

Job Listing

ASST SUPERINTENDENT

Contra Costa Country Club, a private club founded in 1925, is seeking candidates with a two or four year college education in turf management, horticulture or related field, one to three years of golf course maintenance experience, and an understanding of the game of golf. Must have or be readily prepared to obtain Q.A.C.

Competitive salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefit package includes health, life, dental, and daily meal. Responsible to head superintendent.

Send resume to: Anthony Steers, Contra Costa CC, 801 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 or call 510/687-9880 or 510/798-7135.

FYI

by Barbara Mikel

Twenty Five Years... And Counting

This year, the association awarded twenty-five year pins to three of our own:

Sohan Singh, CGCS
Diablo Country Club

Robert E. Livesey, CGCS
Class A Life Member

Alfred S. Norman
Retired Superintendent
Salinas Fairways Golf Course

Congratulations, and thank you for your support of GCSANC.

Job Bank Works

Lately we have been mailing a lot of job notices to our Class A, B and Associate members. If you have a position open that you would like to advertise, you can call the office for additional information and details on the procedure to use. It seems to work well for our members and their clubs. We try to get these notices to you within three days of our receipt.

Tips from the USGA Are You Listening to Real Golfers?

by Paul Vermeulen
USGA Agronomist

Sometimes you have to just sit back and wonder about some comments golfers make. For example, a couple of years ago I was riding around with a new member on one of America's top ten courses, and on the 14th fairway he started complaining about ballmarks. Not ballmarks on the greens, mind you, but ballmarks on the fairway! Furthermore, his belief was that if the maintenance staff could not keep up with things, the members were going to have to play Winter Rules. How would you even begin with a response to such a ridiculous statement?

Let me tell you what I wanted to say: "Hey mister, are you a real golfer, or are you just someone pretending to be a real golfer? Because if you're just pretending, then I'll pretend I'm your doctor and prescribe 10cc's of cyanide."

If you're not sure what a "real" golfer is, here is a list you can use.

Real Golfers:

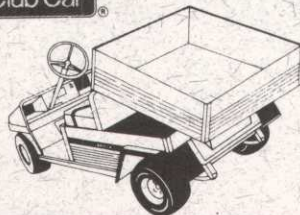
1. know that it is not always possible to find their ballmark, so they fix all the ballmarks they find. They would also never complain to the superintendent about unfixed ballmarks, they would talk to their fellow players, who are responsible!
2. know better than to clean their balls in their mouth. Not because they are worried about pesticide residue, but because they know better than to eat dirt!
3. never move their ball on the fairway, even if it is resting in a divot.

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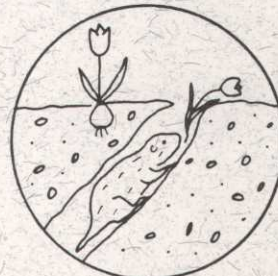
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REAL GOLFERS

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4. play in the rain, but leave the course when lightning threatens their safety.
5. have a dream of playing Augusta National before they die. Video golf doesn't cut it either.
6. never drop their cigarette butts and other trash on the course.
7. know that Jack Nicklaus is the greatest golfer of all time. They can also tell you how many U.S. Opens, British Opens, PGA Championships, and Masters Tournaments he has won. By the way, he has also won both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Senior Open twice. If that isn't great golf, what is?
8. don't need yardage markers on all the sprinkler heads. They also don't need red, white and blue flags, and whiffle balls on the flagpoles.
9. don't drag their feet across the greens and leave spike markers all over the place.
10. always expect the course to be properly marked so they can play by the Rules of Golf.
11. always report their score and maintain an index, not a handicap.
12. really, really, really like golf.
13. play whenever time allows. Real golfers play in less than four hours!
14. use wooden tees and always remove them from the ground after they hit the ball.
15. don't have license plates that read, "I'm a real golfer."

If you're not listening to a real golfer, do yourself a favor and don't pay serious attention to their complaints. If they keep bothering you, give them this article and tell them not to come back until they have become a "real" golfer. Imagine, if you will, just how pleasant life would be if "real" superintendents worked for only "real" golfers.

An Open Letter to GCSANC and our Board of Directors

Dear fellow GCSANC members:

I want to thank you for the Merit Award and recognition bestowed on me last month. It was quite a pleasant surprise. To be singled out for an award from your peers is the most gratifying recognition one could receive. It will inspire me to live up to this honor.

To be honest, I find it hard to feel truly deserving of an award for turf excellence. Like most, the course or turf I maintain can be described as excellent only periodically throughout the year. But, I am not giving the award back, I cherish it too much. What I can honestly say is that I, again like most of us, deserve an award for the consistent effort and pride taken in my job and chosen career. Golf Course Superintendents play in integral part of this game. We produce a product that provides benefits ranging from recreation to the environment. We are entrusted with the opportunity to create a better world in which to live. Through our knowledge and hard work, people are provided with a healthy, enjoyable place to conduct business, support an active social lives, and develop friendships that last a lifetime. A claim few other industries can make.

I am proud to be a golf course superintendent and honored by this award. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mike Phillips

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