. In front of the whole world. In front of Vladimir Putin. Oshie makes the game winning goal. After this momentous occasion did Oshie talk crap about Bobrovski? About Kovalchuk? About Datsyuk? No way. He was thankful. He celebrated his team. He was austere. He was humble. Upon being called a hero, Oshie quietly and most decidedly sincerely, simply said, "American heroes wear camo." Beautiful. Simple. Truthful. And Oshie left us all asking ourselves as we choked back the tears, "Who the hell is Richard Sherman anyway?"

The beauty of the Olympics: anything can happen and anyone can be a country's hero.

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Drought, When Will It End?

By **KEVIN P. BREEN, CGCS**

I, like a lot of people, have always felt a connection to the natural environment and in particular the weather. The type of weather that you can feel, the kind that makes your hair stand up and notice the power of nature. The Coastal and Bay areas are not the areas that are known for weather like that. The dramatic storms that contain high winds, lightening, hail, etc. like you see devastating the mid west are literally on a different level. However, California is experiencing severe weather, and has been for a while it just may not have raised hair on end.

My formal education includes a meteorology degree, and I have been watching and predicting weather for my work as a golf course superintendent for 26 years. In the San Francisco Bay area the weather kind of lulls you to sleep. The daily temperatures don't change much, and unless there is rain in the forecast there really is not much going on. And there has not been anything going on for a very long time, with little reason to believe that it is going to change in the near future. There are larger global forces at work here that influence our weather.

The subtleties of the weather in Northern California are dependent upon sea surface temperatures, and those don't change quickly. Most of the weather on our planet is influenced by the 71% of the surface that is water. The temperature of water changes slowly and when the sea surface temperature is not normal, then the normal weather pattern changes as it has this year and it is not changing back quickly. Right now things are stuck in an upper air pattern of a ridge over the west coast and a trough over the east part of the country.

California just had its driest year on record, and maybe you no-

ticed, and if you did possibly you are thinking that things could get bad. For a golf course superintendent, things got bad last winter. We have been dealing with salts in the soil all summer and now into winter. I don't want to bore you with the hardship of providing a surface for recreation this past 12 months when there might be much more dire consequences coming with drinking water availability and water restrictions. The point is, the weather is dramatic right now, you just may not have noticed just how dramatic because it has not been a hardship.

So when is this weather going to change? That is a big question, and frankly most people who make a living answering that question agree that the change has happened. We might be in the new normal for our lifetimes. If this is the new normal we will adapt and change because that is what we all do as a species, and it may not be dramatic in the short term. But from my experience, the long term climate and the resulting short term weather have changed. Don't expect an apocalyptic Hollywood ending to life as we know it, but do expect that your life will change because of the weather.

To keep up on the current sea surface temperature anomalies go to; <http://www.ospo.noaa.gov/Products/ocean/sst/anomaly/>

For national long and short range forecasts and discussion (including sea surface temperatures) go to: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>

For current California reservoir water levels go to:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action>

For current California snow pack moisture go to:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action>

RIP Buddy

Sadly, we acknowledge the passing of a GCSANC celebrity in Buddy, Keith Kaminski's most loyal employee and Chief Nap Officer of Kaminski Golf. Most of the tenured members of GCSANC know Keith. And you can't know Keith without knowing Buddy, whose favorite job was napping underneath the tractor on a sunny day. Buddy passed peacefully and quietly on Super Bowl Sunday while napping at Keith's feet. We should all be so lucky to pass similarly. We will miss Buddy but we will rest easy knowing that he is forever napping under a New Holland tractor on a sunny day.



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The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Nor Cal Recognizes Its Award Winners at 2014 Annual Meeting

GCSANC Member Wayne Kappelman from Sharp Park Golf Course named Golf Course Superintendent of the Year

San Francisco, CA—The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) is pleased to announce its annual award winners. These individuals will be recognized for their outstanding contributions within the golf and turfcare industry at the 2014 GCSANC Annual Meeting set for Mon. January 13, at Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton, CA.

The recipient of the coveted Course Superintendent of the Year award is GCSANC Member Wayne Kappelman of Sharp Park Golf Course (Pacifica, CA) and golf course superintendent at the popular, Alister MacKenzie-designed public golf course owned by the City & County of San Francisco.

The George Santana Distinguished Service award will be presented to GCSANC Past President (1994), Randal “Randy” Gai, CGCS, who has just completed his respected tenure as Director of Golf Course & Club Grounds at Claremont Country Club (Oakland, CA).

Earning honors in Turfgrass Excellence within the Public Category is Golf Course Superintendent & Director of Landscape James “Jim” Ferrin, CGCS, at Sun City Roseville where he oversees Timber Creek Golf Course and Sierra Pines Golf Course (Roseville, CA). The Turfgrass Excellence Award in the Private Category is earned by Golf Course Superintendent Jason Goss of Sonoma Golf Club (Sonoma, CA).

This year the Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award will be presented to two individuals for their ongoing support to the GCSANC. These exceptional honorees include Danville resident Adrian Bertens, Founder of Hydro Engineering Inc., and Martinez resident Mike Ligon, who serves as Territory Sales Representative for Jacobsen West in a region which spans from the Bay Area to Monterey.

The GCSANC Presidents Award is being presented to Oakland resident Ali Harivandi, Ph.D., Environmental Horticulturist, Emeritus, University of California Cooperative Extension. He receives this special distinction for his significant contributions through turfgrass research coupled with his ongoing support to the GCSANC and its educational programs.

“We are extremely proud of our chapter award winners and we look forward to recognizing each of these fine individuals at our upcoming annual meeting,” said GCSANC President & Annual Meeting Host Jon Christenson. “With such well-deserving honorees, and each of them doing such amazing things within the profession and throughout their communities, it’s no wonder that our Nor Cal chapter continues to shine.”

In addition to award presentations, during the annual meeting attendees will have a chance to gain insight from guest speaker GC-SAA National President Patrick “Pat” Finlen, CGCS, who also serves as General Manager at the Olympic Club (San Francisco, CA). Additionally, during the meeting GCSANC members will elect new directors, install new officers, and recognize outgoing directors for their service to the association.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California is dedicated to serving its members, fostering communication, advancing the profession, improving the environment and enriching the quality of golf for others.



Affiliate members elect new director Vince Keats, CGCS.



GCSANC past presidents.



Randy Gai reviews his awards presentation display prepared by Emmy Moore Minister.

Kappelman

Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic Needs Volunteers

Lake Merced Golf Club is seeking volunteers for the 2014 Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic, Monday, April 21st through Sunday, April 27th. The par 72, 6,507 yard course will host 144 players and consist of four days of stroke play, including a Pro-Am.

Volunteer efforts will play an integral role in providing championship playing conditions. Of the two working shifts each day, the morning shift is scheduled for 3:30 am to 7:30 am and the evening shift is scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. In addition to providing breakfast and dinner, uniforms will be provided. Lake Merced is appreciative of your existing professional and personal obligations during the spring months, but will value any assistance that you can provide throughout the week.

If interested, please contact Golf Course Superintendent, Zach Ohsann, by phone at (650) 315-3173 or by email at zach.ohsann@lmgc.org.



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Turfgrass Excellence—Public Category

James “Jim” Ferrin, CGCS Sun City Roseville | Roseville, CA

Career Highlights: Jim Ferrin, CGCS, is the Golf Course Superintendent and Director of Landscapes for the Sun City Roseville Community Association. In addition to the two golf courses he oversees, Timber Creek GC and Sierra Pines GC, Jim is responsible for all of the association’s common landscape areas. Now, in his ninth year at Sun City Roseville, Jim continues to do a remarkable job overseeing the 27-hole facility.

Prior Experience: Jim’s career experience includes Superintendent and GM assignments at Whitney Oaks Golf Club and was the grow-in and opening Superintendent at Granite Bay Golf Club.

Education: Jim earned a B.A. degree in History from UC San Diego and a two-year certificate in Ornamental Horticulture from Mesa Community College. He also holds title as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with the GCSAA.

On Course: At Timber Creek and Sierra Pines GC’s the fairways and tees are a combo of perennial rye and Bermuda with bent/poa greens. Recent projects include installing a new pumping plant as well as redoing split rail fencing and protecting open space/native areas. Jim has a staff of 18, which also includes his assistant and equipment manager.

Jim’s Course Management Philosophy: He bases his course management on providing good, playable surfaces. He develops an annual work plan, which also has quarterly and weekly components. Programs are constructed with soil, paste extracts and tissue testing. He encourages sustainability, but admits (after his years of ex-

perience) he must always protect his commodity.

Jim’s Management Style: Jim understands golf and the unique science of course maintenance. He recognizes the primary role of the course superintendent is to provide quality playing surfaces for golfers. When it comes to his staff, he believes in educating, cross-training, delegating and empowering. Staying focused on goals which are supported by open communication is paramount to his success. Jim also believes it is his responsibility to provide opportunities for his staff to grow.

Honors: He is a former recipient of the GCSAA Environmental Award (1988), SNGCSA Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award (2011), and the CGCSA Writer’s Award.

ADA Consultant: Jim became passionate about ADA (along with colleague Sam Samuelson, CGCS) when he repeatedly observed the positive impacts golf has on individuals with disabilities (from stroke or otherwise). After much in-depth research, planning, and application, Jim and his business partner Sam, now provide ADA consulting services for golf facilities. Both gentlemen are considered experts in the field and speak regularly on the topic of ADA.

Chapter and Industry Involvement: Jim is known for his ongoing efforts in the area of Government Relations and serves on the board of directors for the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), where he is the voice at the table for California golf course superintendents. Because of his keen agronomic knowledge, Jim was recently featured in a RISE video that focused on debugging the myth about pesticides.

Dream Foursome: If all dreams came true, Jim would be joined in a round of golf by Golf Greats Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Lee Trevino.

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