

THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

APRIL / MAY / JUNE 2016



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*Host site for the 9th Annual
Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner
Scholarship & Research Tournament*



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Meadow Club, host site for the 9th Annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament.

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Greetings From President Villagran

By **FERNANDO VILLAGRAN**, 2015 GCSANC President,
The Links at Bodega Harbour

As most of us have completed our spring aeration and are in full motion for another demanding year, I want to take the time to talk about what our beloved Association is all about, and that is "people," plain and simple, "PEOPLE."

At the end of March, Marc Connerly and I had the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Symposium at the GCSAA Head Quarters in Lawrence, Kansas. We participated in seminars and round tables discussing the current status of local chapter associations, and the challenges that we all face. We interacted with different leaders of associations from all over the country, sharing ideas and learning what others are doing at their local chapter level. I came back feeling that the GCSANC is on the same level with many of the other better-performing chapter associations. We are blessed with a wonderful membership that value the benefits that we offer as an association, and who also appreciate the efforts of past and current Board members to ensure we are in the best position possible.

We have people who are willing to let us know when they think we are doing something wrong, and we have the people who are willing to listen and work to fix it. We have people with years of experience as Superintendents serving the association, and people who are in our industry with the energy and willingness to learn from others at our meetings and social events. We have people who work closely with us as Superintendents to find the right products and help us to make better decisions by finding new and different tools to make our jobs easier.

We have people who are doing turf and water research that will benefit all of us in our daily jobs. We have people who represent us when our industry needs to be heard at the national level with issues or laws that can affect our future at the local and state level. We have people working with different programs to help the community and enhance our image to the general public.

It is about people when we have to give a helping hand. For example, last month a terrible tragedy hit one of our own, a worker at Moraga Country Club, and we came together with generous and timely donations for the family in need. That shows what kind of people we are.

For all that and much more, I just want to say, "Thank you." Thanks for letting me be a part of this brotherhood that we call an association.

I hope to see you at a GCSANC event very soon.

Sincerely,

Fernando

Fernando Villagran-Costello, GCSANC President
Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club
fernandovillagran@hotmail.com

NORCALENDAR

July 6

Field Day

Pasatiempo Golf Club
Santa Cruz

August 15

Tri-Chapter Meeting

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California Chapter*
Corral De Tierra
Country Club
Corral De Tierra

October 24

GCSANC Institute

Boundary Oak Golf Club
Walnut Creek

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Letter From the Editor

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

El Nino was a bit of a bust, not fully meeting the expectations forecasted by those in charge of such things. It will make for some more challenges, but given what we have learned the last three years we all should be in a better position to get through the year.

In this issue we have Jim Culley, Regional Sales Manager of Stover Seed Company, giving us his perspective on food through his many trips from Southern California.

Reading through some early Thru the Green newsletters, I pulled out a wonderful article from William Bengeyfield from his time with the USGA representing the Western region, and in particular Northern California. How much of what he has to say is still accurate today?

Dr. Jim Baird has provided a nice report on the UCR research on Rapid Blight for 2014-15 that came together with a lot of help from numerous turf researchers, fungicide companies, support from GCSANC, along with the CTLF and NCGA. For those courses with Rapid Blight, hopefully you will find some answers that will help you down the road.

As always, if you have anything that you feel might be of merit for the newsletter, feel free to contact me and we can get your article in the newsletter. It can be something as simple as a photo of some work you are doing on the course, or an article describing a new program you have implemented that has shown success.

Thank you and enjoy the latest newsletter!

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Executive Director's Report

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

We have just completed a very successful Scholarship & Research Tournament, and we can't thank our sponsors, product contributors, Meadow Club, and Board volunteers enough for their tremendous contributions to this year's event!

The 9th Annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament raised approximately \$15,000, based on initial estimates, so we are now looking ahead to our July 6 Field Day at Pasatiempo and our Institute, which will be held at Boundary Oak on October 24.

This year's Rounds 4 Research efforts raised a little more than \$900 for GCSANC. That number represents both good news and bad news. The good news is that it is about \$800 more than we raised last year. The bad news is that it is very far short

of what some of the more successful R4R campaigns in the country are raising. The Carolinas GCSA, for example, led the charge, raising a whopping \$44,000 through R4R!

We appreciate the contributions of rounds by Canyon Lakes Golf Course & Brewery, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, Crystal Springs Golf Course, The Links at Bodega Harbour, Presidio Golf Course, and TPC Harding Park to this year's Rounds 4 Research program.

Current Vice President Sean Tully has already indicated his desire to make Rounds 4 Research one of his top priorities for GCSANC next year. As one of the larger and more engaged chapters in the country, we can improve our R4R campaign significantly.

Some other activities on the plate of GCSANC include a revamped website, which has been in the works for a few months, and should be ready for public consumption soon.


The Board is also working on creating GCSANC-branded items that will be available for purchase through the GCSANC website and at association events. Members will soon be able to show their pride in being part of GCSANC through caps, polos, golf towels, and lapel pins with the GCSANC logo.

Additionally, the Board has discussed presenting educational meetings in Spanish for some of your crew members who have a desire to learn more and advance in the business, as well as a presentation on social media tools and apps of interest and value to Superintendents. We expect to announce those events in the third or fourth quarter of this year.

Finally, watch for free webinars for GCSANC members in the next month. The first will be on the new overtime and wage rules, so look for emails announcing the date and time of that presentation.

We appreciate your support of GCSANC, and look forward to your attendance at an upcoming event!

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From the Field

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

Hope this finds all of our Northern California members enjoying some great spring weather and getting the opportunity to hit the links.

GCSANC executive director Marc Connerly and I attended National Golf Day on May 18 in Washington, D.C. The We Are Golf delegation was made up of representatives and members of ASGCA, CMAA, GCSAA, LPGA, NGCOA, PGA of America, PGA TOUR, the USGA and numerous other allied golf partners.

The event provided our industry with the opportunity to meet with members of the United States Congress and their key staff to discuss issues of importance to the game of golf, with particular emphasis on legislation that targets our industry negatively. Areas of focus included water management, pesticide use, labor and immigration, nutrient use, conservation easements, and value of the game of golf.

The United States golf industry is a \$68.8 billion industry that employs nearly 2 million workers and generates \$3.9 billion annually for charity. California plays a very large role in the above numbers. The state's approximately 900 courses

have a direct economic impact of \$6.3 billion (\$13.1 total economic impact) and employ 128,000 workers generating over \$4 billion in wages.

It was an honor to represent the industry and California at the event. For more information on National Golf Day and We Are Golf, visit the webpage at www.worldgolffoundation.org.

In other news, our GCSAA executive staff and board of directors recently met with the Anaheim Convention and Visitors Bureau to discuss the city as a potential GIS host in 2022. The CVB presented an attractive package (including greatly discounted hotel rates and the ability to control the entire convention center during GIS week) that will be under consideration from staff and board. If you have any feedback on Anaheim as a potential GIS site, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you for your support of GCSAA and please contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org if I can be of any assistance. For daily industry updates, please follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW. I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming events.

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Assistant Superintendent Profile: Parker Ray, Pasatiempo Golf Club

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

It's always great to showcase some of the up and coming talent in our industry. Northern California has some of the richest history in golf, with great courses and hardworking crews that keep them in exceptional condition. For this issue, we interviewed Parker Ray, Assistant Superintendent at Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz.

PB: *What made you decide to get into golf maintenance?*

PR: My passion for the outdoors and the game of golf led me into the golf maintenance industry.

PB: *What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?*

PR: The network of turf industry affiliates I have established thus far.

PB: *Who would you consider your most influential mentor in the industry?*

PR: Chris Dalhamer had a huge influence on me the past two years at Pebble Beach, and my current leader Justin Mandon at Pasatiempo Golf Club.

PB: *Where were you born?*

PR: Honolulu, Hawaii

PB: *Best Nicknames?*

PR: Sherriff Parker, Gato de la Montaña and Parko.

PB: *If you could drive any vehicle, what would it be?*

PR: 2016 Toyota Tundra Limited TRD.

PB: *If the election were today, Hillary or The Donald?*

PR: Peyton Manning

PB: *What is the funniest thing you have ever seen on a golf course?*

PR: An old lady who enjoyed her time skinny dipping at Carmel Beach.

PB: *What is one thing that most people don't know about you?*

PR: I lived in Hawaii for five years.

PB: *What was your lowest score playing golf, and where?*

PR: 79 at Eagle Springs Golf Club in Wolcott, Colorado.

PB: *What is your favorite manual labor job on the golf course?*

PR: Hand-watering greens.

PB: *Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?*

PR: The greatest piece of advice has been to "live in the moment and to give that moment 110%."

PB: *If you had to survive on a deserted island for 1 year, aside from food and water, what 5 items would you bring with you to occupy your time?*

PR: Water filtration system, lighter, fishing pole, pan and a good looking girl to help with my poor cooking skills.

PB: *If you had your choice, what would you do in retirement?*

PR: I would travel the world hunting and fishing.

PB: *What is your favorite golf maintenance related quote?*

PB: "Brown is the new Green."

Around we go...



2016 Turf Scholarship winner **Michael Knoll** (L) is joined by GCSANC President **Fernando Villagran** (R)



(L-R): GCSANC President **Fernando Villagran** joins the winning team (gross) of **Steve Byrne, Matt Dachowski and Kevin Sullivan** (Dale Simpson not pictured)

Scholarship & Research Tournament



(L-R): **Pete Bachman, Kevin Rieners, Mike Benham, and Duffy DeAngelo** enjoying the Scholarship & Research Tournament at **Meadow Club**

Scholarship & Research Tournament



(L-R): GCSANC President **Fernando Villagran** joins the winning team (net) of **Scott Coutts, Brian Daum, Craig Zellers, and Rex Gentry**

Representing **Cinnabar Hills Golf Club** at the **Scholarship & Research Tournament**.

(L-R): **John Schiro, Ron Zraick, Adam Schiro, Scott Giangreco**



(L-R): **Adrian Meyer, Guy DiJulio, Jonathan Ivory, and Spencer Hughes** take a break for the camera at **Meadow Club**

Inaugural Women's Golf Day Hails Global Success

Thousands of Women Unite Through Golf at more than 400 Venues in 27 Countries

By **EMMY MOORE-MINISTER**

On June 7, 2016 thousands of women and girls throughout the world picked up a golf club in celebration of International Women's Golf Day (WGD). History was made when more than 400 golf facilities in 27 countries rolled out the welcome mat and served as hosts for the inaugural event.

"We were able to fulfill our mission to engage, empower, and support women and girls through golf," said Women's Golf Day Founder Elisa Gaudet, President of Executive Golf International. "To think it transcended language, culture, religion, and race is pretty incredible, especially with all that is going on in the world. It was a celebration of golf, women, and community, with plenty of camaraderie, too."

This global golf initiative, which introduced women and girls to the game, also encouraged existing golfers to tee it up in a fun and non-threatening environment. Gaudet engaged a team of 15 well-respected industry professionals, all of whom volunteered their time, in hopes of growing the game and uniting women globally through golf.

"The first annual Women's Golf Day was a huge success," says Steve Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation. "It's inclusive initiatives such as this that demonstrate why the global golf industry must continue to welcome women to the game in collaborative, non-traditional ways."

Just eight months ago, Gaudet pitched the WGD concept to golf management companies, encouraging them to analyze the role of women as "economic influencers" in the game and the business of golf, impacting everything from country club memberships and home sales on golf courses, to increasing youth participation in the sport. Women account for 85% of all consumer purchases and control over \$20 trillion in world-wide spending. In the U.S., women's spending power is growing. Market estimates vary, ranging from between \$5 trillion to \$15 trillion annually, per Nielsen Consumer (04-02-2013).

"We were so proud to be a part of the inaugural Women's Golf Day," said Mark Burnett, ClubCorp Chief Operating Officer. "Our golf and country clubs embraced this initiative with some amazing events, and will continue their efforts in promoting the game with females, which is so important in impacting the future of the game."

The Women's Golf Day web page www.womensgolfdays.com served as the go-to center, and a map highlights all participating countries and WGD venues. The event included participation from golf facilities in China, India, Dubai, South Africa, Uganda, Tunisia, Morocco, European countries, as well as USA and Canada.

The common theme that resonates with WGD participants is the fact that the experience helped them "step out of their comfort zone," and encouraged them to try something new. Since WGD also served as a venue to learn about player development offerings, event organizers anticipate more women and girls will be taking more lessons, clinics and ultimately, playing more golf.

The WGD social media page, www.womensgolfdays.com/social, continues to attract participants who are posting positive comments about their WGD experience. "There are so many amazing photos and appreciative comments still being posted," said Gaudet. "Each conveys glowing thoughts about the event and the new friendships that emerged. This confirms to us that there will definitely be another Women's Golf Day spanning the globe in 2017."

Event organizers were extremely pleased with the extensive media coverage on the Golf Channel's Morning Drive, which sparked additional attention not only to Women's Golf Day, but to women's golf in general. WGD organizers are asking allied golf organizations and businesses to mark their calendars now, as the 2017 Women's Golf Day event has been set for Tuesday, June 6.



2016 GCSANC Scholarship Winners

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

This year, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) is awarding two \$1,500 Turf scholarships to students pursuing continuing education through accredited institutions, who are seeking careers as golf course superintendents or in closely related fields of study within the golf industry.

Our first 2016 Turf scholarship recipient, Michael Knoll, attended Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL, where he graduated in 2007 with a 3.31 GPA. He is currently working under Chris Dalhamer at Pebble Beach, previously worked with Scott Stambaugh at Peninsula Golf & Country Club and Tim Sedgley at Poplar Creek, and will be attending the Rutgers University Golf Turf Management program in the Fall.

In addition to being part of a team working towards a common goal, Michael enjoys working outside while watching the sunrise on a beautiful green landscape.

Our second 2016 Turf scholarship recipient, King Wayman, received a Bachelor of Science in Earth Systems Science and Policy, with a concentration in Marine and Coastal Ecology, from CSU Monterey Bay. He will attend Penn State University's Turfgrass Science and Management program in the Fall, after a six year stint in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, including activation to support Operation Enduring Freedom. He currently works alongside Bob Esposito as the Assistant Superintendent at Pacific Grove Golf Links.

The most rewarding part of his job is when he can influence one of his team members to become more passionate about the golf industry.

Congratulations to 2016 GCSANC Turf scholarship recipients Michael Knoll and King Wayman.

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Sponsor Profile: Stover Seed Company

Stover Seed Company was started in 1922 in Santa Monica, California by Floyd Stover, selling mouse traps and garden supplies. Floyd purchased local seed companies to create what is the present day Stover Seed Company.

Stover Seed Company moved in 1946 to 1415 East 6Th Street in downtown Los Angeles. In 1971, the current owners purchased the company from Loft Seed Company. The City of Los Angeles needed the 6th Street location for bridge reconstruction, so in August 2015, the company was moved to Sun Valley, California.

Stover Seed Company is an independent seed distributor of turf grass, natives, wildflowers and vegetables serving the golf course industry, landscape supply, nursery and large box retailers. They ship product both domestically and internationally. Since Stover is an independent, they purchase turf grass seed from numerous sources, enabling the company to create custom blends and mixtures to your specifications.

Major suppliers include Turf Merchants, Seed Research of Oregon, Tee 2 Green, Pure Seed, Seeds West, and Mountain View. This independence gives them the advantage to combine the best possible varieties available to fit any particular situation.

These special mixtures are a reflection of their customers, who are as varied as the climate they occupy. Stover Seed Company specializes in creating custom blends/mixes in concert with the superintendent for the greatest success on the applied materials. To accomplish these results, they provide on-site inspection by a Regional Manager, and involve the resources from their native and wildflower division if needed. Once a mixture(s) is created, priced and ordered, the shipment is promptly processed and tracking information is forwarded to the customer.

Stover supplies common turf grasses like perennial ryegrass, tall fescues, fine fescues, seeded Bermuda grass, and Kentucky blue grasses. The company also distributes specialty turf grasses like kikuyu grass (within approved counties), seashore paspalum, Glyphosate tolerant fine fescues, and other niche grasses. Their extensive natives list includes over 140 grasses and shrubs, and 50 wildflowers for use in golf course projects such as: turf reduction, turf renovation and habitat enhancement.

Stover has developed numerous wildflower mixtures with special attributes for uses like pollinators, California natives, region specific, and special growth areas. Utilizing their experience and inventory, they can create blends and mixtures that will fulfill your goals.

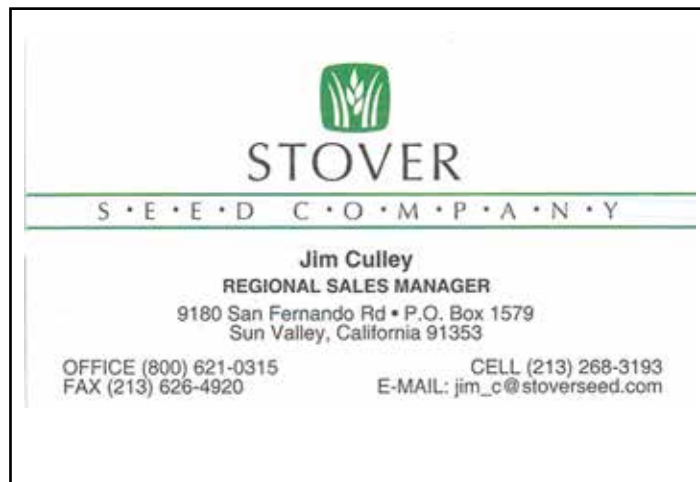
Their California golf market includes courses from the Bay Area down to San Diego, the Greater Los Angeles Basin, Palm Springs, San Joaquin Valley, and the Sierra Nevada mountains. They have consulted and supplied many recent turf reduction and conversion projects throughout the State with specialty turf grasses, natives and/or wildflowers. Stover Seed's portfolio has grown to include such venerable courses as Pebble Beach, The Olympic Club, Los Angeles Country Club, Riviera Country Club, and many others.

They were privileged to work on many turf renovation projects, including projects with The Los Angeles Country Club North Course, North Ranch Country Club, Pasatiempo Golf Club, among others. Current projects include Sherwood Country Club, Montecito Country Club and Rolling Hills Country Club.

Stover Seed Company supports many aspects of the turf grass industry. Whether it is contributing to turf grass research at UC Riverside, their membership with the Sports Turf Managers Association, or our active membership in numerous California chapters of GCSAA, Stover's team views the company business model as one of active participation.

Their Regional Managers participate in local chapters and their senior manager, James Culley, has been the current Southern affiliate to the California GCSA Board for a number of years. This involvement keeps the informed on items affecting the golf industry and enables them to use this knowledge to the benefit of golf course clients.

Stover Seed Company is approaching 100 years in business, and values the golf course industry as one of the reasons for that longevity.



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From The Archives...

Editor's Note: An early description of the development of regional chapters for the GCSAA.

The California Federation of Golf Course Superintendent Associations was organized June 1, 1964, and now consists of five (5) chapters. The Federation has brought California Superintendents more closely together with the purpose of combining efforts of the Superintendent and the local chapter for a more efficient collection and dissemination of knowledge and information to promote better maintenance and construction of golf courses.

The Federation consolidates the educational meeting, and enhances the efficiency, dignity, prestige, and welfare of the golf course, and does provide an annual educational session with qualified speakers for the benefit of all members.

The organization elects a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer each fiscal year. The Presidents from 1964 through 1970-71 were: George Lanphear, Clifford Wagoner, Bill Hood, Harry Cirata, Al Glaze, Ralph Mees, and Dave Mastroleo. The 1971-72 Officers were: Walter Collins, President; Charles Shibata, 1st Vice President; and Fred Harris, Secretary-Treasurer.



New Fungicides For a Salty Disease

Reinforcements are both here and on the horizon for chemical management of Rapid Blight

By **DR. JIM BAIRD**, *Turfgrass Specialist, University of California, Riverside*



What is Rapid Blight?

Rapid blight, caused by the terrestrial slime mold *Labyrinthula terrestris*, was first discovered as a disease of turfgrass in the early part of this century. Since then, it has been found in at least 11 states in the U.S., including California.

As the name implies, rapid blight symptoms appear quickly as water-soaked patches, which soon coalesce into large dead areas. In California, the disease is most severe on *Poa annua* greens, but also can be troublesome on *Poa trivialis* and perennial ryegrass in overseeded turf, particularly in Arizona, colonial and velvet bentgrasses, and Chewing's fescue. Bermudagrass and other warm-season turfgrasses can also serve as hosts for the pathogen, but symptoms are often absent or not as prevalent compared to cool-season grasses.

Almost always, rapid blight is associated with elevated sodium chloride caused by poor irrigation water and/or extensive periods without rainfall or sufficient leaching of salts. Identification of rapid blight is not easy, especially without good skill, patience and equipment; therefore, submitting disease samples to a reputable diagnostic laboratory is recommended. However, for those who wish to try, Dr. Larry Stowell of Pace Turf, LLC produced an excellent video on how to self-diagnose the disease (<http://youtu.be/2eTpue4ClM0>).

Historically, only a few fungicides have provided effective control of rapid blight, including pyraclostrobin (Insignia), trifloxystrobin (Compass), and mancozeb (Fore). The objective of our research was to test new and experimental along with proven fungicides for efficacy against rapid blight disease.

UCR Rapid Blight Fungicide Trials in Northern California

Research was conducted in 2014 and 2015 at Ridgemark Golf & Country Club in Hollister, courtesy of Superintendent Eric Boyd. Ridgemark has a history of rapid blight disease on its *Poa annua* greens, and not long before the trials were initiated, one of the two 18-hole golf courses (Diablo) was closed permanently due to drought and water availability issues.

Fungicides were applied preventatively from July to September in both years on the former #10 Diablo green. This study area provided a unique opportunity to test fungicides under extreme disease pressure not normally possible on

a golf course that is open for play. Disease pressure was due in large part to the employment of cultural practices that are widely known to be avoided during the summer when there is potential for rapid blight disease.

In addition, a second study area was added in 2015 on the practice putting green open for play (formerly #18 Diablo) to test the fungicide treatments under more normal or acceptable disease pressure. Fungicides were applied every two weeks using a CO₂-powered backpack sprayer equipped with TeeJet 8003VS nozzles calibrated to deliver 2 gallons/1,000 ft². Each treatment was replicated four times on each green.

2014 Results

Inducing stress by lowering height of cut, increasing verticutting/aeration/topdressing/rolling, and reducing irrigation resulted in escalating disease pressure and significant fungicide treatment differences starting in early September 2014 (Table 1).

Several fungicide treatments reduced rapid blight disease compared to the untreated control; however, the combination of A20235 + Heritage Action, and Velistia with or without Secure (all from Syngenta) provided the lowest disease cover by the end of the study. Secure (fluazinam) applied alone provided moderate disease control.

Although disease control was not improved when tank-mixed with Velistia (penthiopyrad), tank-mixing Secure with Heritage WG improved disease control compared to Heritage WG alone.

Fungicides that normally provide the best control of rapid blight disease (e.g., pyraclostrobin, mancozeb, trifloxystrobin) did not sustain disease control with mounting pressure in this study. Perhaps under normal circumstances where best disease management practices are employed, these fungicides would have performed according to expectations. In addition, diagnoses of disease samples taken from the area at the end of the study revealed that anthracnose disease was also present but to a lesser degree than *Labyrinthula*.

Fungicide treatments that did not perform as well as expected against rapid blight may have been related to their lack of efficacy against anthracnose.

2015 Results

To confirm disease identity and fungicide efficacy, representative disease samples were collected from both study areas every two weeks before fungicide treatment application and sent to Dr. Bruce Martin at Clemson University. Both *Labyrinthula* and anthracnose were identified in samples submitted from both greens; however, dominance of either pathogen tended to vary throughout the study in no distinct pattern.

Furthermore, disease symptoms by both pathogens were not visually distinguishable throughout most of the study, but based on results at times it appeared that each pathogen might have had a stronger presence in isolated areas of each green. On #10 Diablo, the green was severely scalped prior to the beginning of the study and thus it was difficult to distinguish disease symptoms from physical damage. As the study progressed, scalped turf appeared to succumb to attack from the pathogens and these areas were rated accordingly as disease cover.

Fungicides that performed well on this green are a true testament to their secondary plant health benefits as the turf appeared to recover more readily from scalping damage in addition to exemplary disease control.

In 2015, Daconil + Medallion was added as an anthracnose-specific treatment to help discern relative differences in disease activity and fungicide efficacy (Table 2). Performance of this treatment is further proof that both pathogens were present

on the greens. In addition, it appeared that anthracnose on these greens was resistant to QoI (i.e., strobilurin) fungicides including Heritage WG and Insignia, which has been observed elsewhere in the state.

A19188, an experimental treatment from Syngenta not included in 2014, performed the best on both greens in 2015. As in 2014, Velsita and Velsita tank-mixed with Secure provided very good disease control. In addition, Heritage Action (containing acibenzolar) significantly improved disease control over Heritage WG in both 2014 and 2015.

Rapid Blight or Anthracnose?

Despite positive rapid blight identification and consistent fungicide results found in three studies conducted over two years, not everyone in academia and industry is sold on the idea that newer fungicides, most notably Velsita, provide effective rapid blight control.

Isolates of *Labyrinthula* from Arizona and South Carolina did not appear to be as sensitive to Velsita in controlled greenhouse/growth chamber experiments. Furthermore, anthracnose has developed resistance to QoI fungicides like pyraclostrobin and azoxystrobin at Ridgemark and throughout most of California, whereas Velsita effectively controls it, supporting the possibility that anthracnose was likely more dominant than rapid blight on the greens during the experiments.

Continued on page 16

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New Fungicides For a Salty Disease

Continued from page 15

In actuality, rapid blight disease was present on all greens in both years; it was often the sole pathogen found in laboratory diagnoses of diseased samples; and since turf on plots treated with A19188 or Velista looked so good relative to all other treatments, it would be hard to imagine that these fungicides have no activity against rapid blight, or at least the *Labyrinthula* isolates found at Ridgemark.

Secure and acibenzolar also appeared to have demonstrable activity on both of these pathogens. Presently, Dr. Martin from Clemson is testing Velista and other newer fungicides against the rapid blight isolates from Ridgemark.

In summary, the future looks brighter, at least in California, for increasing our fungicide arsenal against rapid blight disease.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Eric Boyd and Ridgemark Golf & Country Club; BASF; Bayer; Syngenta; the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC); the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA); the California Turfgrass & Landscape Foundation (CTLF); and Target Specialty Products for their support of this research.

Thanks also to Dr. Mary Olsen, University of Arizona; Dr. Bruce Martin, Clemson University; Dr. Larry Stowell, Pace Turf LLC; and Dr. Mike Stanghellini, UC Riverside, for their insight on rapid blight disease and help with disease identification.

Tips for Managing Rapid Blight Disease:

- Manage salinity levels below 2 dS/m in upper root zone
 - Renovate/rebuild greens with poor infiltration or drainage
 - Irrigate deeply to help leach salts through the root zone
 - Avoid aggressive aeration, verticutting, and sand topdressing during periods of high temperatures, minimal rainfall, and salt accumulation in the root zone
 - Convert from *Poa annua* to creeping bentgrass
 - Use rapid blight tolerant cultivars of *Poa trivialis*, perennial ryegrass, colonial/velvet bentgrass, and Chewing's fescue
 - Apply fungicides preventatively (preferably) or curatively including:
 - o Velista (penthiopyrad)
 - o Insignia (pyraclostrobin), Lexicon (pyraclostrobin + fluxapyroxad), Interface (trifloxystrobin + iprodione)
 - o Fore (mancozeb)
 - o Secure (fluazinam)
 - o Heritage Action (azoxystrobin + acibenzolar)
- 1 tank-mix together or with Velista

Table 1. Effects of fungicide treatments on visual disease cover (0-100%) on #10 Diablo putting green. 2014. Ridgemark Golf & Country Club, Hollister, California.

No.	Product(s)	Company	Rate (oz/M)	Timing	Sep 5	Sep 19	Oct 2
1	Control	--	--	--	21 a	40 ab	56 ab
2	Lexicon SC	BASF	0.34	ABCDEF			
2	Fore WP	Bayer	6.0	ABCDEF	4 de	26 c	34 cde
3	Lexicon SC	BASF	0.47	ABCDEF	7 cde	38 ab	50 abc
4	Lexicon SC	BASF	0.47	ACE			
4	Fore WP	Bayer	8.0	BDF	5 cde	21 cd	20 efg
5	Secure SC	Syngenta	0.5	ABCDEF	3 de	14 de	20 efg
6	A20235	Syngenta	0.5	ABCDEF	2 e	2 f	16 efg
7	Heritage WG	Syngenta	0.2	ABCDEF	16 ab	40 ab	46 abc
8	Heritage Action	Syngenta	0.2	ABCDEF	5 cde	10 def	24 def
9	Secure SC	Syngenta	0.5	ABCDEF			
9	Heritage WG	Syngenta	0.2	ABCDEF	1 e	4 ef	16 efg
10	A20235	Syngenta	0.5	ABCDEF			
10	Heritage Action	Syngenta	0.2	ABCDEF	1 e	1 f	2 g
11	Velista WG	Syngenta	0.5	ABCDEF	6 cde	1 f	7 fg
12	Velista WG	Syngenta	0.5	ABCDEF			
12	Secure SC	Syngenta	0.5	ABCDEF	4 de	1 f	9 fg
13	Insignia SC	BASF	0.4	ABCDEF	8 cde	25 c	35 cde
14	Interface	Bayer	5.0	ABCDEF			
14	Fore WP	Bayer	6.0	ABCDEF	8 cde	12 def	42 bcd

Means followed by the same letter in a column are not significantly different ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Application Timing:

A = 11 July 2014

B = 25 July 2014

C = 7 August 2014

D = 21 August 2014

E = 5 September 2014

F = 19 September 2014

Table 2. Effects of fungicide treatments on visual disease cover (0-100%) on practice green (formerly #18 Diablo) and #10 Diablo. 29 September 2015. Ridgemark Golf & Country Club, Hollister, CA.

No.	Product(s)	Company	Rate (oz/M)	Practice Green	#10 Diablo
1	Untreated Control	--	--		74 a
2	Secure SC	Syngenta	0.5	13 abc	28 efgh
3	A20235	Syngenta	0.5	10 abcde	29 efgh
4	Heritage 50WG	Syngenta	0.2	2.0 e	74 a
5	Heritage Action	Syngenta	0.2	19 a	50 abcde
6	Secure SC	Syngenta	0.5	1.5 e	
6	Heritage WG	Syngenta	0.2	8.5 bcde	40 cdef
7	A20235	Syngenta	0.5		
7	Heritage Action	Syngenta	0.2	6.0 cde	44 bcdef
8	Velista WG	Syngenta	0.5	2.3 e	26 efgh
9	Velista WG	Syngenta	0.3	8.3 bcde	14 ghi
10	Velista WG	Syngenta	0.3		
10	Secure SC	Syngenta	0.5	5.0 cde	12 hi
11	A19188	Syngenta	1.0	0.5 e	2 i
12	A20866	--	0.21	16 ab	60 abcd
13	A20581	--	0.34	13 abcd	68 ab
14	Insignia SC	BASF	0.4	9.3 abcde	46 bcdef
15	Insignia SC	BASF	0.7	14 abc	55 abcd
16	Lexicon SC	BASF	0.34		
16	Fore Rainshield WP	Bayer	6.0	2.5 de	38 defg
17	Lexicon SC	BASF	0.47		
17	Fore Rainshield WP	Bayer	6.0	6.5 bcde	44 bcdef
18	Lexicon SC	BASF	0.47	11 abcde	63 abc
19	Interface SC	Bayer	4.0		
19	Fore Rainshield WP	Bayer	6.0	4.3 cde	26 efgh
20	Daconil Ultrex WP	Syngenta	3.2		
20	Medallion WP	Syngenta	0.3	3.8 cde	25 fghi

Means followed by the same letter in a column are not significantly different ($P = 0.05$).

Application DATES:

7 July 2015

4 August 2015

2 September 2015

22 July 2015

18 August 2015

22 September 2015



Figure 2. Treatments 11 (Velista) and 12 (Velista + Secure) held up to considerable disease pressure in 2014. #10 Diablo putting green. Ridgemark Golf & Country Club, Hollister, CA. Photo taken on 3 October 2014.

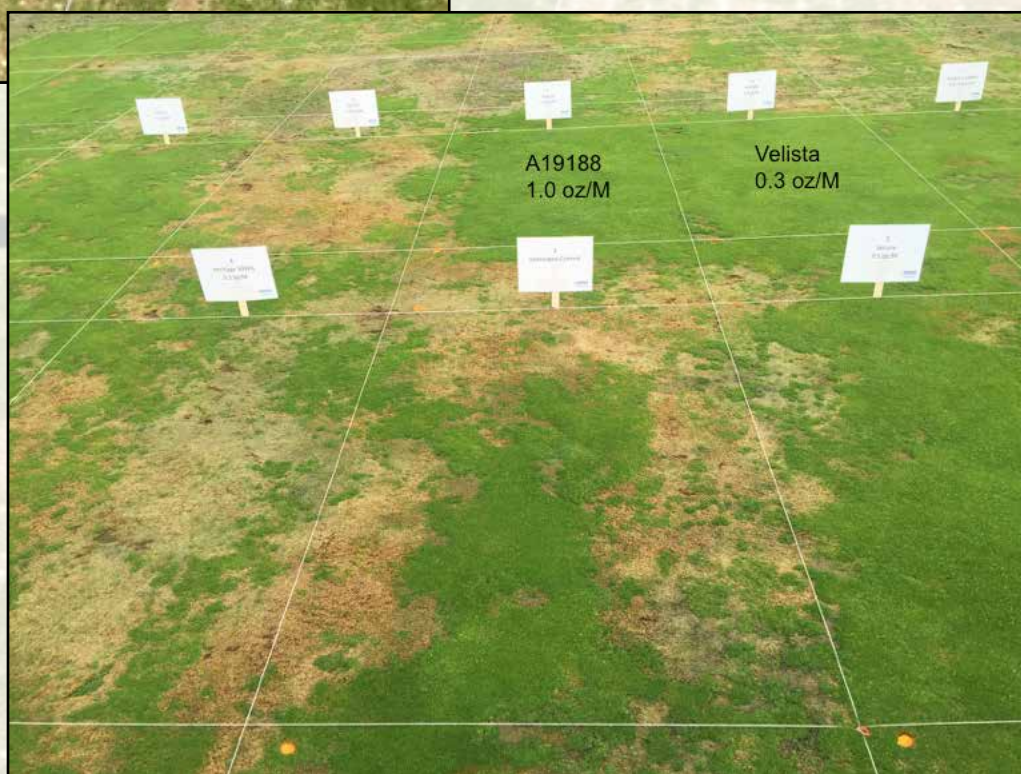


Figure 3. Velista and A19188 were among the best treatments in 2015. #10 Diablo putting green. Ridgemark Golf & Country Club, Hollister, CA. Photo taken on 1 October 2015.

The Green Committee and the Golf Course Superintendent

By **WILLIAM H. BENGEYFIELD**, *Western Director, United States Golf Association Green Section*

Editor's Note: Reprinted from Thru the Green—July 1972

As a brand new Assistant County Agricultural Agent (Farm Advisor to those of us in California), fresh from Ag College, I was making my first official visit to a country club. I'll never forget it!

Westchester Country Club, Rye, New York an exclusive, well-groomed and famous golf club 50 miles north of the Big City (and in recent years host to the prestigious \$250,000 Westchester Classic) is.

Actually, there are two 18-hole courses here, one more "championship" than the other. Impressive enough is the entrance to the property, but the expansive English Tudor style clubhouse, the grass tennis courts, the patios with their brightly colored umbrellas and tables, etc. challenges any novice and non-member even to attempt an approach.

Carefully weaving through the Rolls', Cadillacs and Bentleys in an old, black County Agent's Ford, I spotted a sign "Ground Maintenance" leading to a far off group of low, green buildings partially hidden by trees. This was in 1950, before the advent of the title "Golf Course Superintendent."

There was only one man in the area. I approached him, identified myself and asked; "Is the greenskeeper here?" "How is that?" he replied. "Is the greenskeeper here?" I repeated. "Son," he said, "you are new and probably don't know any better. But if you are ever going to make a career in golf course work, there is one lesson I had better teach you here and now. The term is 'Greenkeeper' not 'Greenskeeper.' I am the Greenkeeper, Tony Maselin—responsible for the entire golf course and don't ever forget it." I never have.

Being responsible for the entire course is indeed the assignment of the golf course superintendent. In the Rules of Golf, the term "green" refers to the whole course and not solely to the putting greens. Therefore, the green superintendent and his green committee are, at

most clubs, charged with the major operating expense and investment of their entire club. It's a big job, and when there is cooperation and understanding between all concerned parties, it can be a successful one.

A golf course program of maintenance and management is an intricate combination of men, materials, timing, climate, grasses, etc. What is good for one course is not always the best for the course down the road. But the new green chairman--the superintendent's boss--may not always understand these facts and frequently not recognize them as "facts" at all. "Committee responsibilities in a country club," writes Dr. Fred M. Adams, long-time Green Chairman and active in The Golf Association

of Michigan, "have always been an enigma to me. We have a real paradox; the Boards of Governors hire competent and in general well-trained club managers, golf professionals and superintendents, and then appoint committees composed of poorly trained, thoroughly inexperienced club members who are eager to run the operation. This obvious paradox in many instances leads to undermining the trained personnel with resultant confusion, inefficiencies and utter chaos.

"Human nature being what it is, most individuals when appointed to the green committee wish to make a contribution. Unfortunately for most of us, this contribution must represent change. After all, the new committee member has played golf for many years, not only in his local area, but probably throughout the country. Now, with appointment to the green committee, he finally has an opportunity to implement all of his experience and can hardly wait for the first committee meeting.

Now, let's stop a minute and objectively analyze our committee's preparedness for this job. While many of us have lawns at home, we still can't consider ourselves agronomists. We probably think *Poa annua* is a rare, exotic potted plant, and dollar spot must have something to do with the Internal Revenue Service. Let's face it, we are ill-prepared to offer much in the way of constructive criticism to a superintendent's maintenance procedures.

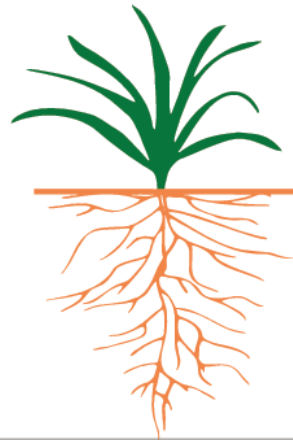
"What then," may we ask, "should the green committee's functions be?" How can these truly interested individuals make a significant contribution without jeopardizing the beauty and playability of the course, the maintenance practices of a superintendent, or the superintendent himself?

First of all, it becomes necessary for the Board of Directors to choose a chairman who has enough maturity and self-discipline to recognize that he really doesn't know much about agronomy. He will therefore be happy to leave the enormously complex problems related to growing grass up to the man who has been trained for this job--the superintendent. It's surprising how much more cooperative the superintendent will be if this philosophy is understood and conveyed to him from the start.

Of equal importance is the projected tenure of this chairman. Nothing is more devastating to the efficient operation of the green committee than the common practice of changing the chairman every year or two. Just as our chairman has his and the committee's responsibilities in proper perspective--he retires. In my opinion, no one should be offered this job unless he is willing to serve at least five years and possibly longer.

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The Green Committee and the Golf Course Superintendent

Continued from page 18

He also should have an indoctrination period of two to three years as a committee member before being offered the chairmanship. In this way, the superintendent will have had an opportunity to make his own observations of the possibility of a potential personality clash. The club President would do well to consult and heed the superintendent's feelings concerning the appointment of a new chairman.

Dr. Adams goes on to make many more points concerning the role of the Green Chairman and his committee to the golf course superintendent and the maintenance program. His complete paper, as well as another one prepared by the USGA Green Section on the subject, "A Guide For Green Committee Members" is available from your USGA Green Section office, Box 567, Garden Grove, CA 92642. We would be happy to send you a copy.

Editor's Note: Since this article was written in 1972, the address has changed and the Guide may or may not exist. If you are interested in this Guide, please contact Pat Gross at pgross@usga.org.

Almost everything written on the subject has been from the viewpoint of the Green Chairman and green committee responsibilities to the golf course superintendent and the maintenance program. Little has been written of the opposite direction (i.e., the superintendent's responsibilities to his committee and chairman. Perhaps these responsibilities are understood without detailing them. It's a simple employee-employer relationship, isn't it? Or is it?

Green Chairmen come and go, but superintendents go on forever. Anyone who has been in the business for any length of time will agree. I'm sure that most Green Chairmen are understanding, reasonable and good men. Many associations develop into life-long friendships. Certainly, most chairmen have been eminently successful in their own field and are good administrators.

On the other hand, all will agree that every now and then—perhaps from 1 out of 10 or 15 chairmen—a domineering, insistent, abrasive, and unbending personality comes on the scene. What is the superintendent's responsibility to this man? How does one handle this situation when it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain the proper spirit of cooperation and communication? Unfortunately, there are no pat answers.

"The boss may not always be right, but he's always the boss" is one approach. Every effort to cooperate and meet the demands of one's superior seems essential in this or any job. Having a positive attitude (read the book if necessary) helps beyond belief. Keeping a proper perspective of things can turn a poor relationship into a livable one. Perhaps the publications

mentioned earlier in this article will help. Remember, most job changes are made because of a failure to assimilate and get along with other people—rather than because of technical deficiencies.

But, we are all aware of seemingly impossible situations that develop between employee and employer. Even under these circumstances, one must always do his best on the job (if he's going to accept his paycheck) and, in the department of human relations, good counsel calls for an 'easy does it' approach. Review your own position on matters. Are you the insistent, unbending one? Always have an open mind. Direct confrontation cannot always be avoided and, in some cases, it is better if it occurs sooner rather than later. At least the ground rules are then established.

As my friend pointed out, "I'm the greenkeeper responsible for the entire golf course, and don't ever forget it." If you are charged with that responsibility, professional ethics require you to fulfill it. If "The Boss" demands the accomplishment of some unfounded or incorrect procedure (in spite of your pleas), ask him to put it in writing and to accept responsibility for the consequences on the golf course. This request alone will often discourage the pseudo agronomist. In any event, it seems far healthier for the superintendent to give it his very best and, in some way, develop a rapport with the 'difficult to get along with' type chairman.

If this is not possible and/or if the superintendent no longer holds overall responsibility for course maintenance procedures, the choice narrows to two: 1) Become the course foreman; 2) Leave.

Dr. Fred Adams summarizes the subject best as follows: "It has become rather obvious that in the years I have served as a Green Committee Chairman my basic ideas have changed as to the true role of the Green Committee. In any efficiently run, successful business, appropriately trained individuals are given the responsibilities of the many facets of the operation. Why can't our golf courses be managed with a similar philosophy? The green superintendent should be given the responsibilities that are obviously in his domain, without constant unwarranted criticism. The committee's chief functions necessarily should be in the areas in which they individually or collectively have expertise, such as communications, equipment, and labor relations.

By coordinating the talents of the green superintendent and his committee—and utilizing other outside agronomic services—a much better and economically sound golf course operation will result.



Out of Bounds

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

This go around I have two podcasts that are in bounds. For some, golf covers a lot of ground in their day-to-day life— from the work on their given course, to the professional and amateur events, golf course architecture, and just getting out and playing. There is always something going on, and it can be hard to keep up with who's playing well going into the Master's, or why there is a lack of center line hazards over the last 60 years in golf course design.



An interesting podcast with a heavy taste of golf course architecture and where golf is today, hosted by Rod Morri and Micheal Clayton, both of whom are from Australia, with Micheal having played on the pro tours and a practicing golf course

architect. Geoff Shackelford who has been reporting on golf and has been dabbling as a golf course architect in recent years gives his candid perspective from the United States.

<http://stateofthegame.libsyn.com>



This is a newer podcast that features Geoff Shackelford and Joe House that focuses on the golf tours and the stories that stem from there. Its golf gossip, dealing with who plays better on which course, what changes players are making, and life on

the tour and the challenges players face. My favorite part is listening to Geoff do voiceovers for the sponsor as he touts the newest Callaway drivers and how much farther they go!

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/shackhouse/id1095195175?mt=2>

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Sohan Singh: April 16, 1939 - March 04, 2016

*The association and all of us lost a true gentleman
with the passing of Sohan Singh.*

Sohan was born in the Fiji islands and came to the U.S. in April 1962 at the age of 23 married to his wife Pritam. He settled in Yuba City, California and worked on the crew at Peach Tree Country Club until 1968. He became the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at El Macero Country Club in 1968, where he stayed until 1972, when he accepted the position as Superintendent at the Diablo Country Club in Danville.

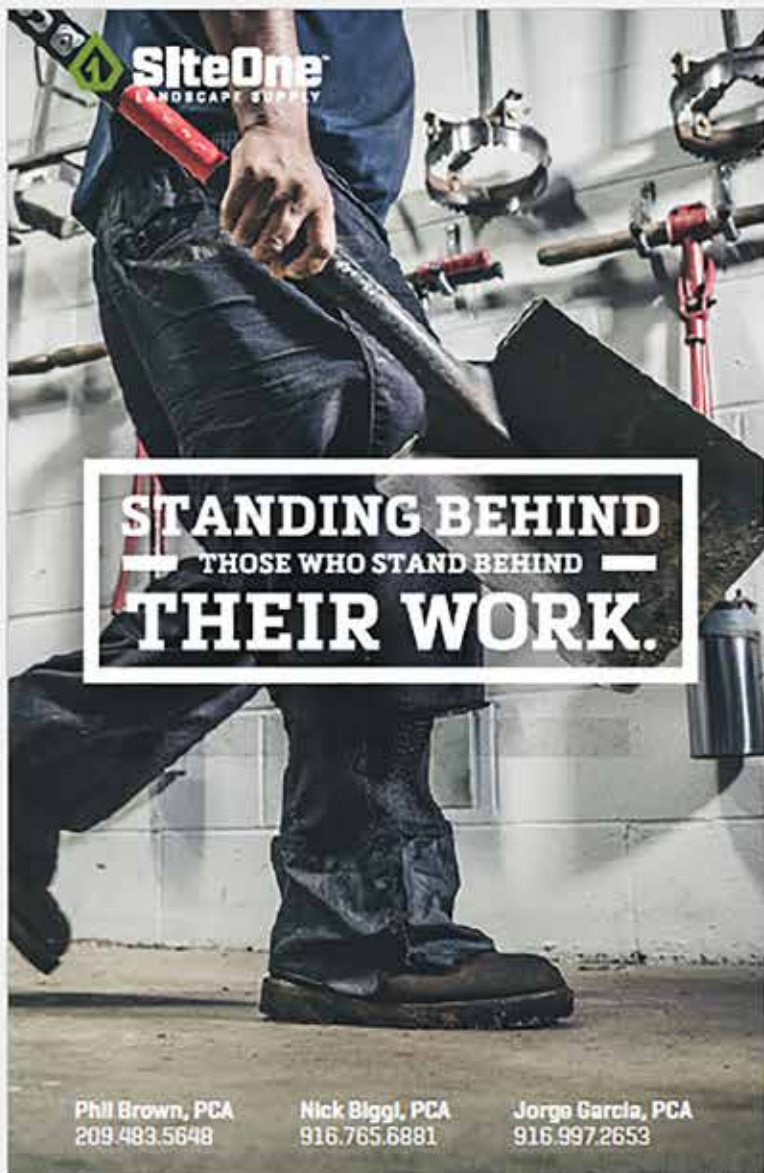
Sohan was a class A member and became certified in 1990. He retired from Diablo Country Club in January 1999 with full pension and benefits.

Sohan was a real family man. After his father left the family in 1951 due to illness, Sohan became the surrogate father for his six siblings and his mother. Eventually, his mother and father settled with Sohan in San Ramon, California and he again became the pillar and support of the entire family. Sohan and wife Pritam adopted his wife's nephew at the age of one, and soon Ajay became Sohan's pride and joy.

In addition to his carrier at Diablo Country Club, where he was well-respected and appreciated, Sohan was a very active member of the Sikh religion and became temple chairman and served on the executive board until his passing.

When his wife Pritam passed away in April of 2014, it broke Sohan's heart, and he never recovered from this loss. Sohan will be remembered for his professionalism and kind-hearted character by his family, colleagues and many friends.





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Naumann's NorCal News

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

Bill Andrade, Superintendent at Sunol Valley Golf Course is finding himself underutilized because his golf course recently closed. Sunol Valley Golf Course was a 36 hole public facility owned by the City of San Francisco P.U.C. and operated by a private contractor. He has been seen at local golf courses with his Australian Shepard, Molly, chasing geese. Bill had been the Superintendent for about 40 years at Sunol....**Mark Wilson** is leaving Shoreline Golf Course in Mountain View to be the Superintendent at Riverwalk Golf Courses in San Diego. Both facilities are managed by Touchstone Golf....GCSANC President **Fernando Villagran-Costello** has left Bodega Harbour Golf Links, and is the new Superintendent at Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club in Santa Rosa. The club was recently purchased by Club Corp. Soon after the purchase, they made personnel changes which included the letting go of a great Superintendent, **Jeff Sutherland**.



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