

# THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

April / May 2015



## The Links at Bodega Harbour

*Site of May 6th GCSANC*

*Regional Meeting*

*Bodega Bay, California*

# OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2015

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On the Cover: The Links at Bodega Harbour, site of May 6th GCSANC Regional Meeting.

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## Water, water, water...

By **JIM ABATE**, 2015 GCSANC President, PGA Tour Agronomy

In response to California's historic drought, Governor Brown has issued an Executive Order that contains intent to limit irrigation practices on golf courses. The State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) is in the process of determining the specific limitations to be set forth in each and every water district. It is a dire situation for the state, and as responsible stewards of the environment we will be leaders in efforts to conserve.

The GCSANC has formed the Northern California Golf Industry Water Conservation Coalition. This coalition is being comprised of superintendents, members of academia, government employees, and other industry professionals. We are also setting up a membership survey to identify each water supplier for our vast organization and what policies they are enacting in these difficult times.

In an effort to serve the membership we have had representation at numerous government agency meetings with the intent of assisting in educating specific government officials as to our industry's conservation efforts and needs.

We also setup a webinar with a member of the SWRCB and are planning a GCSANC meeting later this year that will focus on water conservation. I encourage each and every GCSANC Member to reach out to their respective water supplier and discuss their plan of action.

In other news, we had a great event with the USGA and NCGA at Poppy Hills in late April. Over 100 people attended the meeting that was focused on sustainability. Upcoming on the schedule is an early May meeting at Bodega Harbor, and then the Research and Scholarship meeting in July at Palo Alto Hills Country Club.

Regards,

*Jim*

Jim Abate  
President, GCSANC

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## NORCALENDAR

**May 6**

### **Regional Meeting**

*The Links at Bodega Harbour,  
Bodega Bay*

**May 15**

### **2015 Scholarship Application Deadline**

See <http://www.gcsanc.com/membership/2010-scholarship-application/> for scholarship application

**July 13**

### **Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament**

*Palo Alto Golf & Country Club,  
Palo Alto*

**August 10**

### **Tri-Chapter Meeting**

*Coyote Creek, Morgan Hill*

**October 27**

### **Institute**

*Fountaingrove Country Club,  
Santa Rosa*

**December 4**

### **Holiday Party**

*Hyatt Regency Monterey*



# Letter From the Editor

By **Sean Tully**, *Meadow Club*

First things first, we need to make sure we all acknowledge the work that Brian Netz has done for the past four years as the newsletter editor for *Thru the Green*. This wraps up a rather remarkable run of 10 years of service to the GCSANC, including time as the Editor of the newsletter, as well as on the Board and as Past President.


Thank you, Brian!

I step in as the new Editor with an interest in using the newsletter to get information to you in new ways and taking the focus of some articles to different areas that may not have been covered in the past. I can see the value in a newsletter that steps out and is willing to mix it up a little by offering something outside the framework of bettering ourselves by strictly focusing on work related topics. I have included a section of the newsletter called "Out of Bounds" that will have content to which we can link information and make what we want to share boundless. In this issue I have included a couple of


podcasts that I enjoy for the simple reason that have challenged me to think differently or learn something new on a subject I thought I knew already.

I also wanted to include something that could benefit our affiliate members and those that manage to get away from work and play golf. "Life on the Road" will focus on food opportunities in a given area or a favorite restaurant. I asked Jeff Roberts to give us his favorite restaurants and food items and I may have to turn it into his own column, needless to say Jeff likes some good food! I think we can all benefit from his experience.

In closing, I hope that I can reach out to some of you for content for upcoming newsletters. It can be anything from an article to research you are doing on your course or in a university plot. Are you about to start a project or restore some features on your golf course? Do you have a story to tell or a great photo of your course? I'd love to hear from you! •



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**2: put in good condition**  
**3: to restore**




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# Executive Director's Report

By **MARC CONNERLY**, *GCSANC Executive Director*

Quite often when I prepare to write my Executive Director's report, I must take a few moments to consider the topic and on what priorities I want to focus. This time around, there was no such question in my mind; for better or for worse, the priority is painfully clear, and it is W-A-T-E-R.

Since the middle of March, a huge chunk of my time has been consumed with representing the golf industry's interests before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), both in writing and verbally; responding to media inquiries; responding to member requests for assistance, clarification or information; and attempting to disseminate information and direct members to resources that will help them understand the requirements and assist them in working with their water providers.

As someone who has worked with local and state government entities for many years, I can tell you unequivocally that despite the dire conditions, things could be much worse, and there are a number of positives that can be derived from recent events.

First, and maybe most importantly, pleas from the golf industry for flexibility in irrigation have been almost universally accommodated. I am unaware of any municipality that is imposing strict time of day or day of week restrictions, and both the SWRCB and the Governor's staff have unconditionally stated that they understand our need for flexibility. If your district is leaning towards a more stringent interpretation that includes inflexible irrigation scheduling, please let me know and we'll step in to help in negotiating a more palatable solution.

Second, the golf industry has very rapidly established a presence, a rapport, and a favorable standing at the state level. Soon after our testimony before the Control Board in late March, we were able to secure representatives from SWRCB to present a webinar on water to GCSANC members, and to participate in a call with industry leaders explaining the next phase of regulations that will be voted on in just a few days. It's apparent that not only do they see us as key stakeholders, but as partners with a willingness to contribute to a positive solution and a track record of conservation.

Golf has also gained a spot on the Governor's radar, as evidenced by a recent request by the Governor to have CAG President Chris Thomas of the Northern California PGA join him and roughly 19 representatives from other industries to discuss what each industry is doing to conserve water.

Third, the water crisis has provided us the forum to share our message, and what I am hearing is that industry spokespersons statewide are expressing that message with consistency and uniformity, and it is being received and conveyed very favorably in the media. Most media outlets seem to "get it" that we have been on the front edge of conservation for many years, that we are a business that provides a substantial employment base, and that we are a significant player in the California economy. In fact, in both print and on the radio, I have seen and heard more criticism of and scrutiny given to other industries (i.e., agriculture), and less criticism of golf.

In addition to the obvious negative that we are still facing the very harsh reality of an historic water shortage, with the hot months ahead of us and no end in sight, are there other negatives that have come out of recent regulatory activities and the Governor's April 1 Executive Order?

Unfortunately for those courses on well water, the answer is "yes." Courses served by well water were exempt from previous iterations of the emergency water regulations, but will be required to conserve under the requirements that the SWRCB will be considering and almost certainly approving this week. The level of savings required varies statewide, from as low as 8% off of 2013 usage, to as much as a 36% reduction below 2013 usage. These "tiered" savings numbers are designed to account for conservation that has already taken place in parts of the state, rather than requiring all parts of the state to conserve uniformly, thereby essentially ignoring conservation that has already occurred.

On a final note, GCSANC has formed the Northern California Golf Industry Water Conservation Coalition to act as an information source and to assist superintendents in working with their local water providers. Among other things, the coalition will be creating a database of water providers, and will research and summarize the policies and requirements of providers in our coverage area.

You can also find further information and resources pertaining to the water regulations, drought contingency plans, examples of the "Alternative Means of Compliance" in effect in parts of the state, plus a recording of the April 20 webinar with SWRCB staff, and more on the GCSANC website at <http://www.gcsanc.com/education/water-issues/>. •



## Assistant's Corner: Get Involved!

By **PETE BACHMAN**, *Assistant Superintendent, Pebble Beach Company*

When I sat down to write the "Assistant's Corner," I knew I wanted to focus on the importance of Assistant Superintendent involvement in local and national industry organizations. However, short of preaching the same old garbage, I was lacking a creative angle. Luckily, I was able to bounce some ideas off my playing partners at the most recent USGA NCGA GCSANC conference and golf outing at Poppy Hills. After hearing my frustration with lack of literary creativity, long-time Superintendent Dick Rudolph spoke his mind. He said, "Pete, I think it's simple. Why don't you speak about why you got involved in GCSANC, and what benefits you have experienced thus far? Talk about what Assistants stand to gain from involvement in industry organizations."

So, the idea was born. The following is a brief synopsis of why I chose to get involved, and why I believe all assistants should make an effort to join their local chapter, and get involved in the various industry-related organizations.

- **Education**

Being involved in GCSANC allows you to be ahead of the curve when it comes to industry knowledge. Sharing ideas and BMPs with colleagues allows us to get better at our own jobs. In addition, the chapter works diligently to stay on the cutting edge when it comes to industry issues and proactively keeps members informed on impending "hot topics."

- **Networking**

We hear it all the time, but it's crucial. Being involved in the local chapter allows you plentiful opportunities to expand your network. Rubbing elbows aside, networking allows you to stay informed on the latest industry trends and challenges.

- **Career Advancement**

Let's face it, the game of golf isn't growing, it's shrinking. The job market is tight, and career advancement isn't as rapid as it once was. Assistant Superintendents need to get out there and show their faces. Be involved in local organizations and make sure people know who you are.

- **Give Back**

Sometimes this is the hardest pill to swallow; life is busy. But this industry puts food on our tables. Everyone needs to consider giving of their time to the local chapter at some point during their career. Give back in hopes that your efforts will positively impact the industry in some shape or form and create a better future for all of us.

Recently, the GCSANC Board voted to reduce significantly the cost of annual dues for Assistant Superintendents. The Board realizes that many budgets won't fully fund memberships for assistants, and that some would have to pay out of pocket. We hope this encourages more involvement from Assistant Superintendents. The value is certainly there.

In closing, I hope to see more and more assistants at local and national events. This October, the NCGA will again host the Assistant Superintendent Bootcamp at Poppy Hills. It's a two day educational seminar specifically tailored for Assistants. If you're looking for an opportunity to "get involved," it's a great way to break the ice. More details, with specific dates, will be available soon. I hope to see you there. •

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## From the Field

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

The marketing department at GCSAA has been busy this spring creating the "Thank a Golf Course Superintendent" promotional campaign. The campaign is aimed at the country's 25 million golfers and features a combination of television, radio, internet and print media.

The television spots (15 and 30 seconds) are anchored by 18-time major champion Jack Nicklaus and feature numerous PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and LPGA Tour professionals including Rory McIlroy, Ricky Fowler, Jordan Spieth, Matt Kuchar, Jay Haas, Fred Funk, Michelle Wie and CBS Sports Golf Analyst Nick Faldo. The spots can be viewed in their entirety at <http://www.gcsaa.org/community/chapter-leaders/managing-your-chapter/materials-for-chapter-publications> and will run throughout 2015 on The Golf Channel.

The radio spot (30 seconds) again features Nicklaus thanking golf course superintendents and is running on SiriusXM PGA TOUR Radio (Sirius 208, XM 93) as well as golf radio shows throughout the country. Listen to the spot at <http://www.gcsaa.org/community/chapter-leaders/managing-your-chapter/materials-for-chapter-publications>.

The internet and print campaign features a giveaway for a trip to the 2015 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. Golfers who submit an online thank you note to their local

golf course superintendent are entered into the giveaway. The thank you notes will then be passed onto the mentioned golf course superintendent as well as the superintendent's employer.

The creative campaign is the brainchild of Russell Sypowicz, GCSAA Associate Director of Marketing, and Craig Smith, GCSAA Director of Communications and Media. Both are new to the staff at GCSAA and are making great strides with our marketing and outreach efforts.

In other news, Jenny Pagel-Guile is the new face of the GCSAA Certification Program, replacing Penny Mitchell, who retired in February after 28 years with the organization. Jenny is working to help further develop and grow the CGCS program as well as maintain the certification status.

Twenty-two (22) Certified Golf Course Superintendents were newly certified in 2014, and eight applicants have started the process in 2015. Please feel free to reach out to her directly for questions regarding the application process or eligibility at [JPagel-Guile@gcsaa.org](mailto:JPagel-Guile@gcsaa.org). She wants to hear member feedback in order to provide more directed services.

Thank you for your support of GCSAA, and I hope you all get the opportunity to enjoy some golf this spring. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jjensen@gcsaa.org](mailto:jjensen@gcsaa.org), and make sure to follow me on Twitter @GCSAA\_SW for daily updates from the golf industry. •

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**Questions?** Contact Mischia Wright, Associate Director, EIFG  
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## Education Update

By **Sean Tully**, *Meadow Club*

In early 2015, Cole Thompson joined the Horticulture and Crop Science Department at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, as an Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Science. Cole is a Kansas native, and attended Kansas State University prior to moving to California. He earned a B.S. in Agriculture, with an emphasis in Golf Course Management from Kansas State in 2008. Cole also completed his graduate studies at Kansas State, earning a M.S. in Horticulture in 2011 and a Ph.D. in Horticulture in 2014.

Cole's M.S. research focused on new strategies for dollar spot and silvery-thread moss management in creeping bent grass putting greens, whereas his Ph.D. research centered on cultural and chemical rough bluegrass control strategies and better understanding the physiological and pathological contributors to the decline of the species during the summer.

At Cal Poly, Cole will be responsible for teaching a number of courses, including turf grass culture, management, and physiology. He plans to focus his research efforts on modifying management strategies to alleviate turf grass stress and reduce water use.

Cole is making efforts to grow the turf program and make it a stable and enduring concentration again. Research is already underway with some herbicide tolerance research in cooperation with Dr. Jim Baird at UC-Riverside, along with some research on silvery thread moss control. Efforts are also under way with a cool/warm-season turf grass mixture study aimed to reduce water use by implementing warm-season turf, but maintain color in cooler months with cool-season species.

Keep an eye out for research updates from Cole in forthcoming newsletters. •



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# GCSANC Annual Meeting Award Winner

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Outgoing GCSANC Executive Director Barbara Mikel accepts the 2014 GCSANC President's Award from 2014 GCSANC President Gary Ingram

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## *2014 GCSANC President's Award*

### **Barbara Mikel**

Proudly announced by GCSANC Outgoing President Gary Ingram, the 2014 President's Award was presented to long-time Chapter Manager Barbara Mikel at the association's annual meeting at Metropolitan Golf Course in Oakland, CA.

This particular award is a highly coveted honor bestowed upon an individual who has exemplified excellence in a designated area and serves as a role model for others. This distinction is not an annual honor, but one that is given out on rare occasion at the discretion of the association's president.

Ms. Mikel is a hardworking individual who has demonstrated exceptional efforts during her long and impressive tenure with the association. When she started in 1990, the chapter was going through leadership change. It was Barbara's business acumen coupled with

her strong finance experience that set a foundation from which the chapter could improve and expand.

Barbara has been highly instrumental in nearly every aspect of association management—from detailed financial recordkeeping and membership support to vendor relations and sponsor procurement. Her knack for technology brought the chapter out of the "cavemen days" and into present time. She led the force on creating a new chapter website and worked diligently on the chapter's Thru the Green newsletter, a communications tool that keeps course superintendents informed while also shining a positive light on members and loyal vendors.

When the Chapter's 75th Anniversary was approaching, Barbara played a key role in the planning process. She worked tirelessly on the committee and made sure that the GCSANC history was well-chronicled and that trailblazing chapter members and volunteers were duly recognized.

Over the years, Barbara played a key role in partnerships with allied golf relations. She forged quality relationships with the NCGA, NCPGA, USGA and CAG, as well as with other GCSAA Chapters.

Yes, it was 24 years of giving, planning and pursuing "the best" on behalf of the association for which Barbara will be long-remembered, and thus she is the well-deserving recipient of the 2014 GCSANC President's Award.

The GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award is presented to an individual for their high level of achievement as they uphold quality standards in turfgrass maintenance. Award criteria takes into consideration overall course condition, conservation and environmental factors, course activity and maintenance budget.

# GCSANC Annual Meeting Award Winner

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Tom Doyle, Superintendent at Callippe Preserve, and winner of the 2014 Turfgrass Excellence Award - Public Category

Lahontan Golf Club (Truckee, CA) and Coyote Moon (Truckee, CA), and followed by Dairy Creek GC (San Luis Obispo, CA). Next, it was the NCGA's Poppy Ridge Golf Course (Livermore, CA) where his superintendent internship quickly transformed into assistant-in-training.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Horticulture, with an emphasis in Turfgrass Management and minor in Plant Protection Science from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.

Today, there's always plenty to do at Callippe Preserve. One of Tom's priorities has been water management. In 2014, he reduced irrigation by nearly 28% over the prior year (with a mandatory minimum 25% cut in place). He implemented recycled water delivery via water trucks to the irrigation pond, and reduced irrigation in out-of-play areas and course perimeters.

This upscale municipal course consists of tees, fairways, and rough of Perennial Ryegrass/Poa; greens are Dominant plus Bentgrass/Poa. Recent projects include green complex renovation for holes #11 and #14, and a fairway bunker complex on #10, plus a native fescue area expansion for water conservation.

From its inception, this Brian Costello-designed course was specially created as an environmentally friendly facility, sensitive to the surrounding open space that includes wetlands, a trail system, and endangered species habitat. More than 20 land management plans govern the cooperative project in which the golf course is situated. Callippe is an Audubon Sanctuary Certified Golf Course and has been recognized as a winner on three previous occasions, earning Golf Digest's Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. At the 2015 Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, Texas, the Callippe agronomic team earned its 4th ELGA honor.

In support of Chapter education, Tom hosted a PoaCure Demonstration Open House with Dr. Baird from UC Riverside and has conducted Wetting Agent Trials on the Callippe practice putting green.

We commend Tom for his excellent work at Callippe Preserve, and also, that of his boss and mentor, Mike Garvale, who was bestowed the Turfgrass Excellence Award in 1987.

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## *2014 Turfgrass Excellence Award - Public Category*

### **Tom Doyle**

*Callippe Preserve Golf Course, Pleasanton, CA*

This year's winner in the public category, Tom Doyle, is the Golf Course Superintendent at Callippe Preserve, a busy municipal golf course owned by the City of Pleasanton, where he's had the pleasure of working under the tutelage of Director of Agronomy Mike Garvale, CGCS.

Tom, now in his 6th year at Callippe Preserve, remains committed to fostering a positive work environment for his crew; one that is based on mutual trust and open communication, ultimately breeding success for this CourseCo-managed facility.

He pre-launched his career with interesting intern assignments at mountain facilities like

*Continued on page 12*

# GCSANC Annual Meeting Award Winner

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Sean Tully, Class "A" Superintendent at Meadow Club and recipient of the 2014 Turfgrass Excellence Award - Private Category

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## *2014 Turfgrass Excellence Award Private Category*

**Sean Tully**  
*Meadow Club, Fairfax, CA*

This year's winner in the private category is Sean Tully, who is the Class "A" Golf Course Superintendent at Meadow Club, where he oversees golf course maintenance for this stunning Alister McKenzie-designed course.

Prior to his tenure at Meadow Club, Sean worked as an Irrigation Tech at River Valley Ranch Golf Club (Carbonate, CO), and participated in an internship program at the Broadmoor Golf Club (Colorado Springs, CO).

At the Meadow Club, Sean has the pleasure of working with his mentor and Director of Ground Maintenance, David Sexton, CGCS, a former GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award recipient.

When it comes to management style, Sean's philosophy is to develop a workable plan and make sure that he and his staff implement the plan seamlessly. He encourages his crew of 27 to ask questions; the more questions, the better. He also believes good communication with club members is extremely important.

The well-maintained Meadow Club consists of fairways—Ryegrass, Poa and Bentgrass—and greens that are Poa and Bentgrass. On-course projects include the continuation of a tree management program which has helped improve course conditions while opening up vistas. When it comes to the resource of water, Sean is currently focused on prolonging the life of the current irrigation system, and continues to closely monitor the use of water while still providing firm and fast playing conditions for his club members.

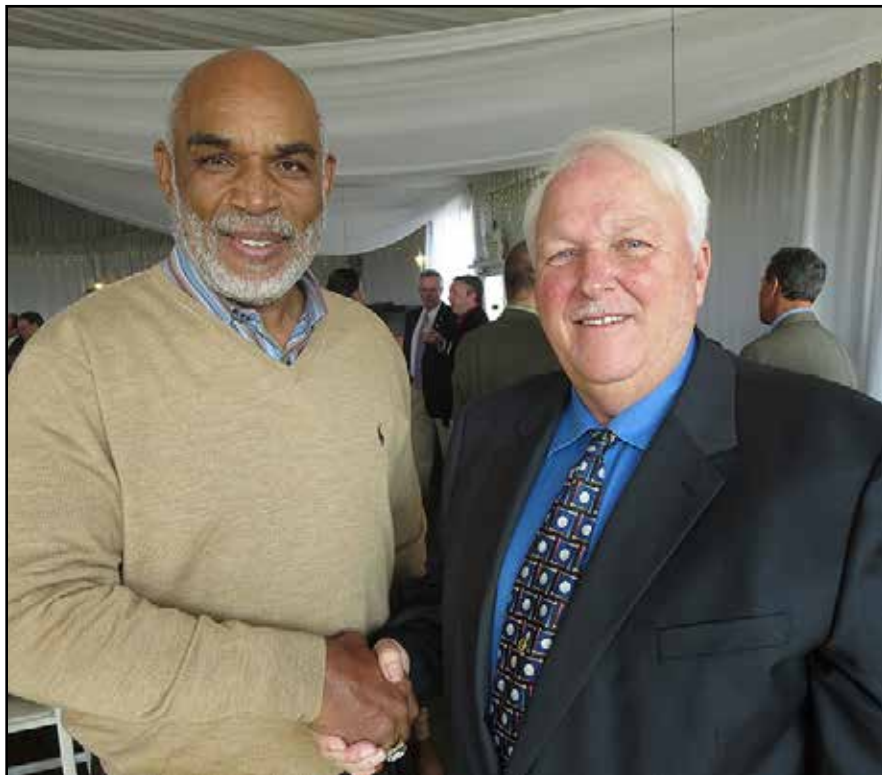
In addition to being a golf course superintendent, Sean has often been described as an "historian" due to his deep passion for golf history. He has an intensive golf library and his peers (and other history buffs) call on him regularly for insight regarding classic golf architecture. He's been a contributor to various industry publications, including the Chapter's Thru the Green newsletter, and, in fact, recently assumed the role of Editor for the electronic publication.

Under Sean's guidance, it's no surprise that Meadow Club continues to maintain its historical significance. Sean also gives back beyond his own club through his support of the initiative to Save Sharp Park, a MacKenzie-designed public golf course in Pacifica, CA, which has come under threat of closure in recent years.

Sean is a proud member of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association (BIGGA), and if wishes come true, we might find him this summer on the BIGGA support team at The Open Championship at St. Andrews.

# GCSANC Annual Meeting Award Winner

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2014 GCSANC George Santana Distinguished Service Award winner Gary Carls, CGCS, is joined by Annual Meeting keynote speaker and NFL Hall of Famer Raymond Chester.

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## *2014 George Santana Distinguished Service Award*

**Gary K. Carls**  
*CGCS, San Jose, CA*

The George Santana Distinguished Service Award is presented to a dedicated chapter member, for their long-standing commitment to the GCSANC and the turf care industry.

This year's recipient of the George Santana Distinguished Service Award is Gary K. Carls, CGCS. This highly-respected GCSANC member has been involved with the game of golf since his high school years when he caddied at Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan. During college he packed the bag at Bay Hill. He is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture and a Certificate in Turfgrass Management.

In the early 80's, a job opportunity as a Construction/Grow-In Superintendent became available at Shoreline Golf Links (Mountain View, CA), so Gary wrapped up his construction job in Michigan and headed West. Following Shoreline, he worked as an Irrigation Specialist at Los Altos Golf & Country Club. Next, he served as the golf course maintenance director at San Jose Municipal Golf Course and Santa Teresa Golf Course (San Jose, CA).

Gary completed his formal golf maintenance career in 2014, after 15 years of dedicated service as Golf Operation Manager for the City of Sunnyvale, where he did a stellar job managing a staff of 16 and maintaining two busy public facilities— Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course and Sunken Gardens Golf Course.

A certified golf course superintendent, Gary served on the chapter's Board of Directors for five years and was elected president in 2000. During his 30-plus years with the GCSANC, Gary served on several committees, including 20+ years on the Institute/Education Committee. Additionally, he served on the GCSAA National Board for two years (and on its Scholarship, Membership and Education Committees) and for five years on the California State Board.

Gary's work expands beyond the association. He is a founding member of the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), and served on its inaugural Water Committee. Today, he continues to serve in a leadership role as president of the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative (OTEI), an organization that introduces youth to careers in sports turf and golf course management.

Because of his professional acumen, strong mentoring skills and overall dedicated service to the association, in 1997 Gary was named Golf Course Superintendent of the Year, and in 2004 he was bestowed the George Santana Distinguished Service Award, which makes this recent award a well-deserved repeat.

Thank you, Gary, for your contributions to our association and to community as you have made a tremendous difference in the lives of others.

# GCSANC Annual Meeting Award Winner

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Coby Byers (R), winner of the 2014 GCSANC Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award, is joined by CGCOA Secretary-Treasurer Brian Boyer (Cinnabar Hills Golf Club).

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## *2014 Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award*

### **Coby Byers**

*Territory Manager, Turf Star, Inc.*

The Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award is presented to an individual who has contributed in extraordinary ways to the association and its members.

This year GCSANC congratulates Coby Byers, recipient of the Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award. Coby is a territory manager with Turf Star, Inc., a leader in selling and servicing specialized equipment and irrigation systems for landscape and large turf areas. His territory spans from Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties to Monterey and San Benito counties.

Prior to his tenure with Turf Star, Coby worked at Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation in Alabama and Georgia. For the past 12 years he has been with Toro distribution, commencing in Georgia, then Alabama, and now in Northern California.

Coby enjoys his position with Turf Star, where he focuses on customer relations and consults on equipment applications as they relate to specific duties associated with golf course management. Because of his superior work, Toro recognized him with their prestigious Green Jacket Award.

Coby understands the meaning of “giving back,” having served in the U.S. Army from 1992-1998. During his military tenure he was stationed in Germany; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort McClellan, Alabama; and Fort Eustis, Virginia.

As for his actual work assignment, Coby was a nuclear biological and chemical warfare specialist and Chinook helicopter mechanic and crew chief. Those roles probably led to his fascination with restoring World War II fighters, trainers and transport planes.

Coby and Turf Star give back to golf and community in various ways and continue to be long-time supporters of the GCSAA, GCSANC, as well as other regional chapters and the California State Chapter.

Each year on Saturday of Master's weekend, Coby (with the help of his wife) hosts a gathering for assistant superintendents who work within his Turf Star territory. The popular Southern home-style event is now in its 4th year and is enjoyed immensely by superintendents and their spouses.

Coby is a supporter of Wounded Warriors and The First Tee. He has volunteered his time at the Frys.com Open and also enjoys helping cook for the volunteer crew during AT&T tournament week.

We congratulate Coby and thank him and the team at Turf Star for their loyal support of the GCSANC.

# GCSANC Annual Meeting Award Winner

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2014 GCSANC Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award winner Kevin Breen  
(La Rinconada Country Club, Los Gatos, CA)

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## *2014 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award*

**Kevin Breen**  
*CGCS, La Rinconada Country Club*  
*Los Gatos, CA*

The Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award is presented to a GCSANC member who has made contributions for the betterment of the association, its members and the overall profession.

The GCSANC is pleased to announce that Kevin Breen, CGCS, of La Rinconada Country Club is the worthy recipient of the 2014 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award.

Kevin launched his career in the turf care industry as an assistant superintendent at Pagosa Springs Golf Club in Colorado and secured his first superintendent job at Los Alamos County Golf Course in New

Mexico. Just prior to La Rinconada (where he's been since 2011) Kevin served as Director of Maintenance at Lahontan Golf Club (Truckee, CA), a position he respectfully held for 14 years. Today, Kevin's duties at La Rinconada are ones typically associated with a Head Superintendent position: budgeting, personnel management, project planning, and implementation.

When it comes to education, he's done double-duty. Kevin earned a BS degree in Horticulture from Colorado State University, and a second degree, a BS in Meteorology, from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He is also a Certified Golf Course Superintendent.

With a committed crew of 19, Kevin keeps busy at La Rinconada. His general agronomic philosophy is to grow only as much grass as is needed to recover from damage and maintain the surfaces properly for the game of golf. He believes color can come from many other sources than nitrogen.

His management philosophy is simple: "If I am doing my job well, I am in a position to support my staff with resources that enable us to meet the expectations of our club members." Kevin makes sure his staff has goals that are attainable and offers the necessary support so crew members can meet their goals.

Kevin's involvement with the association spans committees, boards and task forces. He was an active member (and former president) of the California GCSAA Board of Directors and was also a California Chapter delegate. He served on the GCSAA Strategic Communications Committee, GCSAA Board Policy Oversight Task Force and the Competency Task Force, plus three years on the Environmental Programs Committee. Kevin also served on the Sierra Nevada Chapter Board of Directors. In recent years, he's enjoyed an annual assignment as guest instructor at the Golf Industry Show (GIS).

Kevin is a supporter of the Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Fund, and while attending the event last June claimed honors as champion in the Gross Division. In November, Kevin hosted a Northern California South Bay meeting that focused on the critical topic of water.

As for recreation, Kevin has volunteered as a basketball and soccer coach, but to keep in shape he competes in trail running races; there have been a few marathons and half-marathons, too.

Awards are nothing new for Kevin; he's received the California Golf Writers Environmental Award and is a multi-year recipient of the Golf Digest: Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.



# Northern California World Tournament Golf Mecca

By **TIM SEDGLEY**, *CGCS Poplar Creek Golf Course*

All the eyes of the golf world are focused on San Francisco in late April and early May.

Three much anticipated championships will be played within a three mile radius of each other. All three of these clubs are proud to report that they are solely using recycled water for irrigation during our extreme California drought. All three host Superintendents are members of GCSANC.

Zachary Ohsann is the host Golf Superintendent at Lake Merced Golf Club, which hosted the Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic April 20-26. Zachary has been Superintendent at Lake Merced for three years. Eighteen year-old Lydia Ko, currently ranked #1 in the world, was the defending champion, and won for a second year in a row at the Lake Merced event in dramatic fashion. Lake Merced originally opened for play in 1922 and has been re-designed several times, most notably by Alister Mackenzie and Rees Jones. Zach's possible biggest challenge is to prepare the course to tour specifications with no additional help from volunteers. Hopefully Zach will be able to take some time off after all the overtime hours required for hosting this event. The greens were seeded to a bent grass blend of 007/Tyee and T1. The tees, fairways, and rough are a Perennial Rye and Poa annua mix.

Kevin Teahan is the host Golf Superintendent at TPC Harding Park, which is hosting the World Match Play Golf Championship from April 29th to May 3rd. Kevin has been the Harding Park Superintendent for seven years. This event features the 64 top-ranked professionals in the world. All of the Tournament contestants will play a minimum of three matches to decide the 16 low qualifiers, who then play elimination matches until a champion is decided. The winner's share of

the purse is \$1,750,000. With all the drama from the new format and some heated discussions between Keegan Bradley and Miguel Angel Jimenez, it was the domination of Rory solidifying his place as the current #1 golfer in the world.

Harding Park was redesigned in 2002, expanding the course to 7,200 yards, which attracted the Presidents Cup, The Schwab Cup, and currently the Match Play Championship. These events are followed by a PGA Championship and another Presidents Cup in a few years. During the last renovation in 2013 through 2014 the greens were sodded to a bent grass blend of 007 & Tyee. The bunkers were also renovated. The tees, fairways, and rough are Perennial Rye and Poa Annua grass mix. San Francisco residents have the privilege of play Harding Park Golf Course for 25% of the general public rate.

Troy Flanagan, Golf Superintendent at the Olympic Club, is hosting the inaugural USGA Four Ball Championship May 2-6. Troy has been overseeing Olympic Club's 45 holes for the past year. This is a two man team best ball event. The USGA received 2,234 entrees for the event, resulting in 128 two man qualifying teams. The Olympic Club continues to host USGA events, which have included five U.S. Opens and three U.S. Amateur Championships. Troy's biggest challenge is preparing two courses simultaneously for 256 players on consecutive days. Other challenges are producing 36 uniform bent grass greens for the competition. The greens were seeded to a bent grass blend of 007 & Tyee during the last renovation. The tees, fairways and roughs are a Perennial Ryegrass & Poa annua mix.

This may be the last opportunity anywhere to witness three premier golf championships in one geographical area in a three-week time frame. •



Lydia Ko (far right) and other LPGA members practice for the Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic at Lake Merced Golf Club in San Francisco



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# Taking Control of your Golf Course Control System Replacement

## *What to consider and how to avoid surprise expenses*

By **CRAIG F. ZELLERS**, CGIA, Just Add Water LLC

Remember the old adage, “Things they don’t teach you in College”? This statement applies daily in the life of a Golf Course Superintendent. When it comes to an irrigation control system replacement, this adage holds especially true. There are multiple factors to consider and steps in the process that you may not have thought of or heard of from friends and vendors in the industry. Failing to account and plan for one or more of these factors can rapidly increase the project time and expense. Both factors, additional project time and expense, never sit well with ownership. The following information and project steps are intended to help you determine all expenses and plan for a successful satellite replacement project.

### **Step 1: Station and satellite count**

When planning and budgeting for a satellite controller upgrade, the first step is to count controller locations and the amount of existing and desired stations. If stations are doubled up or more and all wiring was run into the satellite, now is the opportunity to consider breaking them up in order to achieve more control over watering time per sprinkler. It’s a time consuming task but it’s important to count the total station wires in each satellite. Or if the central database is accurate, that can be used as your source for total sprinklers and stations per satellite. Breaking up double or triple stations is considered adding stations, which can increase satellite and installation costs along with the necessary programming in the central station. In addition, any old As-Built/Irrigation maps will need to be updated with the new station sequences. The big payoff is that you will have more control of your irrigation distribution if you can achieve individual head control.

### **Step 2: Should you install new cement pads or use the existing pads?**

The next step is to determine if the existing cement pads and bolt patterns can be used. Existing pads can be used under the following criteria:

- You will be replacing old satellites with new ones from the same manufacturer
- Each satellite will be replaced one for one and the combining of satellites is not a factor
- The bolts are in good condition and extend high enough from the cement pad for sufficient mounting with the new thicker bases of most new satellites
- The cement pads are in good condition and will last another 10-15 years

- Wiring in and around existing satellites and pads are not problematic.

Existing pads can be used despite poor bolt conditions or if you are switching irrigation manufacturers. This is possible by drilling new bolt holes in the same template pattern as the new satellites. Strong anchor bolts like redheads can be used to secure the new satellites to the old pads. As technology improves and golf irrigation manufacturers improve their product lines, do some research as to what options you may have. Consider your future expectations as well as your existing situation.

Typically, new cement pads and sweeps are needed when the goal is to combine two or more satellites into one. Questions to consider in determining if new pads are needed include:

- Are the existing sweeps undersized with no room for additional wires?
- How long are the existing wires and will many wires need splices?
- Is it time to check and repair much of the wiring problems typically found around the satellites?
- What is the cost of new pads versus use of old pads and what are the benefits and negatives?



Old pad ready for new satellite



Preparing for new cement



New pad and satellite ready for wire installation

### Step 3: Determine ancillary project costs

#### Central Computer Programming

Should you be breaking up doubled wires into new stations or changing the station sequencing, there will be irrigation central programming needed. At the same time, your existing irrigation maps will need to be changed. If you utilize any of the electronic maps resident in the software, those will need to be changed as well.

If you are replacing an older Toro LTC or NW8000 satellite with V.P. or E-OSMAC, you may need to change the hydraulic flow tree /zones within the central. This is due to the fact that some of the older systems were programmed using program based flows versus station based flow. Without explaining this in detail, it's important to understand how your

hydraulics are programmed and to know that all the new control systems are station based flow. Often we find the previously programmed hydraulic tree was not done correctly or was not programmed for optimized performance of the central and the entire irrigation system. These two problems alone can lead to:

- Low or excessive pressure
- A long watering window
- Cycling pumps at the pump station
- Diminished life expectancy of piping and other irrigation components
- Excessive expense for water and or electricity
- Poor distribution uniformity leading to inconsistent wet and dry areas.

You may need to completely rebuild your programs and hydraulics, which should provide you with more control over your irrigation distribution. Don't hesitate to call an irrigation consultant to help determine what changes, if any, may be needed.

*Continued on page 20*



Poor distribution

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### New Central Irrigation Computer

If you are still using an older computer or outdated software, consider replacing it with the latest technology offered by your desired manufacturer. This may be mandatory depending upon which control system you desire to install. If you are switching from a hardwire communication system to a radio based, there is additional hardware needed. You should also consider the ease of programming and the dependability of the existing central components.

### Wire Tracking / Fault Finding & Repair

It is beneficial to factor in the costs to wire track and locate those cut wires that have forced the irrigators to double or triple up stations in the field. If you have the proper troubleshooting equipment or can purchase it as a project cost, the payoff in course conditions will only benefit your effort to improve course conditions. Many courses have the equipment but the irrigators have no training or the desire to use the technology. If this is the case, add a little to the budget for an educational equipment training day.

### Additional GPS Mapping

On many courses, satellites, sprinklers and acreage have been added or changed since the original design or maps were created. On many projects we discover that there are no As-Built maps or they were never provided following construction. If you are changing satellites and station numbers, it is the ideal time to have additions and feature changes, GPS mapped and incorporated into a new irrigation map.

### Irrigation Inventory Audit

Over time many sprinklers and or nozzles have changed, rendering the central database information unreliable.



Typically most changes in the field have a negative effect on system pressure and performance. In an inventory audit, every station is activated and sprinkler data recorded. This includes:

- Satellite and station number
- Sprinkler type & nozzle
- Arc (what it should be)
- Hole # and the area irrigated
- Average sprinkler pressure (recorded with pitot tube)
- Sprinkler and or valve problem report.

The creation of a sprinkler/ valve problem report, listing the needed repairs, can help with determining future irrigation

budgets. The data collected in the inventory audit should be compared and changed as needed in the central.

### Step 4: Acquire estimates

Once you have the station and satellite counts and know your direction regarding the pads, it's time to get prices from distributors and installation contractors. Due to the "unknown factors" once excavation begins, always include a little bit extra in the budget. Additionally, talk to other Superintendents, contractors and distributor representatives so you have an awareness regarding the possible "unknown" expenses. Some courses elect to plan and install the new control system in house. Careful consideration should be given to this option. The experience and knowledge of the irrigation personnel is a key determining factor. The time commitment to completing the project is vital due to the fact that the satellite will not be operable for whatever time it takes for the irrigator to complete each satellite. Typically many irrigators are too busy with day to day maintenance to commit to a project that requires 3-18 man hours per satellite. Also consider the time of year, ownership expectations, and your ultimate goal when it comes to irrigation control.

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## Step 5: Purpose, presentation and payoff

### Reasons to Replace a Control System Include;

- Older, failing satellites that require costly repairs, or have been discontinued and cause excessive downtime on a regular basis
- Satellite electronics or the satellite enclosures are rusting
- Existing pads that are severely cracked or leaning and about to collapse
- Older dial type satellites that fail to run the stations for the run times or starts as programmed
- The course is undergoing some type of renovation that includes irrigation changes
- Existing communication wire is problematic and unreliable (Go-radio based communication)
- You want more control over your irrigation system.

### Presenting the Project to Ownership

When presenting a control system upgrade to membership or the course owner, it's important to be prepared and able to provide them with realistic expectations. Be prepared to answer many questions, such as:

- "Why is a new control system needed?"
- "What benefits will be derived from the new control system?"
- "What is this project going to cost?"
- "Who will perform the work and how long does it take?"
- "Can we wait another few years, and what are the negatives if we do?"

### NOTE:

If your irrigation system is an older block system with 2, 3, 4 or more sprinklers tied into one electric valve, it is highly unlikely that a new control system alone will enhance turf and soil conditions. This needs to be conveyed to ownership so expectations regarding course conditions are realistic.

### Payoff

The payoff or return on investment can be measured in dollars and course conditions. There are numerous benefits, all of which can be calculated and conveyed. To give you some ideas, they can include:

- More consistent course conditions from tee to green and hole to hole
- An increase in membership or public play
- A decrease in electrical and water expense
- A decrease in repair and maintenance labor
- A decrease in budget for irrigation repair and materials
- Extend the life of all underground irrigation components



Getting the power and station wires in order (before)



Final Product with valve boxes and splices in conduit

### Step 6: Additional considerations

- What is the best season to commence the project?
- How long will it take and how long will a given satellite be out of order?
- Is future expansion possible with renovations? Consider purchasing higher count satellites that allow for expansion. Additionally, install larger sweeps that provide room for future wires.
- If budgets allow, purchase one extra satellite in case of fire, lightning or golf car damage.

Finally, consider an evaluative site visit by an experienced golf irrigation specialist that will provide a written report with recommendations and reliable budget numbers. And as we always tell our clients, "give me a call if you have questions. Calls are free and we don't do change orders"

Craig F. Zellers is a principal of Zellers-Plageman "Just Add Water" LLC. (JAW). The company provides "turn-key" irrigation consulting and contractor services including; Control System Installation, Design, GPS Mapping, Programming, Water Audits, Turf Removal Programs and Troubleshooting & Repair. JAW has installed over 350 satellites. Craig is a Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor and holds a California C-27 Landscape Contractor license. He has worked on golf courses for 37 years and is a former CGCS. Craig can be reached at (415) 342-1030 or [craig@zellers-plageman.com](mailto:craig@zellers-plageman.com). •

# Designing a Finish: Chambers Bay

By **JAY BLASI**, *Jay Blasi Design*

Chambers Bay is a true links course located in University Place, Washington. The course occupies a former sand and gravel mine on the shores of Puget Sound. The course opened in 2007 and was the site of the 2010 U.S. Amateur. In 2015 Chambers Bay will play host to the U.S. Open. Chambers Bay will mark the first time the U.S. Open has been played in the Pacific Northwest, the first time the U.S. Open has been played on all fescue turf, and it is the first new course since the 1970's to host the U.S. Open.

The course holds special meaning for me. I served as Project Architect for Robert Trent Jones II, and spent the majority of my time from 2004-2007 contributing to the design of the course. It was my first project, and while working on the opening of the course I met my wife. A few years later we were married on the 15th tee.

Rather than just detailing one hole, I wanted to describe the finishing sequence at Chambers Bay so we could touch on routing and grading in addition to detailed hole design.

As golf architects we design on a number of different levels, but in general we can break them down to:

- Routing (Where the holes go on the property)
- Hole design (Where the tees, bunkers, greens, fairways go)
- Feature design (What the tees, bunkers, greens, fairways look and play like)

## Routing

At Chambers Bay we routed the finishing holes to play in three different directions; have a par 3, a par 4, and par 5; and we tried to highlight some of the site's most unique features. Of the natural features that we wanted to highlight in the routing, most notable was Puget Sound. In addition, we wanted to feature some big dunes, the Lone Fir, and showcase some mining structures left from the sand and gravel mine. Here is how the finishing stretch unfolds from a routing standpoint:

15: 132 yards, par 3 – Played downhill with Lone Fir and Puget Sound behind (West)

16: 402 yds, par 4 – Played level with Puget Sound on the right (South)

17: 218 yards, par 3 – Played level with Puget Sound on the right and mining structures behind (South)

18: 570 yards, Par 5 – Played slightly uphill with mining structures at the tee (East)

## Hole Design

Whenever possible we try to let natural landforms guide the strategy for the design of a hole. On the closing stretch, that was difficult given the way the mining operations had left the land.

Hole 15: This area was an old wash basin from the mining operation. As such, we transformed the bottom of the basin

into a waste bunker and the edges or walls of the old basin were reshaped into the tees and green complex.

While length is an issue throughout Chambers Bay, the 15th was designed to be our short par and dynamic 3 (a la 7 at Pebble or 11 at Pacific Dunes). Given the short nature of the hole, the green was designed to be on the small side, surrounded by trouble and feature some tricky hole locations. A kicker slope was created left of the green to provide a bailout and feed balls into the back left portion of the green, but the slope was protected by a small pot bunker.

Hole 16: This hole was a major transformation. The right side of the hole was lowered 15-20 feet during construction and the left side of the hole was raised about 20 feet. This tipped the hole towards the water and allowed us to put good sand on top of poor soils.

The strategy of the hole starts at the green and works backwards. A tiny green is set parallel to play and features a sliver of green in the back right. The fairway was set up to offer options. Players who play safe to the left off the tee will be faced with a semi-blind approach to the tiny green and no bailout. Players who challenge the big waste area on the right will shorten the hole and gain a better angle into the deep but skinny green. The fairway hollow left of the green as well as the bunkers on each side of the green are treacherous should be avoided at all costs.

This hole can be played at 400 yards or moved up to about 320, providing great flexibility in championship setup.

Hole 17: This hole was partially created in order to harvest good sand. Where we wanted to put the tee was a big sand dune. So we chopped off the edge of the dune, benched in a tee and harvested that good sand to use as a cap for other areas of the course. The green complex was created on top of an old flat area in the mine.

This green is wide but not too deep and features a high right side and low left side. The right side is surrounded by trouble and very hard to hit while the left side sits in a bowl. Given the difficulty of the green, fairway bailouts were provided short, left and long. The best miss might be over the green.

Hole 18: This was another big transformation. The land for 18 was an old parking lot and weigh station in the mine. There was even an aluminum building in the middle of what is now the fairway. This area needed to be raised in order to allow for positive drainage. We used material from other portions of the site to raise this zone. In addition to the golf hole itself we created a large dune that would serve as a base for bleachers.

Since we knew that we wanted to host championships from the start this hole (and many others) were designed with tees that are long ribbons of turf. The tee blocks themselves can be placed anywhere within these corridors. On hole 18 there is more than 100 yards of potential tee space. This means the hole

can be a par 4 or par 5, and it will be played both ways during the U.S. Open.

Given that the hole can be a par 4 or 5, we created a very large green with multiple sections. That way the setup team can find a hard hole location or an easy one. The fairway of the hole snakes through a series of waste areas and bunkers that are set on diagonals. On the 2nd shot of the par 5, players must avoid a deep central bunker within the fairway. Depending on setup, this hole could yield a 3 or a 7 on the final day.

### Feature Design

Given the climate and the soils, we wanted Chambers Bay to look and play like a true links golf course. The fescue turf and the sand cap allow for firm and fast conditions year round. The course was specifically designed to have the ball run out. The tees, greens and fairways are all the same grass. There was no rough, just one big field of fescue to play from. The fairways and greens were meant to bleed into each other seamlessly.

The slopes and undulations around the greens are critical to the success of a players round. We strived to make those features look and feel as if they were created by Mother Nature even though most of them were sculpted by machines. The humps and bumps within fairways were meant to be irregular, bunker edges were craggily created, and the dunes were meant to appear windswept and eroded.

Because the mine was so big, the scale of the property overwhelms people. With that in mind, many of the course features are very big. Waste areas are acres in size, traditional bunkers are big, fairways are up to 100 yards wide and because

there is 200 feet of elevation change, some of the fairway slopes are over 15 feet.

### Issues for Superintendents

Mowing patterns – Perhaps the most common thing to change on golf courses is mowing patterns. Often this occurs over time with no intent to change anything. It is important to study the fairway lines on a course regularly. Architects lay out the course with certain mowing patterns in mind and a change in the mowing pattern can have a big impact on strategy. This is most common at green entrances. Often times these are meant to be wide and get narrowed up over time. Narrow entrances forces aerial approaches. Same goes for rough around bunkers. Often times the architect wants the fairway to bleed into the bunker or just a small strip of rough. This routinely gets larger over time and impacts play.

Once a year it is good to check with the designer on mowing patterns.

**Green Edges** – Just like fairway lines, the edges of greens often change over time. This is another area where checking with the architect regularly will help ensure that the design intent and the maintenance are in harmony.

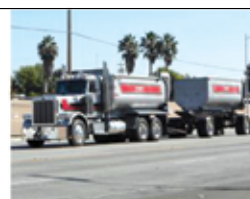
**Sightlines** – Over time as vegetation grows the sightlines of a hole can change. Whether it is the canopy of a tree expanding or native grasses growing up the added growth can block a feature that was previously visible. It is a good idea to have the architect check in regularly to tour the course with the superintendent to study the sightlines. •

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# Out of Bounds

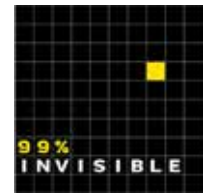
By **SEAN TULLY**, *Meadow Club*

As we work longer days and our schedules only get busier, we lose track of things that we once found important or for which we at least made time. It is important to take some time for yourself and relax, or maybe learn something new and interesting. I have a group of podcasts that I enjoy and find myself drawn to for a perspective that I have been seeking, but had not known that others found interesting too! Put your pen down, click on the link below and take some time for yourself; you deserve it!

## 99% Invisible — Teddy Bears and Shifting Baseline Syndrome

A wonderful podcast out of Oakland that focuses on the design of things using unique story telling techniques. This is a combination of two of my favorite podcasts from 99% Invisible, both by Jon Mooallem, a writer for the New York Times Magazine. One story focuses on the teddy bear and William Howard Taft, and the second just needs to be heard to understand the concept of shifting baseline syndrome.

Polar bears and Martha Stewart, sea turtles versus airplanes; it has it all! It's a bit longer than the others, but Jon definitely shifted some thoughts around in my head with his story and the musical accompaniment. Runtime: 46 min.



## Memory Palace— I Have Not Yet Begun To Rot!

Story telling at its best! So many great stories on this Podcast. Nate DiMeo brings a new dimension to a story or an idea we may have thought we were familiar with. They may be short, but he manages to pack a lot of ideas and imagery that weave a very convincing story. What do you know about John Paul Jones? You might be surprised by the ending. Runtime: 7min. •



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# Life on the Road

By **SEAN TULLY**, *Meadow Club*

Food and traveling don't always go hand in hand. There was a reason why McDonald's did so well for so many years—they produced a consistent product that would allow you to eat the same meal in Florida as in Oregon. No more hit or miss with local food.

Today, things are different with social media sharing comments about good restaurants, and more and more people going to where the good food is. My initial thought was to draw from the knowledge of our affiliate members who work in Northern California. It seems that I hit a gold mine in Jeff Roberts; he has provided me a long list of his favorite restaurants and food choices.

This first offering covers Mid-Peninsula—Santa Cruz—Monterey (plus an East Bay venue for good measure), with more to come in future newsletters. Next time you are on the road for work, off for a little golf, or looking for dinner with the family, you have some more options that used to be the privileged secret of the locals.

## Breakfast

### *Millie's* (Lafayette)

<http://m.mainstreethub.com/millieskitchenca#>

Great huevos rancheros as well as pancakes and waffles. These are only the first course, as you go here for the coffee cake. Make sure to order it at the end of your meal as that way it will be hot with melted butter running down the sides.

### *Nini's* (San Mateo)

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/ninis-coffee-shop-san-mateo>

A very comfortable diner atmosphere with very friendly wait staff. My favorite is the Italian omelette. It's just spicy enough to need a few sips of water, but very easy to enjoy. Make sure to get there before 8:30 on the weekend, as that is what time the line forms. They know it will happen, so they set up a self-serve coffee stand to help those waiting pass the time.

## Lunch

### *Loilis'* (Carmel Valley)

<http://www.iolispizzeria.com>

One of the best sandwiches I have ever had! The chicken caesar is one that you will think about well after you leave. The tender chicken and the wonderful caesar dressing will make you want to head back to Carmel Valley to experience it again.

### *Compagno's Market and Deli* (Monterey)

<http://www.compagnos.com>

There is a reason it will typically take you 15 minutes to order when you decide to tackle one of their sandwiches. A great menu full of the classics, but the one to head there for is the meatball. The sandwiches are made on rolls that are about 7"x9". This is an extra benefit as what you don't finish for lunch, you can have for dinner. If you feel challenged, grab a piece of one of the cakes they offer. Compagno's is located just down the hill from the Presidio of Monterey. Bennet, the owner, treats the soldiers exactly how you would want someone to treat your child if they were working away from home. I have been in the deli when soldiers have brought in their parents to meet Bennet. He always has a kind word for the parents and says how good of a person their son or daughter is. It is never tough to support a business that treats their customers that well.

### *Tacos Moreno* (Santa Cruz)

<https://plus.google.com/114564887224364636833/about?gl=us&hl=en>

One of the best burritos I have found in the Bay area. I like the chicken, but I have heard that the breakfast burritos are awesome. They serve them for lunch, so you don't have to get there early. The carne asada tacos also have a wonderful reputation.

### *Rosita's Taco Stop* (Redwood City)

<http://rositastacostop.net>

Very good burritos and tacos, but you come here for the salsa. The salsa bar features about 25 different choices. What is even cooler is the fact that they arrange them from right to left in order of spice. Dip into the salsas on the left and you will need some napkins and plenty of water to put out the fire. •

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