

THRU THE GREEN

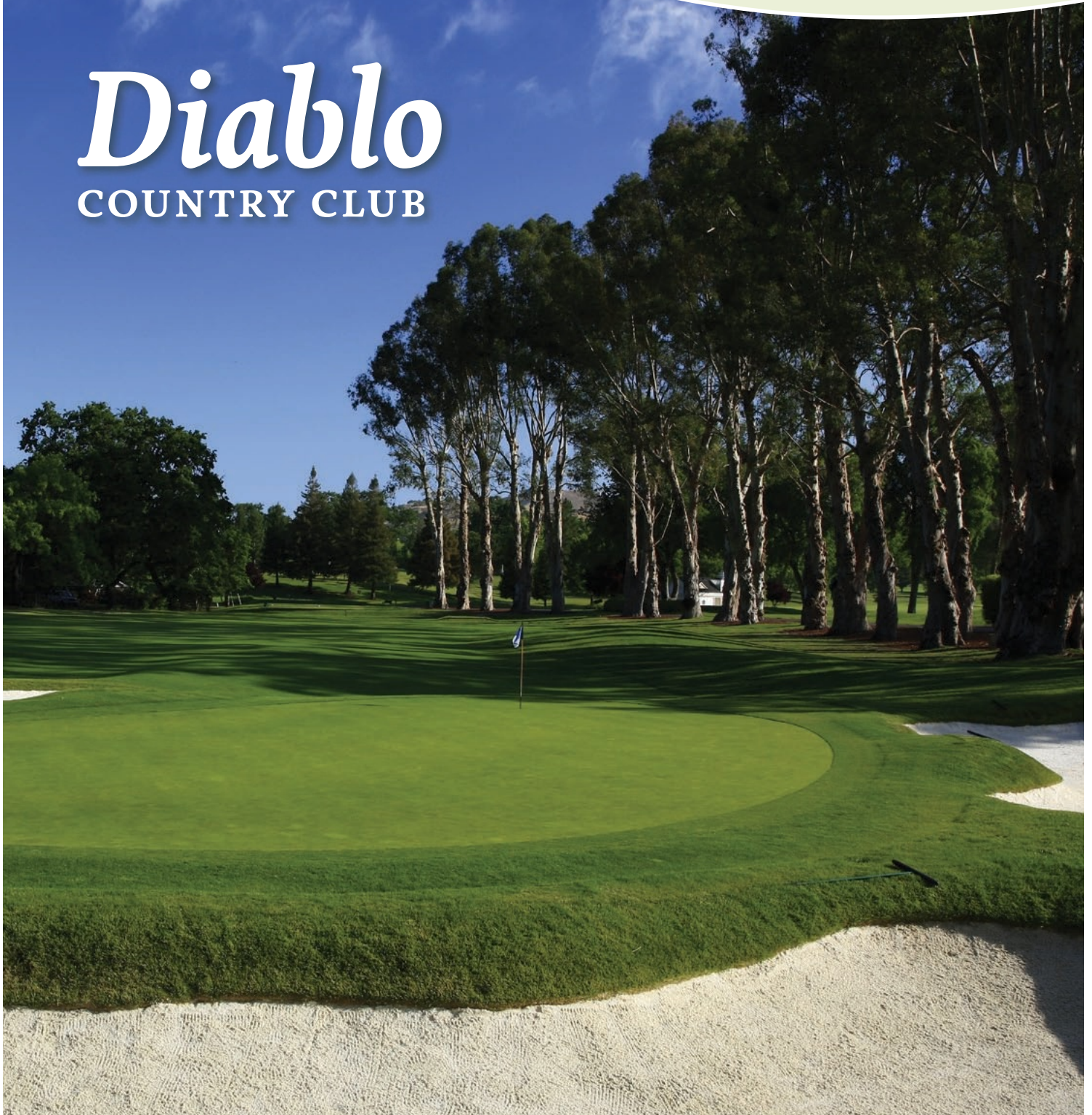
The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014

Northern California Chapter
GCSAA



Diablo COUNTRY CLUB



Officers & Directors 2013

OFFICERS



PRESIDENT
JON CHRISTENSON
Oakhurst Country Club
christenson.j.m@gmail.com



SECRETARY TREASURER
BRIAN BOYER
Cinnabar Hills Golf Club
bboyer@cinnabarhills.com



VICE PRESIDENT
GARY INGRAM, CGCS
Metropolitan Golf Links
gingram@playmetro.com



PAST PRESIDENT
RODNEY MULLER
Empire Ranch Golf Club
muller_rodney@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DIRECTOR
KYLE MARSHALL
Summitpointe Country Club
Kyle_m1@hotmail.com



DIRECTOR
JAY NEUNSINGER
Tilden Park Golf Course
jay9singer@gmail.com



DIRECTOR
JAMES ABATE
TPC Harding Park Golf Course
jimabate@pgatourtpc.com



DIRECTOR
STACY WALLACE
Stonetree Golf Club
wallacestac@yahoo.com



AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
JAMES SHERMAN
Turf and Industrial Equipment
jrs@turfandindustrial.com



AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
RYAN SMITH
Belkorp Golf & Turf
ryan.smith@belkorp.org



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DIRECTOR
MATTHEW KUCHIN
San Jose Country Club
mkuchin@sanjosecountryclub.org



ON THE COVER:

Diablo Country Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The club will be hosting the USGA/GCSANC/NCGA March 17 meeting. Mark your calendars!

Inside

<i>Office Notes</i> By BARBARA MIKEL	3
<i>Naumann's NorCal News</i> By DON NAUMANN	3
<i>NorCalendar</i>	3
<i>New Members</i>	3
<i>President's Message</i> By JON CHRISTENSEN	4
<i>Roger L. Gordon</i>	6
<i>A Closer Look—Nor Cal's Barbara Mikel</i> By BOB COSTA Thru the Green, 2/97	7
<i>From the Field</i> By JEFF JENSON, GCSAA	8
<i>Southwest Regional Webpage</i> By JEFF JENSON, GCSAA	8
<i>Q & A with Sean Tully</i> By BRIAN NETTZ, CGCS	12
<i>November and December On Camera</i>	16
<i>Crew Member Highlight: Tim Powers</i>	18

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

EDITOR	PUBLISHER	ASSOCIATION MANAGER
Brian Nettz, CGCS (415) 561-4615 bnettz@palmergolf.com	Shaw Kobre (707) 569-8481 shaw@intheloopgolf.com	Barbara Mikel (530) 626-0931 bmikel@gcsanc.com



Office Notes

By **BARBARA MIKEL**

"Well, Olie" as they say that's history.

After a long wonderful working relation (24 years) as the Executive Secretary, Association Manager, Executive Director (depending on the political correctness of the time), it's time for me to retire and let someone younger, more energetic and of another generation take on the association administrative and managerial functions going forward. ("Social generations are cohorts of people who were born in the same date range and share similar cultural experiences").

Good bad or indifferent, I've always been an independent business woman. I am in the process of closing my business and looking forward to doing some flying, fly fishing and other "recreational" activities with my patient, supportive husband of 32+ years, Wayne.

The upcoming year will be transitional. My plans are for a smooth and organized transition. But any transition is "transforming" sometimes it takes a little while to pick up the beat. I encourage you as members to give support to the board of directors as we move forward.

If you think you would like to take on the job, by all means step up. Lots of GCSAA-affiliated associations are being managed by former superintendents. There are lots of talented association managers in California who could take on the job. It's not rocket science!



Naumann's NorCal News

By **DON NAUMANN**

Pat Finlen, CGCS, Superintendent, Director of Golf of the Olympic Club in San Francisco has accepted the General Manager's position at the same facility.....Shant Singh has accepted the Superintendent Position at Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino. Shant had been the assistant Super at Mountain Shadows Golf Course in Rohnert Park. Both facilities are managed by CourseCo.....John Jorgenson is the new Superintendent at Spanos Park GC in Lodi. He is returning to the course he helped build years ago. He is being replaced by Andy Rundstrum.....



NorCalendar

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

Stanford University Golf Course

AUGUST 9

Tri Chapter Meeting

Del Rio Country Club

More Details?

Visit www.gcsanc.com/events/

New Members

James Culley

Stover Seed Company

Tim Sedgley, CGCS

Poplar Creek Golf Club

Peter Bachman

Pebble Beach Company

Jimmy Cavezza

Oliphant Golf

Ryan Hardin

Pasatiempo Golf Club

Douglas Dawson

LH Organics

David Chandler

Hidden Valley

Golf & Country Club

Eric Wenzinger

Metropolitan Golf Links

John Robinson

John F. Robinson

Golf Course Design

Denis Smith

Santa Clara Golf & Tennis

Daniel McFadden

The Olympic Club

Ryan Copenhaver

Boundary Oak GC



President's Message By JON CHRISTENSEN

Having been a past Chapter President, I had a good idea of the things I would like to have accomplished during my tenure as President. As I sat down to look at a recap of 2013, I was amazed at how things have differed so much from my goals and agenda set forth at the beginning of the year. I am sure I would not be alone in saying the driest year on record has made for the toughest season I have ever experienced in my 24 years as a Golf Course Superintendent. These challenges with a difficult season in my "day job" meant having to adapt some of my best laid intentions as President of the GCSANC. Having said that, there are a few things I would like to highlight as successes in 2013.

We did a member survey for the first time in a few years so we could take a hard look at our event schedules and how we could improve our networking and educational offerings. The survey provided us with some very valuable information that led to the resurrection of the "regional" events. There are many ways one can get education with the internet and such these days, so we decided to forgo the Institute this year in favor of these networking events. They were a hit. We had four events with a total attendance of 110 people at these events. The format of the events varied, but the general hope of the regional events was to provide an opportunity to network with

as many of your peers as possible, without necessarily having to take an entire day from your schedule. We are hoping to build on the success of these events moving forward, and appreciate your feedback on the format. In addition to these new events, we had our annual events such as the USGA Regional, Field Day, Scholarship and Research Tournament, Holiday meeting, and the Annual meeting. We had almost 400 people attend these events throughout the year, making them all a success. Our Education Committee, chaired by Gary Ingram, and our Programs and Golf Committee, Chaired by Brian Boyer, all did a great job in planning and implementing these events. Without the efforts of the Board of Directors and our Committee Members, which come from the ranks of our GCSANC membership, these events could not happen as they do. Due to these successes, the GCSANC was able to award \$8000 in scholarships to deserving turfgrass students as well as to children or grandchildren of our members through the Legacy Scholarship program. Our Clifford and Myrtle Scholarship and Research Tournament continues to grow each and every year, especially with our great donated auction items. Also as a result of our programs, the GCSANC is able to support much needed turfgrass research in the state of California through a donation to the California Turf and Landscape



J. Arnaz Tree Movers

Protecting the integrity of California's golf courses.



Los Altos C.C.



100" SPADE



TREE BOXING

J. Arnaz Tree Movers

Email John: treemover@comcast.net

408-266-1717

1593 Koch Lane • San Jose • California • Visit us on the web: www.treemovingexperts.com • State Contractor Lic. # 472305

Our experts can transplant or relocate mature trees quickly and efficiently using the latest state-of-the-art equipment including:

- 48", 65", 90" and 100" Hydraulic Tree Spades
Allowing for the transplanting of any tree without damaging the fragile root system
- Serving over 60 courses since 1972 • Tree Boxing and Planting

Foundation in the amount of \$10,000. In 2013 we saw the completion of Turf Colorant use in Northern California, as well as Wetting agent research. These programs continue to give us some great feedback and useful information, which I am sure will continue in 2014.

Another “new” success in 2013 was our first ever affiliate breakfast. We held two different opportunities for the Board of Directors to sit down with our Affiliates to discuss our “hits and misses” as an association. The support of our Affiliates is amazing, and a major factor in what makes our Association tick, which was the main reason the board felt it would be a good idea to have some open and frank discussions about the future. The feedback was great, and we are working on some changes to help strengthen this relationship going forward. I cannot say enough thanks to this segment of our membership. Your sponsorship and meeting attendance is appreciated by all.

One thing that has made some of the above items successful has been our “new” focus on social media. Kyle Marshall was the man in charge of this for 2013, and has done an amazing job finding interesting content for us to all see. During the past year, our page “likes” have doubled, average daily page views from 1 to 9, people looking at our posts from 8 to 43, and “likes and shares” from 3 to

27! Great job Kyle! Social media seems to be everywhere today, and is an easy way for us to communicate with our membership, so if you haven’t “liked” us, please do so.

Finally, I want to say thanks to you, our membership, for the support of the GCSANC. This includes our Superintendent and Affiliate members. Without any of you, the GCSANC would not be held in high regards like it is today. Also, thanks to the Board of Directors for your time and efforts. It is not easy squeezing time into your already busy schedules, and your dedication to your profession is admirable. Lastly, thanks to Barbara for all you do for the Association. You are an asset to us all, and the glue that holds everything together. Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your president in 2013.

COUNT ON US

Proudly Representing: • **TORO** Equipment and Irrigation Systems • Pre-Owned Equipment
• Club Car • Harper • Express Dual • Turflite • Otterbine



800.585.8001
www.turfstar.com

Bermuda Dunes | Brea | Fresno
Hayward | Rancho Cordova | Vista

Roger L. Gordon



Golf industry icon Roger L. Gordon passed away Sunday, November 17. He was 80 years old. Gordon was an original pioneer in the design of automatic irrigation systems for golf courses in Southern California and many other parts of the world. He started his golf irrigation design career in Seattle, and later moved to Los Angeles to work for an irrigation contractor on many local golf courses. Gordon then started his own company in January 1969, designing irrigation systems for over 500 golf courses in his career, many in Southern and Northern California, as well as many other areas of the world. He was involved in designing some of the first valve-in-head irrigation systems and worked closely with many of the innovators of the irrigation technology still in use today. In his designs, he developed many of the standards and practices that are still currently employed in golf course irrigation system design. Throughout his career, Roger Gordon mentored and influenced many who are still active in the industry today.

SAND - BASED

Bentgrass
Ryegrass
Bluegrass
Bandera Bermuda
Rye-Blue
Fine Fescue
Tall Fescue
Tifway II

SOD

LOCALLY GROWN

Seashore Paspalum

or your custom grown variety!

GREG DUNN
209/993-3329
www.westcoastturf.com

Installation available

Find us on Facebook 

WEST COAST TURF

Life is short. Sod it!

A Closer Look—Nor Cal's Barbara Mikel

Written by **BOB COSTA** and published in the February 1997 edition of *Thru the Green*

Most of you know her from that familiar response, "Golf course superintendents, this is Barbara." Or perhaps you have seen and met her at monthly events, painstakingly handling the registration. She's Barbara Mikel, executive secretary, and stabilizing force of the GCSANC. She's served in that capacity since 1990, and it was a strange twist of fate that led her to our doorstep.

It was June of 1990 when Barbara was first introduced to Jean LaDuc. The chance meeting occurred because Barbara's business, Easi Data Processing, maintained an office adjoining the GCSANC office in San Jose. "It so happens that the current secretary had suddenly left," Barbara recalls. "As a result, Jean, who was serving as a board member at the time, was making frequent trips to the office." When Jean shared her plight, Barbara offered to assist with some computer work on an interim basis. Before long she presented a formal proposal for her services to the board, which they wisely accepted. The rest, to our benefit, is history.

For a considerable time Barbara's work was behind the scenes so to speak. She regularly attended Board of Directors meetings, as she still does, and quickly became aware of the needs and functions of the Association.

Barbara credits Cliff and Myrtle Wagoner and Jean Laduc for shortening the learning curve. "Their help was invaluable," she said. "They never failed to come to the rescue whenever I had a question." The position of executive secretary for an association with over 500 members is much more complex than it may appear. Aside from the normal bookkeeping, accounting and reporting function of the business, there is a lot more required to keep an

association of this size running. In a given day Barbara may handle membership questions, questions from the public, job referrals, write her newsletter article, interface with board members, all of which makes for a non-dull office environment. "Maybe that's what originally attracted me to the position," she said. "Being a Gemini, I like variety, and this position has never failed to provide that." Preparing monthly meeting notices, mailings and handling reservations provide the most interesting part of the job for her, and attending the monthly meetings gives her the opportunity to do the two things she truly enjoys, flying and meeting the GCSANC members.

Her love for flying began out of necessity she told me. "In the early '70s, I owned several outdoor advertising companies based in the San Fernando Valley and Bay Area. Tiring of the commute along highway 5, she decided to learn to fly her own plane, and obtained her license in 1977. She recalls one occasion when past Association President, Brian Bagley flew with her to a meeting in Napa. "Brian maintained total composure until landing. That is when I heard this long sigh. I don't think he was critiquing the landing, I think he was happy to be on the ground again."

Like Brian, who was grateful for a safe landing, as an Association we too are grateful for the many contributions and professionalism Barbara has brought to our Association. Through her guidance, dedication and direction we have been able to assume a position of leadership within our industry. Thank you, Barbara, and perhaps we should thank fate as well.

A smooth transition.



Transition™ HC

High Concentrate Dark Turf Colorant

Transition™ HC turf colorant helps manage turf color throughout fall and spring transitions of overseeding programs. The high concentrate formulation allows for flexibility in application rates, with color lasting up to 30 days.

Find out more by contacting Greg Wahl at greg.wahl@basf.com, 925-519-2193.

BASF
The Chemical Company

Always read and follow label directions. Transition is a trademark of BASF. © 2013 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved. APN 13-BU-TO-006



From the Field

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

Happy New Year to our GCSAA of Northern California members. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. As we kickoff 2014, I wanted to take a moment to remind you about an important requirement and also a new member feature at gcsaa.org that will assist you in running your facility.

The new Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling (GHS) is a significant change for golf facilities. This international approach to hazard communication provides agreed upon criteria for classification of chemical hazards, and a standardized approach to label elements and safety data sheets. It is based on major existing systems around the world, including OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard and the chemical classification and labeling systems of other U.S. agencies. In March of 2012, the Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) first announced the adoption of the GHS and its integration into the Hazard Communication Standard.

OSHA is requiring that employees are trained on the new label elements (i.e., pictograms, hazard statements, precautionary statements and signal words) and SDS format. Under OSHA regulations, this training was to have been completed by Dec. 1, 2013.

If you haven't conducted the training, I recommend implementing it immediately. GCSAA provides a free 90-minute webinar (.2 education points upon completion) on GHS to members at http://www.gcsaa.org/_common/templates/GcsaaTwoColumnLayout.aspx?id=7884&LangType=1033.

The webinar provides detailed guidance on the training required to meet GHS, including discussions on training principles, considerations for the design of training, and what subjects to address when conducting the training.

New to GCSAA in 2014 (and a member added value) are the recently launched GCSAA regional webpages. A feature of gcsaa.org, the Southwest Region webpage focuses on industry related material from the Southwest Region which encompasses Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.

The webpage includes current news from the region, a regionally focused job board, a resources area highlighted by helpful agronomic and facility tips, a member's on the move section, easy to navigate links to the 10 Southwest GCSAA affiliated chapters/allied golf organization websites and a blog section that will be updated every few weeks.

Additionally, the page features a complete social media center highlighted by a GCSAA Twitter Feed, a regional forum for networking with your peers and an RSS feed to GCSAA TV that will keep you entertained and educated.

You can visit the webpage at <http://www.gcsaa.org/community/regions/southwest.aspx> and if you have any suggestions to improve the site, please feel free to share them with me.

Thank you again for your support and if I can be of assistance don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org. I look forward to seeing you at the GCSANC Annual Meeting on Jan. 14 or in Orlando at the Golf Industry Show.

Southwest Regional Webpage

GCSAA Members,

I want to personally invite each of you to check out the newest tools that GCSAA has developed to help us to better communicate with the members within our region. As your Southwest Field Staff Representative, these new tools will allow me to provide timely news and information specifically tailored to the members I serve. I am looking forward to a lot of great discussion and the sharing of innovative ideas.

I am especially excited about the new Southwest Forum and the Southwest Blog. The forum is designed to allow members in the Southwest region to post questions, comments and discussion topics geared toward members with similar agronomy / climate conditions and interests. As the GCSAA field representative in this region since 2012, I have had the opportunity to observe many interesting agronomic and management techniques, experience innovative chapter initiatives and events, and interact with so many fantastic GCSAA members in the region. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you on a routine basis on this blog.

Southwest Regional Webpage:

<http://www.gcsaa.org/community/regions/southwest.aspx>

At this webpage, you will find:

- The Latest Southwest Region News and Highlights
- Region Specific Education and Information Resources
- Links to Chapters, University Programs and Allied Associations

- A Link to the Southwest Regional Forum
- Regional Specific Compensation, Environmental and Pesticide Data
- Member Transitions: New Member Listings and Members on the Move
- Regional Job Postings
- GCSAA_SW Twitter Posts
- Southwest Field Staff Blog / Report

There are several formats for you to contribute and provide feedback to the information. I encourage members to post your thoughts, questions and observations. There is no better feedback than what you can receive from your peers and colleagues.

Thanks very much for your support. I am looking forward to seeing many of you during my upcoming travels during the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014! As always, please contact me if there is anything I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jensen

GCSAA Southwest Field Representative

(785) 840-7879

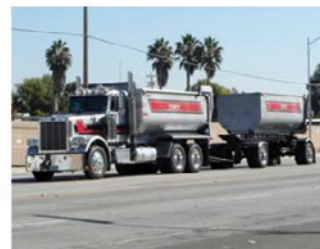
jjensen@gcsaa.org

TMT ENTERPRISES, INC.

GCSANC Members Since 1976

Phone: 408-432-9040

IN BUSINESS SINCE 1961



SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Place your orders now for kiln dried sand for your spring aerification! Whether you prefer TD-320, #30 or #3, dry sand is always in high demand & limited supply during peak season. Order early to get the best delivery date to match your schedule!

Get your seed popping with colored top dressing or divot mix! Colored sand or divot mix, available in bulk or bulk totes will hold more heat than ordinary sand. This helps germination & increases soil temps. Call today for more info!

TMT Enterprises is now your exclusive supplier of TD-320 Top Dressing Sand & BB-205 Bunker Sand. We offer you the widest selection of top dressing & bunker sand of any supplier in California. From Idaho BB bunker sand to Monterey's PB bunker sand, our own TMT White Bunker Sand, G8, #3, kiln-dried sand, bagged sand, colored sand, divot mix, organics, aggregates, cart path materials, Bunker Binder, gypsum, lime, compost tea & more. TMT Enterprises is a full-service vendor.



Web: www.tmtenterprises.net

Email: info@tmtenterprises.net

ren·o·vate *vb.*
1: to make like new again
2: put in good condition
3: to restore



Rely on The Leader in
"Cutting Edge" Renovation
Technology Services

FROM REDDING, CA TO BAKERSFIELD, CA

TEE OFF - The Koro Topmaker® is ideal for removing and leveling damaged or worn turf areas on your fairways, verticutting and dethatching your tee-tops and greens.

THE APPROACH - Install our Tifway 419 Hybrid Bermuda, 50-50 Blue Rye Blend, Bentgrass or our *exclusive* bermuda turf blends; Baby Bermuda, Celebration, and Princess 77. All varieties are offered on peat soil or sand with or without netting, ideal for all your golf course needs.

IN THE CUP - Our Sports Turf and Golf Specialists also offer a wide range of other services: Complimentary Consulting, Custom Laser Grading, Big Roll Installation, Bermuda Sprig Planting, Soil Reliever Aeration, Slit Seeding and Field Top-dressing.



KORO
TOPMAKER®

Call Today
For the Tee-To-Green Success
Your Course Deserves!
(800)637-8873

www.deltabluegrass.com • C-27 752734



golf industry show

GCSAA Education Conference | Trade Show | GCSAA Golf Championships

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



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
- Opening Night Celebration – Tuesday, Feb. 4
- Closing Celebration – Thursday, Feb. 6
- General Session featuring the USGA on Thursday morning
- Tips and techniques for managing your facility on a tight budget

A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

84% of attendees are confident that the event makes them more valuable to their employer

82% of attendees feel that the event delivers real value to their golf facility

76% of attendees say that the event is an indispensable component of their professional development

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

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

For more information visit
www.golfindustryshow.com



golf industry show

GCSAA Education Conference | Trade Show | GCSAA Golf Championships

Orlando
GCSAA
Golf Championships
Presented in Partnership with **TORO**

The 2014 GCSAA Golf Championships, presented in partnership with The Toro Company, is teaming up with Disney for a weekend of championship golf, valuable networking, luxury accommodations and an attendee experience that is bound to be magical.

To alleviate the amount of overlap between the GCSAA Golf Championships and the education conference, the tournament schedule has been shifted back one day. The new schedule will run as follows:

Four Ball	Saturday, Feb. 1
Welcoming Reception	Saturday, Feb. 1
Shamble	Sunday, Feb. 2
Golf Classic	Sunday and Monday, Feb. 2-3
National Championship	Sunday and Monday, Feb. 2-3
19th Hole Reception	Sunday and Monday, Feb. 2-3

JOIN US IN ORLANDO TO:

- **DISCOVER** solutions to your biggest challenges while networking on and off the course
- **FIND** out first-hand how the game of golf impacts what you do every day
- **DEVELOP** long-term, valuable relationships with other industry professionals
- **VIEW** maintenance practices while playing several top-notch golf courses
- **PLAY** against your peers in a friendly competition
- **WIN** money for your chapter



SIX PROMINENT GOLF COURSES

Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa

Palm

Magnolia

Lake Buena Vista

Hawk's Landing Golf Club

Marriott's Grande Pines Golf Club

Celebration Golf Club

400+ of your peers in a casual setting

25+ hours of networking on and off the course

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Prize money awarded to the chapter team competition winners in net and gross division **AND** *an onsite mobile pro shop!*

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

For more information visit
www.golfindustryshow.com



Q & A with Sean Tully

By **BRIAN NETTZ, CGCS**

Sean, it's a pretty well known fact that many of today's older golf courses eliminated bunkers during WWII in an effort to reduce expenses and labor. If there were reductions to be had in this era, when would you estimate that bunkers moved from strictly a hazard to an item with a greater expectation level?

Bunkers are a hot topic for most golf course superintendents! Nothing like making a hazard play more fair or having all of the bunkers uniform in depth and moisture content on a daily basis! Bunker maintenance shifted shortly after WWII when more attention was paid to reducing bunker maintenance. Bunkers were made easier to play from and maintain and in doing so bunkers have lost a lot of character. Bunkers have also become a huge labor item due to the drive for consistent conditions. It hasn't always been that way, a noted course back east during the 1930s would rake their bunkers by pulling a bunch of tree limbs behind a tractor through the bunker. The shift towards consistent and fair conditions is probably drawn straight from the PGA Tour where this idea has been persistent for the last 10-15 years.

Technology and its implementation into golf today is a concern for nearly every course, and especially so for the older designs. Was there a similar concern earlier in golf with regards to better club construction, new ball types and so forth? Have you seen any evidence to suggest that concerns were raised around the turn of the century on these issues?

Golfers have always been on the lookout for ways to improve their game and golf balls have always been the one aspect of the game that has seen the most change over the years. At the same time the game has evolved along with the ball with golf course design and course set-up having to make adjustments for these changes. Take for instance the old gutta percha golf balls were very unforgiving and a long drive was well under 200 yards for everyone except the best golfers of the day. Golf balls would later shift to rubber filled balls and some of the first issues with distance and traditional golf came to light. The issues with the new rubber balls were played out just as much in the newspapers and magazines of the day as they were on the golf course!

Early club faces were smooth and over time they started to get scoring on their faces with a dot punch and later much more elaborate designs to help grab the ball and impact spin. It is easy to see by today's standards that people will go to any length to improve their game. For example, in the mid 1920s a golf Pro was trying to make a club that could hit the ball further and in doing so he ended up with a rather unique and deadly golf club. The Pro made a metal shaft that held a liquid and as the swing was made, inertia forced the liquid to the club head and the club head speed would be greater. In theory, this makes a lot of sense, but when they used mercury they ran into a number of problems!

The golf ball held the biggest issue with certain proponents of the game. The early change from gutta percha to haskell balls forced most golf clubs to add length to their courses. This happened again throughout the 1920s as older courses had to be lengthened to challenge golfers using newer golf balls and clubs. Some of these courses



were less than 10 years old and were already too short by the new standards set by the latest batch of golf balls brought to market. At this same time some efforts were being pursued to standardize the golf ball. There were some earlier attempts at standardization, but it wasn't until 1921 that there was a standard set by the USGA and R&A. There has been some disagreements on what the standards should be and for a number of years there was two different sized balls

being used. There is still some ongoing discussions on limiting the golf ball or having another set of rules for the professionals, but they don't seem to gather much consensus.

With regards to technology, do you feel that new technologies such as longer flight balls, straighter flight balls, and better clubs make the game more enjoyable for the "bread and butter" of the golf business (the 25 handicap golfer)? Do you feel that these things will help sustain golf or do you feel that they remove from the game?

Technology always has some unforeseen issue/s that carries with it. Yes, golfers have at their advantage equipment that will allow them to hit the ball further and straighter than ever before, but have we seen collective handicap go down, or more people playing the game? Not really. Golfers need to be concerned less about distance and more concerned with shots around the green and putting if they want to improve. So, my opinion would be no on technology improving ones game. Practice and playing to your strengths can go a lot further than the newest club that could add "insert number" yards to your drives.

With technology comes a higher price to just about everything otherwise it doesn't justify its existence. How many new drivers need to come out each year saying they can improve ones game and cost "x" dollars more. I can still remember the last new club that I bought, an old Taylor Made Bubble shaft driver way back in 1997! I'm old school as most will probably already know, my bag as I look at it now has an old Hogan Speed Slot persimmon "2" wood that I use off of the tee and the fairway. An old set of Hogan blades that includes a iron that is not in my bag for show and my dad's old sand wedge that has seen too many bunkers! I know that I am in the minority when it comes to golf clubs and new technology. I will occasionally play golf with my set of hickory clubs and have more fun playing with them then I do with modern clubs. For me the technology takes away from the game and places a greater emphasis on equipment. Learn more about your swing and build off of that first instead of looking for easy answers with the latest improvements touted in golf magazines.

(Continued on page 14)

Trust

It's why Shawn Emerson uses us on every one of his 108 holes.

Desert Mountain, Cochise Course

Six courses. 200 employees. To put it mildly, Shawn Emerson, Director of Agronomy at Desert Mountain, has a lot on his plate. Which is why he counts on John Deere to keep this collection of Jack Nicklaus courses in perfect shape. From our hybrid fairway and greens mowers to our heavy-duty utility vehicles, Shawn and his crew use only John Deere equipment, sun up to sundown. Says Shawn, "There's a lot of things I worry about. But John Deere isn't one of them."

Trusted by the best courses on Earth.



JOHN DEERE
GOLF

JohnDeere.com/Golf

58143

B BELKORP
GOLF & TURF

Phone: (209) 944-5714 • www.belkorpag.com

Stockton • Modesto • Calistoga • Merced • Patterson • Santa Rosa • Ukiah • Walnut Grove

(Q & A continued from page 12)

Based on attitudes towards technological inputs in today's game, do you feel that golf should embrace these items to attract more players? Is golf too attached to its traditions? Does this attachment put golf's business and marketing plans at a disadvantage to its overall survival, or is this current downswing in players just another ebb in the flow of golf historically?

Golf doesn't need to embrace technology to win over golfers! They need to play a fun game that they can play with friends and family in a timely fashion and is affordable! We are growing the game in the wrong direction--bigger golf courses that are being built today just add to the cost of maintaining golf courses and that expense comes right back to the golfer. If anything we have gotten away from the traditions that made golf what it was. Make golf available for everyone and try to keep the costs to the golfer at a decent amount. Using less water for firmer conditions and grow less grass to help reduce costs are some quick answers for Superintendents on our end of the spectrum. Change the culture around the game. Not that easy to do, but my first target would be golf carts. More golfers walking would lead to those same golfers enjoying the game later in life. Walking and golfing go hand in hand and has shown health benefits. Too many younger people take carts and don't fully engage themselves, others or the golf course proper as they play a round of golf. So much has changed in our society in how we view family time. Raising our children for most younger families that have less time to devote 3-5 hours makes playing a round of golf a lower priority. Historically there has been some ebb and flows in players. Golf grew too fast for a demand that was either overinflated or a "build it and they will come" mentality that helped to over saturate the market. Better courses that favor a solid design, good conditions, and a walker friendly course are just the tip of the iceberg on what can be done to bring golfers back to the course.

How do you feel current golf initiatives are working to attract the future golfer? Compared to other sports such as soccer and football which only require a ball and some open space, do you feel that golf is prohibitively expensive considering the cost of clubs, lessons, green fees?

I have been "playing it forward" for a long time and I hope the recent push on this idea can make an impact on changing peoples opinions on the course they are playing. Harder isn't a way to judge how good something is, I prefer enjoyment over a score of 90 or 100 any day! Cost is probably one of the biggest issues that I see as I start to introduce my girls into golf. Where do I find the time in our busy schedules to get them up to the course and play. I have the benefit of being in the industry so my initial costs are considerably lower than someone without the connections we have. I can see how hard it is for a player new to the game. I would focus on families that already have a member(s) playing and work on ways to include the other family members and work on building the game into their future generations. Golf can win people over when given the chance to play in its many settings and with people that enjoy a round and others company. Just have fun-- play some match play golf, or better yet--- play some golf following the old stymie rules that will add some fun with your playing partners on the greens!

Tell me what brought you into this industry and how your passion for its history came about. What do you tell your daughter about your job and what you do everyday?

My first job was working on a golf course where my dad learned the game and was a local golfer of note. He qualified for a PGA event as an amateur and golf was a way of life for him. My first lesson was with the retired golf pro that also gave my dad his lessons when he started out, so I already had an appreciation for the game from very early on. While getting my lessons the Pro told me stories of his playing golf with his four brothers and Sam Snead back in West Virginia and I just fell in love with the lore of golf! Working on the golf course I knew that I loved the feel of the course that was built in 1928. That is except for two holes that were totally out of character with the rest of the course. After talking with the old Pro who had also been the Superintendent of the course I found out that the two holes had been remodeled with the hopes that the course would modernize the remainder of the course. Didn't understand that then and I still don't understand it now! The older holes were the best on the course!

My girls love coming up to the course and comment on things that often surprise me. They often tour the course and I show them what we are doing and maybe even hand them a shovel and move some plugs during aerification. They absolutely loved going to the USOpen at The Olympic Club and were both devastated to learn that they would not be going to another one until 2019! My proudest moment was driving through Oregon well over 500 miles from home and my youngest daughter who was three at the time, sees a golf course and says to everyone in the car, "There's Papa's golf course!" Without skipping a beat, my oldest daughter, who was 7 at the time, says, "That isn't Papa's course, those bunkers look nothing like his bunkers." Brought me to tears.

Tell me about your funniest "oh crap" moment on the golf course.

Watching as a fellow employee got hit in the head by a golf ball while mowing rough with a pull behind mower. Ball knocked him out cold and the tractor kept going and finally got stuck in a bunker. Felt so helpless trying to get to him and not get myself hurt too!

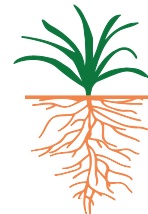
What is your favorite golf course?

Meadow Club. Fun course to play and love the way the course ties into the ground without calling too much attention to itself. Setting doesn't hurt either.

What do you want for Christmas?

Trying to squeeze in a round of golf at Bandon at Old MacDonald for all of the template holes. The closest I will get to playing National Golf Links for some time to come!

**Floratine
Phoenix
Kisco
JRM**



**AnaLync
AquaVive
Gro-Power
Aqua-Pucks**

Farmload Distributors

(800) 322-8417

Your Exclusive Northern California Dealers

**Mike Farmen
559-709-6295**

**Thor Larson
831-277-4356**

**Peter Galea
831-234-3218**

n a t u r a l & o r g a n i c

NatureTech™

A Product of ORGANIC FARMS®

Quality & Economy

- Slow Release Nitrogen and Variably Releasing Nitrogen Blends.
- Promotes Turf Density and Speeds Aeration Recovery.
- Enhances Soil Structure for Improved Disease Resistance.



For more information visit our web site: www.NatureTechFertilizers.com
or call 209-394-1171

Every superintendent needs a good caddie.

Let us try out for the part. We can provide all the supplies you need to keep your course looking its best. And with our knowledgeable staff, we can help you make an ace.



JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES



800-347-4272
www.JohnDeereLandscapes.com

November and December On Camera



Terrific weather, but what about this coming season?



Golf Results

December 6, 2013 meeting

Del Monte Golf Course

First \$100

R. Muller / S. Byrne / T. Huesgen / J. Green

Second \$75

Ona Olson / B. Olson / B. Heaps / R. Jarvis

Third \$50

C. Dalhammer / M. Phillips / J. Steen / D. Mahoney

Long Drive \$75: B. Heaps

Accurate Drive \$75: S. Byrne

Closest to the Hole \$75

Theresa Myer / T. Grasso / J. Green / D. Hayes



Monarch ready for these guys?

Special Thanks to Our December Meeting Sponsors

Tony Whelan
Don Naumann
Adrian Meyer

Jacobsen West
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, Inc
E-Z-Go Golf Carts

Joyce Ligon
Bill Smith
Steve Johnson
Gregg Brodd
Danny & Joy Ramos

Land Home Financial
Sequoyah Country Club
Smithco
Turfco
D.H.R. Construction, Inc.

Chuck Talley
Manny Pina
Russ Mitchell
Keith Kaminski
Matt Moore

Turf Star, Inc
Ewing Irrigation Products
Russell D Mitchell & Associates
Kaminski Golf Construction
TMT Enterprises Inc.

Greg Dunn
Donald Allen
Salvador Villalobos
Brett Staples

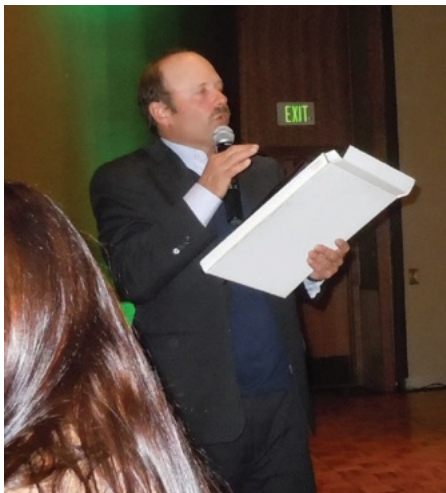
West Coast Turf
R.V. Cloud Co
Christensen Irrigation Co. Inc
Par Consultants Inc



Great day for golf!



Jim's on a roll.



I've prepared a few words for this occasion...I'll be brief...



Long-time buds.



Kenny asks Santa for a new surfboard. Was he naughty or nice?

This sailor walks into a bar with a nun under each arm and a parrot on his shoulder and says to the bartender...



So I yelled, "Baba Booley!" as loud as I could in his backswing and then he turned around and...



Ryan, Mike and Mike—did they win?



I like to call this move Gangnam Style.



Let's see...it's 2 oz per thousand iron sulfate, 5 oz per thousand seaweed extract...



Crew Member Highlight: Tim Powers, San Jose

I have worked as an Off-Ice Official in San Jose since the 2004-2005 season. My duties have included Official Scorer, Penalty Box Attendant, Goal Judge, and occasional computer entry. I grew up in New York when the New York Islanders were getting started. I used to skate on the ponds which would freeze back then. I was in the Boy Scouts and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. This helped me gain a love for the outdoors and attended the University of Maine at Orono for Forest Management. I only missed two home games in four years at Alfond Arena and really loved watching the Black Bears compete. I have been able to follow careers from college through the pros in baseball and hockey. There is a Stanley Cup winning coach who was a year ahead of me in Maine.

I got a summer job on a golf course in 1979 and haven't left yet. I now tell people that I cut small trees and am able to work and play on some of the nicest landscaped lands in the world. Environmental stewardship is really important these days. I have received ten Environmental Leader in Golf Awards from the GCSAA and Golf Digest including National Public/Overall in 2011. I also received an Excellence in Turfgrass Management Award in 2004 from the GCSA of Northern California. I became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1995. Over the years, I have met some really terrific people thanks to the golf business. I have worked in Connecticut, New York, the

Carolinas, Kentucky, and California. The golf business is very big but very small when you have been in it for over 34 years. I have developed a pretty decent network throughout the industry. I have been able to volunteer at many tournaments and get to meet people from around the world. We know what it takes to put on an event such as a U.S. Open or the Masters and we are all willing to help our friends. I have worked at five U.S. Opens and two Masters so far and over 25 other events. I have also attended many other tournaments and always run into somebody I know. Every golf tournament donates millions to local charities and it is nice to know that you are helping out. The PGA Tour has donated over two billion dollars to charity. I also help a friend who runs an event called Birdies for the Brave which helps various military causes.

Hockey players are usually pretty good golfers so both of my jobs are tied together. I know some that are golf pros and directors of golf after they retire. I have been able to see some of the greatest players in the history of the game and see guys I grew up watching. I am pretty lucky.

Does your discount fertilizer run out of gas before it should?



For long lasting performance use Turf Gold or Super Turf from...



by Simplot

... the One that works!

Professional Grade Fertilizer

For more information about BEST® turf nutrition solutions visit us at www.bestfertilizer.com • 800.832.8891 • Or contact your BEST Distributor
©2013 J. R. Simplot Company. All rights reserved.

SIERRA PACIFIC TURF SUPPLY
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED
SINCE 1982

Sparks - (888) 460-8873

Rocklin - (800) 652-8721

Campbell - (800) 827-8873



Sierra Pacific Turf Supply has
3 locations to serve you:

Campbell: 510 Salmar Avenue • Campbell, CA 95008

Rocklin: 1175 Tara Court • Rocklin, CA 95765

Sparks: 535 Vista Blvd., Sparks, NV 89434

dkinney@sierrapacificturf.com



MITCHELL PRODUCTS



PRODUCT • PERFORMANCE • PROMISE