



NorCal Superintendents Sponsor Ball Mark Repair Week

Most golf course superintendents and golfers would agree that the number one golf course maintenance issue is un-repaired ball marks. It's a problem that has particularly frustrated superintendents for years and will likely continue to do so unless the habits of golfers can be altered.

There are several theories that attempt to explain why golfers are reluctant to repair ball marks. Regardless of what theory you may aspire to, education undoubtedly will play a key role changing golfer behavior.

Recognizing the importance of education and the need to

increase golfer awareness the GCSANC is sponsoring **Ball Mark Repair Week** beginning on October 2nd. The week will feature a series of press releases, interviews and climax with the distribution of 10,000 ball mark repair tools at the Transamerica Golf Tournament at Silverado Resort. In addition, all GCSANC Class A and B superintendents will be receiving two ball mark repair posters for display at their respective clubs.

"The Ball Mark Repair Week concept was developed as a vehicle to educate golfers on the importance of repairing ball marks and to gain

exposure for GCSANC Superintendents" said Bob Costa who serves as the GCSANC Media Director. "The distribution of the repair tools, which will bear the GCSANC logo, serves this dual purpose. The posters, which demonstrate the proper way to repair a ball mark, will be available to GCSANC Superintendents by late September".

In addition to passing out repair tools at the Transamerica, GCSANC members will be distributing other promotional materials at a booth located at the golfers village on October 6th and 7th.

Ball Mark Repair Posters

GCSANC member superintendents take notice! By late September each member superintendent will receive (2) ball mark repair posters bearing the GCSANC logo. Superintendents are asked to display the posters in a prominent location to coincide with Ball Mark Repair Week, which begins on Monday, October 2nd.

"Our ability to convey our message to the golfing public regarding the importance of repairing ball marks rests in the hands of our member superintendents said GCSANC President" Gary Carls. I urge everyone to actively participate and help make this week success.

Golf is in Good Hands

By Mike McCullough, NCGA Agronomist

Recently I was visiting a club and waiting to meet the superintendent. During my wait, I had the pleasure to watch several groups of junior golfers play a hole. What I saw was really a sight for sore eyes.

Every group that came through this particular hole had an understanding of replacing divots, raking the bunkers, and playing ready golf. If only everyone could have seen what I did. It makes me ashamed when I see adults not observing the most fundamental courtesies of golf course etiquette.

To illustrate my point, one child took a big swing and an even bigger divot. Unfortunately, he only hit the ball a few feet. Afterwards, the boy took great pains to retrieve not only one piece of the divot, but also a smaller piece and carefully place the divot back from

where it came. Once the divot was in place, the boy gently tapped the divot down, almost like saying, "I'm sorry for disturbing you; please rest in peace."

Another child hit his ball into a bunker. After hitting his next shot out he promptly and carefully raked the area like a professional caddie so that the

fairway and finding your ball in a miniature Grand Canyon. It doesn't take so much time to retrieve the divot or fill the divot with a sand/seed mix. Your playing partners will not accidentally confuse you with Bernhard Langer. For those of you who ride in carts on occasion, those canisters of seed mix next to your clubs are not

maintain a reasonable pace of play. I would have to say these kids take better care of the course better than most of their adult counterparts.

Watching those kids that afternoon brought back a lot of wonderful memories about my first few experiences as a junior golfer. I am so thankful that a few people donated their time

and energies to help me play and understand this great game we play.

So much has been said about the children of today and their disdain for tradition, structure and boundaries. The actions I saw that

sunny afternoon on the golf course gave me hope for the future as well as for the game. Golf is truly in good hands when the players of tomorrow treat the game with respect and dignity.

"One of my personal pet peeves is hitting a nice drive into the middle of the fairway and finding your ball in a miniature Grand Canyon. It doesn't take so much time to retrieve the divot or fill the divot with a sand/seed mix."

next youngster that ventured into the area would find the best lie.

One of my co-workers gets really upset when individuals fail to hold up their end of the rake, so to speak. One of my personal pet peeves is hitting a nice drive into the middle of the

ornamental; they are functional. Still, the superintendent would faint if a person came to him asking for a refill.

The person in charge of those juniors has done a great job in explaining to them the proper way to replace divots, fix ball marks, rake bunkers and