

# THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

JULY/AUGUST 2014

Northern California Chapter  
**GCSAA**



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## ON THE COVER:

Ken Williams with the Stanford flag.

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## Office Notes

By **BARBARA MIKEL**

- Five years ago, GCSANC was preparing for the second Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament.

June saw the seventh event at Stanford University Golf Course hosted by Ken Williams, CGCS, and Ruben Silveira. Thanks to the Scholarship Committee (Vince Keats, Ryan Smith, Brian Boyer) for all your hard work. High five to John Holmquist for his auctioneering talents! The successful event raised considerable funds to replenish those of the five \$1000 scholarship awards made this year. Three in turfgrass category and two in the legacy category.

### LEGACY AWARDS

**Aari Lyijynen**, *University of Utah*

(daughter of Todd Lyijynen, Diablo Country Club)

**Alexander J. Kropp**, *UCLA*

(son of Michael Kropp, BASF)

### TURFGRASS

**Connor Galea**, *Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School*

(son of Peter Galea)

**Drew Nottenkamper**, *Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School*

**Isaac J. Weintraub**, *Penn State University Masters of Professional Studies Turfgrass Management*

- GCSANC made considerable trend setting steps in 2009. Five years later and it's time to make some more trending changes. The role and function of the professional association is in flux. I have made the comment to a number of "long timers" regarding the swing in the 1990s from management company participation in many municipal and other public courses to internal staffing and management. The past few years have seen the pendulum swing in the opposite direction. Municipal and public courses are coming under contract for course and event management's expertise of golf management companies. Budget, staffing, environmental and water issues will continue to be a very big challenge to management companies as well as private clubs.
- Congratulations to Glenn Matthews, CGCS at Visalia (CA) Country Club on his recent GCSAA certification.
- Kevin Teahan & Jim Abate TPC Harding Park will have lots of fun events and wonderful challenges as 2015 WGC-Match Play, the 2020 PGA Championship and the 2025 Presidents Cup come to town. Congratulations!
- Reminder that nominations for GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. Must be submitted by Aug. 1.
- I am happy to see the board make great progress in the executive director replacement process. I am looking forward to a wonderful transition with the lucky person! Thanks to all of you for your kind comments and years of friendship, patience and professional advances for all.

## NorCalendar

**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/](http://www.gcsanc.com/events/)

## New Members

**Andrew Crawford**

**The Olympic Club**

*Class C Assistant Superintendent*

**Brandon Crim**

**Round Hill Country Club**

*Class C Assistant Superintendent*

**Chris DuBridge**

**Silver Creek Valley CC**

*Class C Assistant Superintendent*

**Jonathan Dees**

**Chartiers Country Club**

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**King Wayman**

**Pacific Grove Golf Links**

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**Robert Esposito**

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*Class A Superintendent*

**Robert Henderson, Jr.**

**The Bridges Golf Club**

*Class C Assistant Superintendent*

**Josh Simpson**

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**Troy Flanagan**

**The Olympic Club**

*Class A Superintendent*

**Wil Hays**

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*Affiliate Company Representative*



## President's Message By GARY INGRAM, CGCS

Outreach. What does that mean to you?

For many the word means informing the public of what golf and our courses offer to our communities. It can inform them of the real facts about our people, business practices, and overall core values. The GCSAA, USGA, and the PGA do this through public service announcements. The GCSANC developed PSA's that can be seen on YouTube. URLs are the end of this report. Magazines, newspapers, television appearances, and radio continue to be successful communication tools to educate the public. Through government relation committees and programs, individuals work with officials and legislators to educate and tell our story. We Are Golf and the newly formed GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador programs were developed for this purpose. Literature is available through the USGA and the GCSAA that can be distributed to your team, members, and guests. Many Superintendents have developed extensive and effective blogs and websites that can inform the members, guests and the public of the positive influence that the game of golf and their golf courses have on the environment and their communities. As we work through our current drought situations, NPDES, and other government regulations, we are reminded that we need to have accurate information communicated to the public, local and state government, and other organizations that

impact our future success

Wikipedia describes outreach as an activity that provides services to populations who might not otherwise have access to those services. There are many organizations within our industry that focus on this type of outreach. The First Tee program teaches youth the game of golf through its nine core values. Most golf courses have youth development programs that provide access and golf instruction to many that might not normally enjoy these facilities. Oakland Turfgrass Educational Initiative (OTEI), through study tours, internships, and career days, introduces students to Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management, the golf business, and the game of golf. The First Green provides teaching aids and curriculum for superintendents to invite local schools to their facilities for educational events. There are numerous superintendents leading tours and providing access to the public highlighting the positive things they do. Many courses have created wonderful bulletin boards and informational areas in their clubhouses that discuss projects on the course and environmental stewardship. All these help create a positive awareness about the game, the course, and our industry

Alliances with other golf organizations and working with fellow superintendents is a key to our success. The current overall perception of our industry to a major portion of our society is bleak, but

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## Naumann's NorCal News

By **DON NAUMANN**



**Troy Flannagan** has accepted the Superintendent of Golf Courses and Grounds for the Olympic Club in San Francisco. He had been the Superintendent at Anthem Golf Club in Las Vegas prior to moving back to the Bay Area. Prior to Anthem he was the Super at Roundhill CC in Alamo and the assistant at Cypress Point....

**Tim Powers** has accepted the Superintendent position at Pajaro Golf Course in Watsonville. Tim had been working with **Tom Gray** at Cordevalle GC prior to his move....**Tom Bevan** is the new Superintendent at Summitt Pointe Golf Course in Milpitas. Tom was the Super at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch in Monterey....**Dave Birrer**, Super at Dublin Ranch Golf Course that Kemper Golf has recently taken over the management at his golf course. He will continue as the Super there....

through outreach we can properly inform the public and turn this situation around so that golf will continue to be considered a major asset to our communities. I believe that whatever outreach means you employ and works into your busy schedule, is key to the success of our overall industry.

If you have an outreach program, experiences, or ideas, or if you would like to share some your successes and/or failures please do not hesitate to email me or your Association.

We are all in this together. Success will be determined by our collaboration.

For additional information on programs mentioned, please visit:

[www.wearegolf.org](http://www.wearegolf.org)

[www.cqrcengage.com/gcsaa/Ambassadors](http://www.cqrcengage.com/gcsaa/Ambassadors)

[www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org)

[www.oaklandturf.org](http://www.oaklandturf.org)

[www.thefirstgreen.org](http://www.thefirstgreen.org)

GCSANC PSA URLs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5CIHnRakas>

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## Editor's Ramblings

By **BRIAN NETTZ, CGCS**

You know people, we're all busy. I'm busy too. I do my job. I edit the articles, help with publishing and try to make TTG better. I have two kids. I help coach soccer. I walk the dog. I care for my home and my lawn. I parent, play hockey and still have a (little) life. Last I checked, I had no red cape like Superman or fancy leotard like Mr. Incredible. If I can do it, surely you take 20 minutes from your day once a year and contribute to TTG. Yeah, you don't like to write. You're a bad writer. You have nothing interesting to share. That's all BS. You're doing something you enjoy. Maybe it's taking the Pepsi challenge with scotch brands at night. Maybe you're into model trains, RC planes, World of Warcraft, or Dungeons and Dragons. Don't be chickenstuff; tell us about it!

In case you've been under a rock lately, you need to know that Barb Mikel is finally making good on her threat to retire this year. Over the years, and I have had the pleasure of working with Barb now for over 8 or 9, I have witnessed first-hand how Barb has kept this association rolling forward. If you are not involved at the Board level, you really have no appreciation for everything that Barb does. All the pieces she picks up to keep TTG published (even though we are constantly behind deadlines-see first paragraph), keep the BOD rolling smoothly, make the meetings happen, and keep the business healthy. You really have no idea. You just don't. And, it's a lot. What's most interesting is that Barb had her own management company with other clients. GCSANC wasn't her full time job. In fact, she didn't really need our business or our money; she was doing well on her own (a fact she reminded me of many times). She did, however, love working with us in spite of always being late on deadlines, inaccurate with our information, misguided in our ideas and generally well intentioned on how to run our association. Our association has a lot to be proud of in terms of service to the members. It's a high quality entity. Replacing Barb will be an immense and controversial task and the current board is faced with this odious task. Do we go corporate and leverage the advantages of specialization and size, or do we stay small and private? We should all think about this. You should let a board member know your thoughts. This is a pivotal decision....

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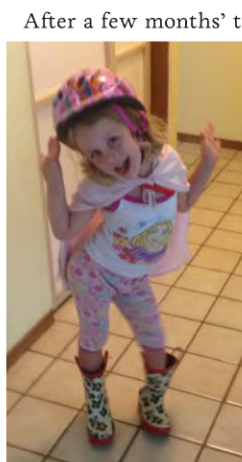
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## Ultra Running

By **BRIAN BOYER**

In 2012 I began the task of losing weight after I had quit smoking for six months from a bad 16 year habit. Our daughter Samantha was 6 months old when I quit and for most of that time she had been suffering with a persistent cough. At one of her well baby check-ups the doctor finally told me that she was coughing because she was picking up the nicotine on my clothes when I held her. That was all I needed to hear. I made myself an appointment with my doctor to get a 25\$ subscription for Chantix and in two weeks' time, I was done smoking. It's crazy to think how Chantix manipulates the receptors in your brain because I never had the urge to smoke following the directions.



After a few months' time, I began to notice flavors that I hadn't noted before. I was also picking up odors better and I've got to say that that isn't necessarily a good thing. While my senses were returning to normal, my weight also increased which is another well-known side effect of quitting tobacco. At my peak I had reached 205 pounds and it was making me miserable. It is the reason I have a beard to this day because the weight gain was most obvious in my face and I thought I could hide it. I had once been a fairly skilled athlete with less than 7% body fat and I had a very hard time with the adjustment.

Come the New Year of 2012 and I de-

cided that I was going to attempt to exercise at least 3 times per week and lose some weight. I thought about the gym, but that wasn't really my thing and working out at home was tough. I had run track in high school and all you needed was a pair of shoes so I thought I'd give running a go. What started as a grueling quarter mile jog around the block has now spawned into another habit of sorts; Ultra running.

Ultra running is essentially running distances past that of a marathon which is 26.2 miles. Typical distances for ultra races are 50km, 100km, 50 miles & 100 miles through mountainous trails. By no means did I get to some of these further distances overnight. It took about a year or so to be able to get some good miles under my belt. Pushing the distances became an ego thing or what I sometimes refer to as the 1% and it has never really felt like work. Don't get me wrong; it is really hard, but the beauty of the trails and the sense of accomplishment are well worth it.

I also had the motivation of trying to run further so I could run with a group that included both Kevin Breen and Thomas Bastis. I still remember vividly my first Sunday with the guys as it felt like a tryout to join the group. Luckily I was able to hang on and put on a tough face because the relationships I have forged with them both professionally and personally has been something I truly cherish. We get our long runs in as often as possible together and I get an education in advanced Turfgrass as well.

In the end, I have lost 30 pounds and I feel better both physically and mentally. Some people may question the mentally better part being that I choose to run upwards of 50 miles for fun, but it makes me happy and you can't argue with that.

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## *Seventh Annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament*

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**Low Net Team (118): Jim Ferrin, Derrick Aachman, Roger Jerez & Joor Bol. Congratulations!**



**Low Gross Team (135): Andy Kimbal, Kevin Breen, Mac Niven & John Moore. Congratulations!**

## Seventh Annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament

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Tom Doyle & Mike Garvale with Callippe Preserve Golf Course Glenn with Haendel & Steve Spinola.



David and Tristan Ginkel with Chad Twaddle & Mike Basile looking for a cold one.



Jay Neunsinger, Jim Leal, Craig Kilcoyne & Jim McKenna take a photo break.

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## *Seventh Annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament*

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Scott Stambaugh & Dan James, Peninsula Country Club enjoy the day with Steve Archer & Joe Budinich.



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Ken Williams, CGCS, and Ruben Silveira had the course in wonderful condition. Thanks, guys!

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# Media Release

## State Water Board Approves Emergency Regulation to Ensure Agencies and State Residents Increase Water Conservation

For Immediate Release  
July 15, 2014

Contact: George Kostyrko  
(916) 341-7365

In response to the ongoing severe drought, on Tuesday the State Water Resources Control Board approved an emergency regulation to ensure water agencies, their customers and state residents increase water conservation in urban settings or face possible fines or other enforcement.

The new conservation regulation is intended to reduce outdoor urban water use. The regulation, adopted by the State Water Board, mandates minimum actions to conserve water supplies both for this year and into 2015. Most Californians use more water outdoors than indoors. In some areas, 50 percent or more of daily water use is for lawns and outdoor landscaping.

Many communities and water suppliers have taken bold steps over the years and in this year to reduce water use; however, many have not and much more can and should be done statewide to extend diminishing water supplies.

With this regulation, all Californians will be expected to stop: washing down driveways and sidewalks; watering of outdoor landscapes that cause excess runoff; using a hose to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle, and using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated. The regulation makes an exception for health and safety circumstances.

Larger water suppliers will be required to activate their Water Shortage Contingency Plan to a level where outdoor irrigation restrictions are mandatory. In communities where no water shortage contingency plan exists, the regulation requires that water suppliers either limit outdoor irrigation to twice a week or implement other comparable conservation actions. Finally, large water suppliers must report water use on a monthly basis to track progress.

Local agencies could ask courts to fine water users up to \$500 a day for failure to implement conservation requirements in addition to their existing authorities and processes. The State Water Board could initiate enforcement actions against water agencies that don't comply with the new regulations. Failure to comply with a State Water Board enforcement order by water agencies is subject to up to a \$10,000 a day penalty.

"We are facing the worst drought impact that we or our grandparents have ever seen," said State Water Board Chair Felicia Marcus. "And, more important, we have no idea

when it will end. This drought's impacts are being felt by communities all over California. Fields are fallowed; communities are running out of water, fish and wildlife will be devastated. The least that urban Californians can do is to not waste water on outdoor uses. It is in their self-interest to conserve more, now, to avoid far more harsh restrictions, if the drought lasts into the future. These regulations are meant to spark awareness of the seriousness of the situation, and could be expanded if the drought wears on and people do not act."

In addition to approving the emergency conservation regulation today, the State Water Board made a plea for water suppliers, communities and businesses to do even more. For example, water agencies are being asked to step up their programs to fix leaks and other sources of water loss, use more recycled water or captured stormwater, and find additional ways to incentivize demand reduction among their customers.

The new regulation was developed following two drought emergency declarations by Governor Brown. On January 17, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued a drought emergency proclamation following three dry or critically dry years in California.

The April 25 Executive Order issued by the Governor directs the State Water Board to adopt an emergency regulation as it deems necessary, pursuant to Water Code section 1058.5, to ensure that urban water suppliers implement conservation measures.

As drought conditions continue, the State Water Board may revisit this regulation and consider other measures to enhance conservation efforts throughout the state.

Following Board adoption, the regulation will likely go into effect on or about August 1, following submittal to the Office of Administrative Law. The emergency regulation remains in effect for 270 days, unless extended by the State Water Board due to ongoing drought conditions.

For more information on the proposals leading to this Board action, please visit the Emergency Water Conservation website.

Governor Brown has called on all Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent and prevent water waste – visit [SaveOurH2O.org](http://SaveOurH2O.org) to find out how everyone can do their part, and visit [Drought.CA.Gov](http://Drought.CA.Gov) to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought.





## From the Field

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

The Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers have proposed a new Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule that would bring nearly every river, stream, creek, wetland, pond, ditch and ephemeral (land that looks like a small stream during heavy rain but isn't wet most of the time) in the United States under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

For more than 40 years, the issue of what waters fell under federal scrutiny turned on whether they were "navigable" or near an adjacent wetland. This new rule goes much further. For every new body of water to be included under the CWA there has to be a significant nexus between it and the bodies of waters traditionally regulated under the CWA. The connection must be so that the water impacts the "chemical, physical or biological integrity" of the traditionally regulated water. If allowed to stand, this would include almost every water body in the U.S., except those that are geographically isolated. If finalized without significant change, the rule will subject more activities on golf courses to additional permitting requirements, environmental impact analyses, costly mitigation and citizen lawsuits.

A couple of areas that could have a significant impact on golf courses include Section 402 and 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Section 402 establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permitting program, in which EPA or states (with EPA oversight) can issue permits for discharges of pollutants into WOTUS. If almost all water bodies on a golf course are deemed WOTUS, many routine golf course management activities (such as

fertilizer and pesticide applications) will be deemed to result in a "discharge" to those so-called WOTUS. Activities that result in a "discharge" cannot legally go forward without a required permit.

Section 404 allows the Corps to issue permits for discharges of "dredge and fill" material into WOTUS. This includes discharges that would result from moving soil, such as planting trees, installing drainage, dredging ponds/wetlands, and fixing stream alignments or banks below the ordinary high water mark including rip rap for erosion protection. Under federal authority, proposed golf course construction or renovation projects within jurisdictional areas may require an individual, regional or nationwide permit.

GCSAA does not support the EPA or the Army Corps of Engineers expanding the jurisdictional reach of the federal Clean Water Act. This would be an unprecedented expansion of the regulatory authority of the federal government. Expanded federal jurisdiction would pre-empt traditional state and local government authority over land and water use decisions and alter the balance of federal and state authority.

GCSAA is currently seeking an extension on the 90-day comment period (to 180 days) regarding this issue and support from GCSAA members is needed. An extension request letter is available at <http://cqcengage.com/gcsaa/take-action> as well as additional information on the proposed rule. The extension will give us the needed time to fight the implementation of this rule. We appreciate your support and if you have any questions, please contact me at [jjensen@gcsaa.org](mailto:jjensen@gcsaa.org).

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