

THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2015



Hole 2 at Fountaingrove Golf & Athletic Club

Host of the 2015 GCSANC Institute

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On the Cover: Hole 2 at Fountaingrove Golf & Athletic Club, Host of the 2015 GCSANC Institute.

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President's Message: Looking Ahead to the Fourth Quarter of 2015

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

As we head into the final quarter of 2015, we face a mixed bag of progress, status quo, hope, and a possible reprieve.

The progress comes in the form of reports that Californians in the aggregate have exceeded the 25% water reduction goal set by the Governor at the beginning of April. In June, Californians reduced water consumption by more than 27% over the same month in 2013, and in July the savings was greater than 31% as compared to the same month two years ago. This resulted in a cumulative savings of 29.5% compared to the same months in 2013.

The news is a positive for California's businesses and citizens, signaling that the governor's message has been received, and the vast majority are doing their part to conserve. For golf, the positive results mean that the industry can expect no surprises in the way of new water mandates or restrictions in the coming months.

The status quo is continued drought conditions that are exacerbated by summer heat and scattered wildfires. None of that is surprising for California in the summer, but serves as a reminder that despite the positive conservation news, the water crisis is still upon us, and we must remain diligent in our water conservation efforts.

Hope comes in the form of reports from meteorologists and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that we are in an El Niño that is expected to last through the Winter and Spring. While experts say that no two El Niños are the same, and the storm conditions bring with them hazards of another kind (such as flooding), at this point, most Californians welcome any hope of increased precipitation that will restore some normalcy to our lives.

The possible reprieve also deals with water, but in a somewhat different form: Waters of the US (WOTUS). Last month, a District Court in North Dakota imposed an injunction on WOTUS, effectively postponing enforcement of the regulation in 13 states. Unfortunately, California was not among the states that joined the case against WOTUS, but efforts to stop the new requirements continue, and the injunction signals some momentum that could carry over into other states, including California. For more information on WOTUS, including details of the injunction, please visit the GCSAA website (<http://www.gcsaa.org/search?indexCatalogue=full-site&searchQuery=wotus&wordsMode=0>).

Finally, the fourth quarter of the year brings with it forward planning for next year. Part of that planning involves handing the baton to a Board that will continue to lead the association and deal with these and the many other important issues facing our profession and our industry.

If you have an interest in taking a leadership role in GCSANC, we encourage you to raise your hand as a candidate for the 2016 Board. Membership on the Board is a rewarding experience that allows you to work closely with your peers, have a say in the direction of your professional trade association, and hone your knowledge base and leadership skills.

Please contact any member of the Board or Executive Director Marc Connerly with your interest in participating on the 2016 GCSANC Board of Directors.

Thank you for your continued participation in GCSANC, and we hope to see you at Fountaingrove Golf Club in Santa Rosa on October 27.

Jim

Jim Abate - President, GCSANC

NEW MEMBERS

Brio Golf, Ty Butler
Dustin McIntosh, Fountaingrove Golf & Athletic Club
Eric McAlister, The Peninsula Golf & Country Club
Willis Self, VGM CLUB
Jeena Andrews, mOasis
Alea Miehl, FMC

NORCALENDAR

October 27

Institute

*Fountaingrove Country
Club, Santa Rosa*

December 4

Holiday Party

Hyatt Regency Monterey

Join us on October 27 at

Fountaingrove Golf Club in Santa Rosa for this year's GCSANC Institute. The event will begin with registration and continental breakfast at 7:30, with introductions and announcements starting at 8:00, then presentations commencing at 8:30.

We are pleased to have Dr. Ali Harivandi of the UC Cooperative Extension on hand as this year's Master of Ceremonies.

Presentations will include:

- "Introduction and Update on Turf Program, Research, and Extension Work at Cal Poly" by Cole Thompson, Assistant Professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo;
- "What Does WOTUS Mean to You? Impacts to the Golf Course Superintendent" by Mike Blankinship, Agricultural & Environmental Consultant, Blankinship & Associates, Inc.;
- "Pollinators, Pesticides and Policy: Impacts on Golf Course Management" by Frank Wong, Senior Regulatory Consultant at Bayer CropScience.

Additionally, Dr. Jim Baird from the University of California at Riverside will have an update on turfgrass research and UC Advisor Steve Swain will make a presentation as well.

Lunch and golf will follow the morning presentations, and the morning program, lunch and golf are all included in the price of registration.

Watch your email and gcsanc.com for registration details very soon."



Letter From the Editor

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

As our season starts to wind down and most courses are getting their greens aerified, we are still focused on what winter has in store for us. El Niño or bust at this point! It is hard to miss the media's efforts to inform us of a pending El Niño, but only time will tell how big of an effect it will have on rain totals in our area.

In this issue, I'm playing around with the idea of visiting a golf course and giving some highlights on what they are currently working on, some of the bigger issues they are dealing with, and what has been a "game changer" for them. As for most of us, it can be hard to get away from work, so I managed to visit a course while I was in the city. I hope there is some information that can be helpful to other courses that might be getting ready to do some of the same work, or use the same or similar products on their course.

There is also the first of a three part series detailing the work that is currently in full swing at Orinda Golf Club. Be sure to keep up on the progress and see how things turn out.

Including my duties on the newsletter, I'm also involved in updating the Twitter feed for our association. I will try to keep the feed up to date with information that can be useful for the greater membership. Tweets will include information on upcoming meetings, educational opportunities, retweeting topics that relate to work that we are doing, and highlighting work done by our members. I was a late adopter of Twitter and kick myself now for all the information that I missed. If you still haven't signed on up on Twitter, take another look and see if you might find it a useful tool. •



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Executive Director's Report

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

Water remains a focus at GCSANC, including monitoring the activities of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) relative to emergency conservation regulations, as well as staying abreast of the actions of SWRCB and the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) and their development of sustainable groundwater management regulations.

While things remain fairly quiet at the SWRCB relative to emergency water conservation regulations, due in large part to the successful statewide reduction in water usage in the months since the Governor's Executive Order, the rumor is that SWRCB will soon undertake a process to make permanent some of the requirements mandated by the emergency regulations. Details of those plans are still widely unknown, but we will be reaching out to SWRCB staff to arrange a meeting to discuss their plans and ensure that the golf industry is included in any regulatory discussions.

DWR and SWRCB will hold informational meetings to discuss implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater

Management Act (SGMA) and to answer questions from the public on the afternoons of October 21 (Southern California), October 22 (Central California) and October 27 (Sacramento). The October 27 meeting will also be available over the internet.

I will participate in the October 27 meeting via the internet, then will report back to GCSANC members. However, if you have an interest in hearing the information live as well, you can find details at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/local_assistance.shtml#meetings. I expect that the recorded webinar will also be available online soon after the live event.

DWR has also hosted two different webinars focusing on a variety of issues relating to development of the groundwater regulations. Both webinars may be found on youtube at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgtgG_TDSJQ.

The revised Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) will take effect December 1, 2015. Representatives from several golf industry associations and manufacturers testified in writing and at public hearings on the ordinance, and many of our industry's requests were incorporated into the final document. However, it is important to note that any landscape renovation in excess of 2,500 square feet that requires a building permit or landscape permit will be subject to the water conservation requirements of the ordinance.


Watch for details soon to help educate you on the details of the MWELo requirements as they relate to golf courses.

Moving off the topic of water, GCSANC will soon solicit entries for this year's chapter awards. We will be granting three awards this year: Superintendent of the Year, George Santana Distinguished Service Award, and the Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award. Because courses have been subjected to widely varying water restrictions, the Board determined that it would be best not to award the Excellence in Turfgrass Management Award at this time.

Watch your email for details on nominations for this year's GCSANC awards.

Finally, there is still time to register for the NCGA Assistant Superintendents Boot Camp. See the advertisement in this issue for more details, or visit the following link to register:


<http://www.ncga.org/form3/view.php?id=20607>. •



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From the Field

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

I hope all of you had a great summer and took the opportunity to spend some well-deserved time with family and friends. Like most of you who reside in California, I spend too much of my life in a car. To pass the long journeys and traffic jams (special shout out to Los Angeles and the Bay Area for wasting many hours), I listen to a lot of SiriusXM radio. In particular, SiriusXM PGA TOUR radio (Sirius 208, XM 92) which helps keep me informed of what is going on in the golf world.

In January, GCSAA joined forces with PGA TOUR radio to feature superintendent and GCSAA-related topics every Wednesday at 3 p.m. (PST) on the popular "Katrek and Maginnes On Tap" segment. In addition to promoting the superintendent profession and maintenance industry, the segment features a live interview with a GCSAA member.

In 2015, California has been represented on the program by Paul Cushing at Torrey Pines, Chris Dalhamer at Pebble Beach, Ryan Bentley at North Ranch, Jim Ferrin at Sun City Roseville, and Pat Finlen at The Olympic Club. All five did a terrific job discussing the profession and, more importantly, the challenges that the golf industry in California is facing.

Next time you have a long commute on a Wednesday afternoon, make sure you tune in and find out what is going on with your peers from around the country. Many of our

members from California will be appearing throughout the remainder of 2015.

In other news, GCSAA recently rolled out its Member-Get-A-Member Referral Program. Current GCSAA members receive a \$50 gift certificate for each new member they recruit (someone who has not been a member for more than two years; excludes equipment managers). Certificates can be used for Golf Industry Show registration, educational opportunities, GCSAA merchandise, and donations to the Environmental Institute for Golf.

Additionally, for each new member you recruit you will also receive one entry into the grand-prize drawing for an all-expenses-paid (air, hotel and registration) trip to the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Secondary grand prizes include four Full Pack registrations to the 2016 Golf Industry Show.

For more information and Member-Get-A-Member applications, visit <http://www.gcsaa.org/member-get-a-member>. If you have any questions concerning the program, contact our member help desk at mbrhelp@gcsaa.org.

GCSAA appreciates your continued support of our organization and affiliated chapters. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org, and don't forget to follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW. I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming GCSANC events. •

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Making the Jump

By **PETE BACHMAN**, *San Jose Country Club*

I have been fortunate to have the recent opportunity to make the jump from Assistant Superintendent to Superintendent.

The process has been demanding, consuming, stressful, and rewarding all at the same time. I inherited a property that was going through a major transition process. In addition to hiring a new Superintendent and General Manager, four of the five other department heads were new to the property as well.

You can imagine the challenges that were and are being faced as we transition into our new roles. The Greens Department staff lost several key employees during this process (superintendent, both assistants, an irrigation tech, and a valuable crew member). While overwhelming at times, we are getting by. New assistants will be here in the next few days, and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

It's only been two months, but I have learned a few key things that have helped me a great deal so far:

Prioritize

Don't forget what is most important, or allow yourself to be distracted by all of the little details. Sure, there are weeds in some of the mulched areas, but are the greens okay? Get your head wrapped around your primary playing surface first. Work out from there, and once you have your hands around greens, tees and fairways, you can look elsewhere to the details to improve course conditions.

Don't forget what you know

A wise old man at Pebble Beach once told me, "You won't know how much you know until you leave and start using it somewhere else."

Basically, rely on the knowledge that you have acquired during your career in the business. You wouldn't be in this position if you didn't have the knowledge to take the bull by the horns. Put that knowledge to use and start making the adjustments that need to be made.

Ask for Help

I have never asked for so much help or opinions on things in my life; and I hate asking for help! Chances are good that you were trained by some great people during your tenure on various crews or as an assistant. Rely on those people. I guarantee they will be happy to help, as they were once in the same position.

Work Hard

Run it wide open. Get there early, stay late, whatever it takes. Make sure everyone in your personal life is aware that you might be "gone" for a little while. This commitment will pay dividends when it comes to earning the respect of your crew, your boss, and your membership. •

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Questions? Contact Mischia Wright, Associate Director, EIFG
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GCSANC Announces 2015 Scholarship Award Winners

GCSANC is very pleased to announce the award of scholarships totaling \$7,000 to six deserving college students who are family of GCSANC members. Two GCSANC Turfgrass scholarships were awarded at \$1,500 each, and four Legacy scholarships were awarded at \$1,000 each.

The GCSANC Turfgrass scholarships were awarded to Phillip Gill, who has entered his second year of study at Rutgers University, and Nicholas Niles. Nicholas just began his Junior year of study at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Both students are pursuing an education in turfgrass management.

The four Legacy scholarships were awarded to Allie Christenson, Zachery Markow, Austin Piper and Foster Zellers. Allie has just begun her Senior year at Iowa Central Community College, and is studying Radiology Technology; Zachery is in his Junior year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and is pursuing an education in Mechanical Engineering/Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering; Austin has just begun his Freshman year at the University of Arizona, and is pursuing a degree in Global Studies; and Foster has just begun his general education studies at the College of Marin, with the intention of pursuing a degree in Engineering.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients, and a big thank you to the many sponsors and participants in this year's Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament, which funds the GCSANC annual scholarship program. •

ELGA Award Nominations Will be Accepted Through October 1

2015 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards are now open to applications

You can't win if you don't apply! Take time to submit your ELGA application before Oct 1, 2015 and remember it is for the good of the superintendents' profession as well as recognition for your efforts.

There are many benefits to the ELGA that include important recognition for your stewardship practices and leadership, as well as the value it adds to your golf facility. ELGA winners and applicants help GCSAA and your chapter advocate

for the superintendent profession as well as the golf course management industry. Your efforts help to demonstrate that golf courses are professionally managed landscapes providing valuable green space within any community or watershed.

Visit GCSAA's [ELGA page online](#) where you can view the updated criteria and scoring process from 2014 and then submit your app. The GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Awards are generously sponsored by Rain Bird and Syngenta through the EIFG. •

Help Fill The Thru The Green Archives

Thanks to the help of the folks at Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center (TIC), GCSANC has been able to preserve an online historical record of *Thru The Green* dating back to the beginning of 1972. However, we are still missing a few issues to complete the collection, and we would really appreciate your help.

Below you will see a list of the issues that are missing from the 40+ year collection that can be found on our website at <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/ttgc/index.html>. If you have a copy of one of the missing issues and would be willing to part with it temporarily, we will scan the document, upload to the archives, then immediately return to you, and you will enjoy the satisfaction of helping us to complete the collection and maintain an historical record of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California.

Here are the issues that we are seeking:

1977: November
1978: March
1985: October, November
1988: July
1990: January, September
1993: January
1999: January-March, June, October
2000: February
2001: October
2003: June

If you have any of the issues listed, please contact Marc Connerly at info@golfcalifornia.org or (916) 214-6495, and we will make arrangements to borrow the issue from you for a very brief time.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us complete the *Thru The Green* archives. •

Education: UCR Turfgrass and Landscape Research Field Day

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

On September 17th, fellow Board Member Brian Boyer (Superintendent at Cinnabar Hills Golf Course) and I took part in the UC Riverside Turfgrass and Landscape Research and Field Day. It was a well-attended event that brought in over 200 turf and landscape managers, primarily from Southern California.

Also in attendance were Jeff Jensen (Regional GCSAA Representative); Pat Gross, Brian Whitlark, and Blake Neenemeyer of the USGA; Larry Stowell of Pace Turf; Mike Huck of Irrigation & Turfgrass Services; Leah Brilman of Pickseed; and Dean Mosdell of Syngenta.

They also hosted a nice trade show with some vendors there to talk about their products and/or services.

Brian and I spoke with Dr. Jim Baird, and he reminded us of the work that he has going on in Northern California at both The California Golf Club and at Ridgemark Golf Club. The work being done at California Golf Club has to do with fine fescue, while the work at Ridgemark is looking at control strategies for Rapid Blight.

It should be noted that on October 1st, Dr. Jim Baird will be having an open house at Ridgemark to give an update on his research there. The event will run from 9—11am, and will be hosted by Dr. Baird and Superintendent Eric Boyd. A great opportunity to see what Dr. Baird has been working on and get some info on some of his other research.

Below are the topics that were covered at this year's Field Day:

1. Effects of Fungicides and Wetting Agents on Drought Stress and Recovery from Aeration on a Creeping Bent grass Putting Green
2. Ground covers and Buffalo grass under Extreme Deficit Irrigation
3. Evaluation of Natural and Hybrid Turf for Water Conservation
4. Research Update: Minimum Irrigation Requirements of Large Publicly and Privately Maintained Landscapes
5. NTEP Cultivar Trials: Tall Fescue, Fine Fescue, Bent grass Fairway, Bermudagrass, Zoysia grass
6. Best Management Practices for Turf under Drought or Water Use Restrictions
7. Evaluation of Products for Alleviation of Salinity and Drought Stress
8. Plant Growth Regulators for Bermuda grass Management
9. Pre-emergence Control of Crabgrass in Bermudagrass
10. Evaluation of Fungicides for Control of Anthracnose on Annual Bluegrass Putting Greens
11. UCR Turfgrass Breeding Project
12. Effects of Biochar and Bio-solid Soil Amendments on Tall Fescue under Deficit Irrigation •

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A Golf Superintendent's Journey

By **ROXY MacDONALD**

Young John Morris grew up across the street from the second oldest public golf course west of the Mississippi. Twelve year-old John's first introduction to the golf business was selling lemonade and recycled golf balls (packaged in egg cartons) to the players, much to the chagrin of the Golf Shop owner. He was soon hit by the golf bug and started chasing the ball around the course with neighborhood friends.

The following year, John began his five year caddying career at a world class resort in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, having caddied for Hale Irwin and Tom Purtzer in the National Amateur Championship.

John's first job on a golf course crew was Night Waterman on the graveyard shift. He drove a converted VW bug, changing out sprinkler sets on a quick coupler irrigation system. This paid a whopping \$3 an hour. The following year, this private club in Denver installed an automatic irrigation system.

John played on his high school and college golf teams, and he soon realized he wouldn't be able to compete with Hale Irwin on the pro tour. However, he was able to attain golf and turf scholarships coupled with summer crew jobs that enabled him to obtain a BS degree in Landscape Horticulture from the state university in Colorado.

John graduated from college in Colorado with a foot of snow on the ground and decided to pack a small U-Haul trailer and head out west to pursue his golf management career. A college alumna offered him an intern job at a private course overlooking the ocean in Orange County. A year later, John secured his first management position as Assistant Superintendent at an adjacent private club in Orange County. The Superintendent at the course was 25 and John was 23, making them the youngest management team ever. Two years later, John was offered the assistant job at the top club in the Denver area with an enticing wage of \$1,500 a month. The real carrot was hosting the U.S. Open the next year.

John's first Superintendent job was at an exclusive private club on the Colorado and Wyoming border. One had to plug in the engine heater the night before to be able to make it to work the next morning. After a four-year stint in cold country, a move back West seemed appealing. A redesign master plan on a Santa Clara County course was very rewarding. After being the Superintendent for four years, John was offered the General Manager position. This is where John met his

cherished bride, a Berkeley graduate, and soon to be wonderful mother of their two children.

Although being the General Manager was a learning experience, John preferred outdoor morning sunrises to indoor sunsets, and decided on solely being a Golf Course Superintendent. The Morris' moved down to Ventura County for their next venture at a top 100 private Club. After four years in Southern California, John was convinced by his wife to return back North (Contra Costa County to be exact) to be closer to family.

His passions in the business were working as a construction assistant, growing in courses, and staying on board as Superintendent.

But alas, John still had itchy feet and headed to Chicago for a Greg Norman construction job. Unfortunately, Chicago has one good month of weather, that being October.

The Morris family moved westward once more, and to Northern California for good. John secured another position as a construction assistant and Superintendent, responsible for grow in at an El Dorado County development where the Morris family resided for 15 years. He enjoyed hosting a Champions Tour event for three years and watching a housing development flourish.

A golf course developer from a nearby Placer County community convinced John to join their team in Auburn. This construction/management job truly turned out to be heaven in the foothills for the next eleven years. However, with a sharp downturn in the economy, the owner, John's boss, declared bankruptcy. The bank hired a management company for the club, and John was soon looking for another position.

John landed at a public course in San Mateo County, where he is still working at this date.

John's journey encompassed eight Superintendent jobs, six stints as a board member in four different states, numerous local and national committees, a two time delegate, and 30 years of CGCS status. The most rewarding part of John's career was his association and networking with fellow Superintendents and industry peers. John is fortunate to have visited Scotland twice and Ireland once on golf business trips. He is also proud to have mentored four Assistant Superintendents that have progressed to Superintendent positions. •



Course Report: San Francisco Golf Club

Superintendent: Bob Klinesteker

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

Those people that know me are familiar with my interest in history in general and golf course architecture in particular, so you will find it as no surprise that my first course visit would be to San Francisco Golf Club. I have always enjoyed visiting other golf courses and talking with the superintendent about what they have going on at the course. Bob Klinesteker, who has been at SFGC since 1982, makes a visit to SFGC complete with his course knowledge and continued efforts to improve the course and overall experience at San Francisco Golf Club.

The main reason for my visit was to see the recently completed restoration of the fourth hole. The work involved redefining some of the features of a template hole that A.W. Tillinghast was known to build called the Reef hole. The main focus of the work was for tree removal to the right of the tee, allowing the tee to shift to the right. The bunker short and left of the green was enlarged towards the landing area to the right, and the line of mounds short of the green had their elevation increased. Fairway was also slightly increased, with the work done to bring more focus to a hole concept that Tillinghast used on a number of courses he designed or re-designed.

In addition, Bob is overseeing work on incorporating fine fescue on the bunker rims that also includes reworking a

bunker on the right side of the 8th fairway and the extension of a cross bunker on the 16th hole that reaches close to 3/4 across the beginning of the fairway.

Improvements in irrigation have been ongoing with the with the installation of Toro Infinity heads and some time spent getting the correct nozzles to maximize irrigation in an area that gets a lot of night-time wind. For the first time, wetting agents (Aquaduct) were applied to the fairways, and, coupled with the new sprinklers and nozzles, has greatly reduced wet areas on the course.

One of the bigger challenges for Bob and his crew is maintaining the 42 acres of fairways and over 6 acres of bunkers! SFGC is on reclaimed water, and with the additional nitrogen found in his water, he has a program where they double mow fairways and use blowers to remove clippings.

Two big game changers for Bob have been the ASB Job Board that allows him not only to manage his crew schedule, but also monitor hours required for each task. The second has been the use of a Ventrac unit that allows him to mow areas with one machine where he previously had three operators using weed-eaters.

Thank you, Bob, for taking the time to share with me some of your work at San Francisco Golf Club! •



San Francisco Golf Club, 16th Hole -- Restoration extended fairway bunker to the right.

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



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Out of Bounds

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

TurfNet

It is hard to miss all the talk of drones in the media—airports and fire fighters are having issues with privately manned drones interfering with operations, and Amazon is working on ways to deliver packages via drones. Golf course superintendents were quick to see the benefits of using drones to show issues on the course like irrigation patterns, tree work, and highlight changes made to the course. Thomas Bastis, CGCS, at California Golf Club, has used drones to good advantage at his course, as seen in this video produced by Turfnet.

<http://www.turfnet.com/turfnet-tv.html/tips/thomas-bastis-cgcs-aerial-reconnaissance-r312>



Taking the idea of drone footage to another level, RadioLab did a podcast on the use of aerial photography in a war zone, and how it has been used on the front lines to react to IED's in Iraq.

The technique used in Iraq has been tried in Dayton, Ohio and in Juarez, Mexico to some surprising results.

<http://www.radiolab.org/story/eye-sky/> •

Naumann's Norcal News

By **DON NAUMANN**, *Sierra Pacific Turf Supply*

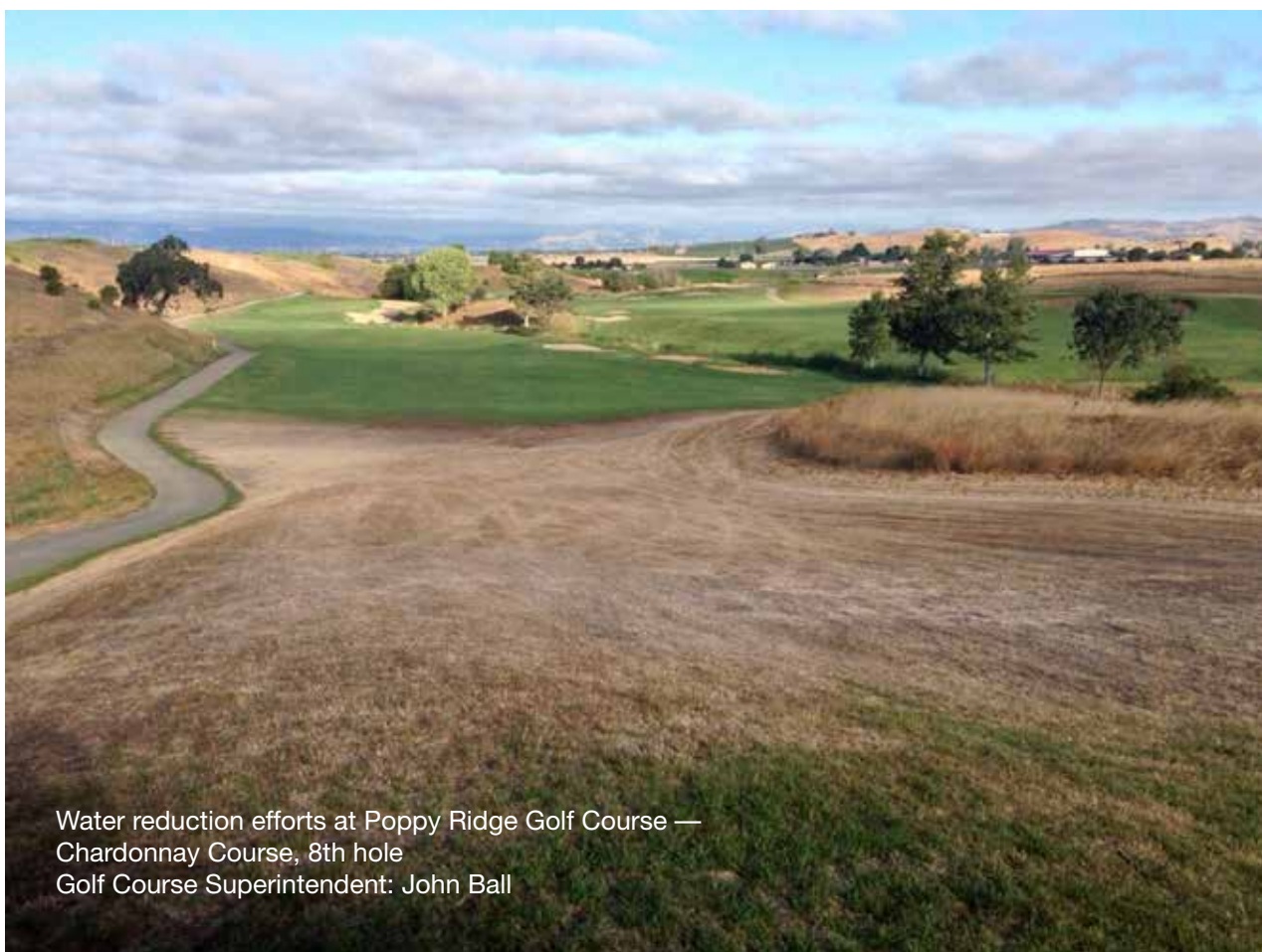
Kevin Sullivan has left San Jose Country Club and is the new Superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Danville. Replacing him at SJCC is **Pete Bachman**. Pete was the Assistant Superintendent under **Chris Dalhamer** at Pebble Beach Golf Links. Kevin replaced Super Lonnie Stevens, who moved on to Roddy Ranch in Antioch.

Ryan Zuelsdorf, who was at Roddy Ranch, is now at Monarch Bay Golf Club in San Leandro.

Matt Sanders is the new Super at Moffett Field Golf Course in Mountain View, which is maintained by O.B. Sports. Matt was an Assistant Super in Southern Calif.

Valley Crest has taken over the golf course maintenance at the Villages Golf and Country Club in San Jose. Long-time Superintendent **Brian Bagley** was recently replaced at that position by Valley Crest.

Almaden Country Club in San Jose recently signed a contract with Touchstone Golf. Superintendent **John Redmond** was offered a job by the new company, but chose, on his own, to go a different direction. •



Water reduction efforts at Poppy Ridge Golf Course —
Chardonnay Course, 8th hole
Golf Course Superintendent: John Ball



GOING GLOBAL OCTOBER 12~13, 2015

The Northern California Golf Association's annual Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp will be held on October 12 and 13 in Monterey. This year our theme is "Going Global". No matter where you are in the world you are never too far from a golf course. This year we are gathering speakers from all over the world of golf to lend their experience and knowledge to the next generation of Superintendent.

We've been privileged through the years to provide attendees at Boot Camp a variety of speakers covering many key elements to assist their course with the latest in maintenance practices. Speakers this year include David Robinson (Marriott Golf), Chava McKeel (EIFG), Erik Greytok (Macro-sorb Technologies) and special guest Craig Gilholm from Royal Liverpool. Workshops will feature irrigation and equipment maintenance demonstrations.

Schedule for Monday October 12th

All Monday events take place at:

Hyatt Regency Hotel
1 Old Golf Course Road
Monterey 93940

- 12 pm to 1 pm: Registration and Lunch
- 1 pm to 5:15 pm: Educational Sessions
- 5:30 pm: Dinner

Schedule for Tuesday October 13th

All Tuesday events take place at:

Poppy Hills Golf Course
3200 Lopez Road
Pebble Beach 93953

- 7:30 am: Breakfast
- 8 am to 12 pm: Educational Sessions
- 1 pm: Golf shotgun

FYI: There is a \$10 tourist fee to enter Pebble Beach; so, please let the guard know that you are going to a meeting at Poppy Hills.

Dress Code: Golf Attire

Register at <http://www.ncga.org/form3/view.php?id=20607>

The registration fee of \$160 is all inclusive – seminars, meals and overnight accommodation at the Hyatt Regency. Local's fee is \$80.00 (or, for those not needing hotel accommodations). The golf shotgun is optional, and cost an additional \$25.00 – walking, payable on site at Poppy Hills.

CEU hours from DPR and GCSAA will be made available.

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT YOUR HOST: **MATT MUHLENBRUCH**
Superintendent
Poppy Hills
mmuhlenbruch@poppyhillsgolf.com
(831) 277-9055 Cell





Orinda Country Club

Part 1- Research and Understanding

By **TODD ECKENRODE**, *ASGCA*

The Orinda Country Club is a golf course rich in history. Originally designed in 1924 by William Watson, a Scot who naturalized to the U.S. in 1898 and became quite prolific in golf course design. Some of his other notable local courses he had a hand in include The Olympic Club's Lake and Ocean courses, Diablo Country Club and Mira Vista Country Club.

When I first saw Orinda, I was quite taken with the unique qualities and quirkiness of the site. The terrain is quite hilly in parts. But the routing is masterful, utilizing the slopes, hills, valleys, and creeks in varied ways throughout. Lauterwasser Creek and San Pablo Creek both come into play or are adjacent to 11 of the 18 holes, and in so many different ways. Watson utilized the hills in a multitude of ways, as "turtlebacks," banking side slopes, reversing slopes, and in a fine mix of both uphill and downhill play. The aesthetic and play in this regard is ever-changing and offers wonderful variety.

Talk about memorable and unique holes! From the wild reverse-boomerang green of the 5th, to the drop-shot 8th, the drivable and funneling effect of the 10th, the creekside 15th, and the wild roller-coaster uphill 18th set beneath the grand clubhouse above, these are holes unlike any I've ever come across.

Whenever we begin work on a historic course such as Orinda, we always start with investigating and attempting to understand its history, how and why it has evolved. In this case, we began collecting whatever information the Club had on hand, and their collection was actually quite good. Numerous historical photos adorn the walls of the clubhouse.

We then contacted a local historic aerial company in the East Bay whom we figured might have some good flyovers of Orinda, and were pleased to find some good images, with aerials from 1928, '48, '53 and '54. Additional historic aerial resources had aerials and oblique aerials from 1939 and 1946, which were very informative. Believe it or not, Google Earth even had an additional 1939 aerial that was quite good!

I spent a couple of days pouring through the Club's archive room as well (which I applaud them for having), where we found a whole host of great information. This included images of the course before and during construction; images of the course from the 1920's, '30's and '40's; original editions of The Fairway magazine featuring Orinda from 1928 and 1929; some very interesting information in the Club minutes dating back to the 1924 opening; and an informative annual report booklet from 1933.

These minutes and reports chronicled some changes in the design early on by Mr. Watson himself, but also changes by Bob Hunter, golf architect and club member, who also happened to run the American Golf Course Construction Company, builder of MacKenzie and Hunter's finest courses here in California.

Other assorted goodies include a letter from the famed golf architect A.W. Tillinghast in 1937, commenting on progress in construction for his recommended changes to the 14th green into a "long ribbon-like green to take the chipped second shot," as it largely exists today.

We also brought in our friend and noted historian Tom Naccarato, who had previously contributed historical photos he found of the course. He spent days in the Bancroft Library collection at UC Berkeley pouring through their collections and came up with a trove of valuable information, most of the time regarding Orinda, but not always! "A kid in a candy store" would be an accurate assessment of his time there, as many other discoveries in California golf lore occurred. Josh Pettit and Sean Tully also contributed what they had in their collections, for which we were thankful.

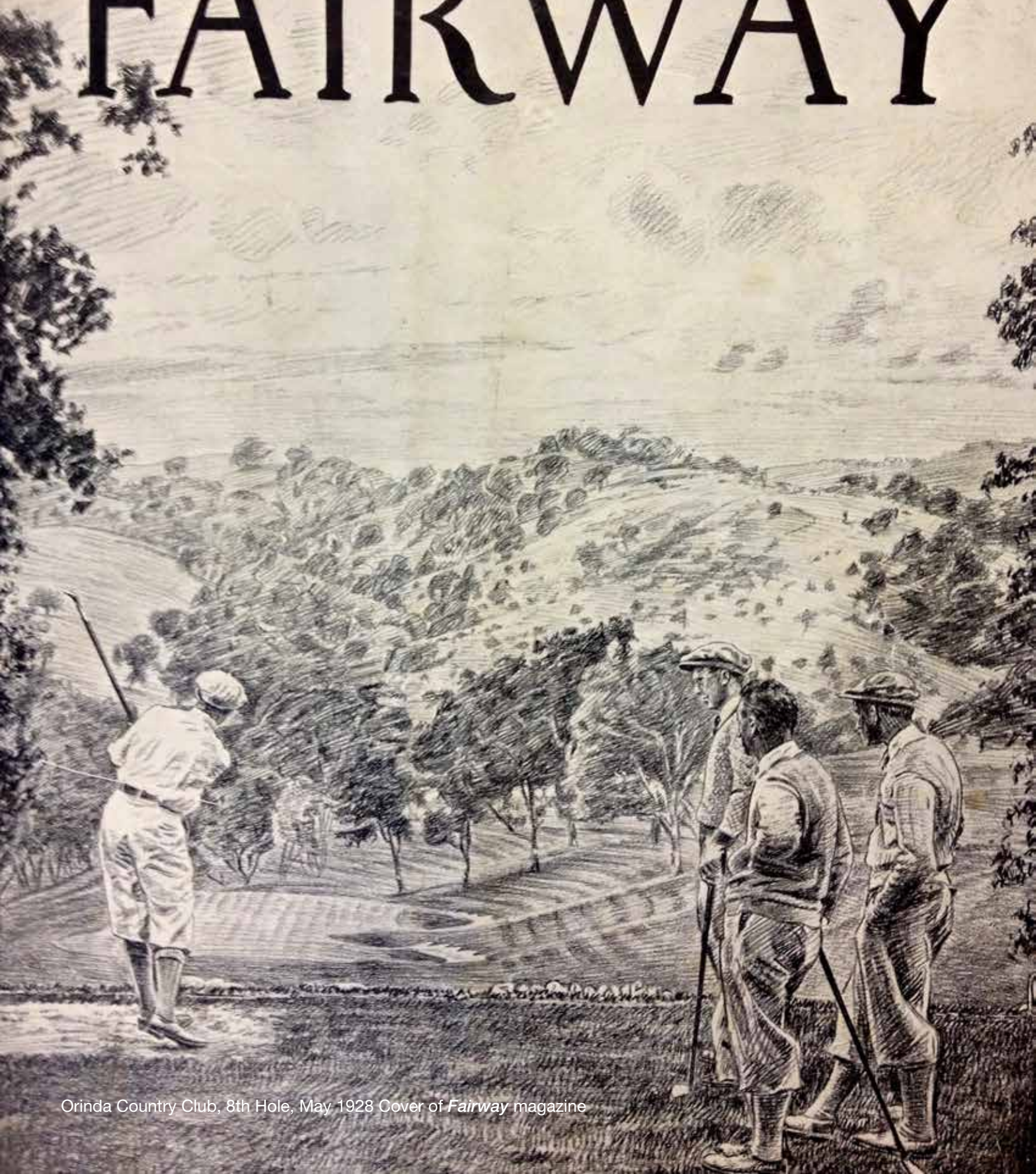
What all of this research told us was that there were really two distinct styles to the golf course, in particular regarding the bunkering. The 1920's aerials and photos show a very simple grass-faced bunker style, often in quite unusual locations, such as a cluster of three bunkers less than 100 yards off the tee on hole #4.

There was a significant change to the bunker locations and style in the 1930's, however. The 1939 aerial showed a reduction in the amount of bunkers (including those mentioned on hole #4), no doubt part of maintenance cost-cutting measures during the Great Depression; and a photo in a 1931 edition of Golfdom magazine showcased a significant change in the styling as well.

The accompanying photo of the 8th hole featured flashed bunker faces and a more extravagant use of bays, fingers and rolls, as well as a wavy character to the sand lines. This was the style that immediately appealed to us, and which we decided to embrace going forward in the project at Orinda.

Part II in future issue: Construction progress, featuring the fine 8th hole. •

THE FAIRWAY



Orinda Country Club, 8th Hole, May 1928 Cover of *Fairway* magazine

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