THRU THE GREEN

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On the Cover: San Jose Country Club, host site for the 2016 GCSANC/USGA/NCGA Regional Conference on March 14



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Greetings From President Villagran

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

Dear Members of the GCSANC,

First, let me say thank you to everybody for the salutations and congratulations when I had the honor to assume the role of President of the GCSANC; it was overwhelming!

Thank you to the current and past Board of Directors for the confidence and support. Thank you to Past President Jim Abate for the spectacular event he and the team put together in January at Harding Park. Thank you to the awards winners; you guys deserve that and much more for doing so much for our profession; you all make the rest of us look good.

As el Niño kept us busy inside our shops doing winter projects (that we ignore for the last four years), I hope everybody enjoyed a little extra time with their families and loved ones, ensuring that your batteries are recharged for another demanding year. It looks like the pressure on the drought will be relieved a little bit after this winter, but we shouldn't forget everything that we've learned and done during these dry years.

The issue of us being a target with the water use or abuse will not go away, and that is why we, the GCSANC, are going to keep working to have a voice on the state and national levels on any discussions that could affect our industry. As superintendents we should work closely with our local water district representatives and maintain a close relationship with them. They will continue to play a big role in the decision making process when it comes to water distribution and use.

We have to educate people. Whether we use fresh or well water, it is imperative that we show our members and the public how efficient and professional we are in the use of water. If we use reclaimed water, we should make sure that everybody knows that we are being proactive and caring for the environment. In the next crisis, maybe golf courses and superintendents will be seen as advisors in the use and conservation of water, rather than an easy target.

Outreach and education in our profession have become as important as our knowledge of agronomy. Let's start showing others what we know. As the proverb says, "It is nothing for one to know something unless another knows you know it."

Looking ahead, I encourage you to look at your calendar and save the dates that the association has scheduled our different meetings. We have very good venues and presenters planned throughout the year, so please register well in advance. If you, as a superintendent, cannot make it to one of the meetings, please send your assistant. We all know how important networking is for everybody, and that is especially true for those who are up and coming in the superintendent business.

Finally, I'd like to tell you that we would love to hear from you; your feedback is very important. That is the only way we can evaluate our performance and ensure we are meeting your expectations. So, send us emails, complete surveys, call us, fax us, or choose whatever method of communication is most convenient to you, but please reach out to us with your comments and concerns.

God bless, and I hope everyone of you enjoys a very successful 2016!

Fernando

Fernando Villagran-Costello, GCSANC President The Links at Bodega Harbour fernandovillagran@hotmail.com

NORCALENDAR

June 13
GCSANC Scholarship
& Research Tournament
Meadow Club
Fairfax

August 15
Tri-Chapter Meeting (Hosted by Central California
Chapter)

Corral De Tierra Country Club Corral De Tierra

October 24
GCSANC Institute
Boundary Oak Golf Club
Walnut Creek

In response to member requests, we are now pleased to offer full-color, printed copies of Thru The Green for \$40 per issue. To order a copy, to be shipped to you via mail, submit your name, address and payment information to mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com.

To pay by check, send payment and contact information to GCSANC, 2215 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95818.



Letter From the Editor

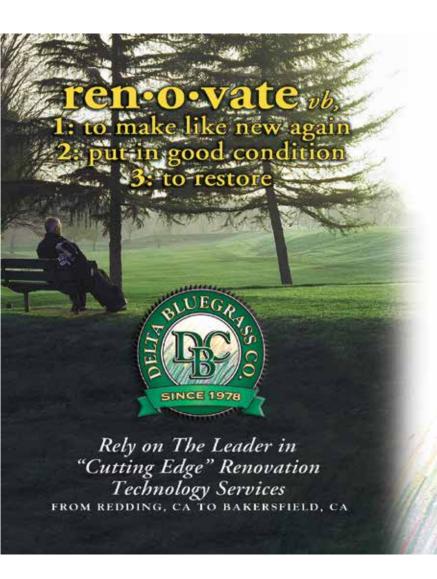
By SEAN TULLY, Meadow Club

Another year, another newsletter! After a wonderful Annual Meeting at Harding Park and the Golf Industry Show being in San Diego, 2016 is off to a great start.

Congratulations to our GCSANC award winners and all of our members who won the ELGA awards highlighted in this issue! We have such a strong group of members who not only represent themselves so well, but also their facilities and our association. We're very proud of our members! With that being said, if you have anything that could benefit our fellow members, please reach out to me for a possible article or interview.

To our affiliates, I am still looking for content for additional "Life on the Road" articles that highlight food and traveling on the road.

Thank you!



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Executive Director's Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

I hope that you have enjoyed a good start to 2016, and are preparing for a successful spring and summer at your courses. Things are running smoothly at GCSANC, and we have some outstanding events shaping up.

Our next event, on Monday, March 14 at San Jose Country Club, will be our annual USGA/GCSANC/NCGA Regional Conference. In addition to the informative presentations by USGA Green Section staff, we have arranged an overview and update on the Statewide Groundwater Management regulations, as well as a speaker from the Department of Pesticide Regulations, who will cover Laws and Regulations.

Meadow Club will host this year's Scholarship and Research Tournament on Monday, June 13, and the Institute is set for Monday, October 14 at Boundary Oak. The annual Holiday Meeting will occur on Friday, December 2, at Del Monte Golf Course and the Hyatt Regency. We are also very close to finalizing a date and venue for a Field Day in July.

One of the priorities of the association is to have events planned as far in advance as possible. To that end, we are very close to finalizing venues for the 2017 USGA/GCSANC/NCGA Regional Conference and Scholarship and Research Tournament, and possibly a 2017 Field Day venue.

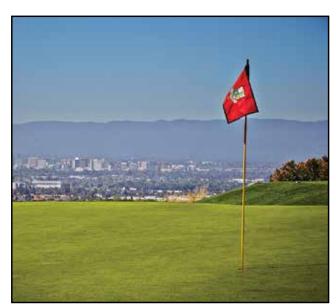
Another plan in the coming months is to offer educational opportunities electronically. Watch for a member webinar in the second quarter of 2016, and then about once per quarter thereafter.

The association will soon offer for sale a number of GCSANC-branded items. The Board and staff are pricing and evaluating items such as polo shirts, caps, lapel pins, lunch bags, towels, and fleece shirts.

We welcome your suggestions and requests, and look forward to seeing you at the many events we have planned in 2016.



GCSANC Board Member Gavin Dickson joins GCSANC President Fernando Villagran at the USGA Regional Conference at San Jose Country Club



#3 at San Jose Country Club

From the Field

By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

It was great to see all of you at the GCSANC Annual Meeting at TPC Harding Park last month. The event had a terrific turnout, and thank you to the GCSANC

Board and Executive Director Marc Connerly for a great day of golf and networking. Congratulations to the newly elected Board members and all of the award winners. Your volunteer efforts and work on behalf of the golf industry are appreciated by all.

As you are reading this, you will have just returned from the Golf Industry Show (GIS) in San Diego. I hope that you all enjoyed the show and were able to take away some ideas that will help your facility and personal development in the future. The show and venue proved to be very successful for GCSAA, and final numbers will be available at gcsaa.org in the coming days. We thank you for your support of GCSAA's showcase event, and if you have any comments or concerns in regards to the GIS, please feel free to contact me and share them.

I wanted to remind you of the upcoming deadline for the GCSAA Legacy Scholarships. The Environmental Institute for Golf and Syngenta fund the scholarships to provide assistance to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who have been active Class A, Superintendent Members, Class

C, Class A-Retired, or Class AA members for five or more consecutive years. Honorees receive a \$1,500 award.

Applicants must be enrolled full-time at an accredited institution of higher learning, or for high school seniors, they must have been accepted at such an institution for the next academic year. Deadline for applications is April 15. More information is available by clicking here.

In other news and notes, please don't forget about GCSAA webcasts. Upcoming webcasts include "Think Preventative when Planning Your Fairy Ring Program" on April 5, "ADA Practical Practices and Growing the Game," on April 14, and "Waste Risks Solutions and Opportunities" on April 20. The webcasts are available live and On Demand and provide a great way to supplement the education that is provided to you by GCSANC. They are free to members and .20 education points are available upon completion of the webcast.

More information and registration for upcoming webcasts is available by clicking here. Thank you for your continued support of GCSAA, and if I can be of any assistance to you or your facility, please don't hesitate to contact me at jensen@gcsaa.org and please follow me on Twitter for daily industry updates @GCSAA_SW.



2015 GCSANC Award Winners



By GARY INGRAM, CGCS, Metropolitan Golf

At the Annual Meeting at TPC Harding Park on January 25, GCSANC presented awards to four deserving individuals. Below are profiles of the 2015 Superintendent of The Year, George Santana Distinguished Service, Bert Graves Affiliate Merit, and GCSANC President's Award winners.

2015 GCSANC Superintendent of The Year

Brian Boyer, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club



The winner of the 2015 GCSANC Superintendent of the Year Award has relentlessly supported our organization and our industry while maintaining his golf course in excellent condition. It came as no surprise when Brian Boyer was selected as the 2015 Superintendent of the Year.

Working as a cart kid in high school, then being the Assistant Superintendent at Cattail Golf at the age of 18, and being only 30 minutes from East Lansing, it

was a no-brainer that he should go to Michigan State to get a BA in Science and Turfgrass.

Brian hoped to do his internship at a private country club, so he applied to Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club since his boss in Michigan had interned there. Nothing was available at Palo Alto, so without researching further he applied to what he thought was a local municipal facility, and was accepted.

To his surprise, he was going to intern at San Francisco Golf Club and serve under mentor Bob Klinesteker. After his internship, Brian was fortunate enough to stay at the club until he was offered the Superintendent position at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club.

Under his leadership, Cinnabar Hills has received numerous awards, including Best Public Course in Silicon Valley five times, CGCOA Golf Course of the year twice, and Golf World Readers' Choice Award.

Brian has been on the GCSANC Board for five years, including two years as our Secretary/ Treasurer. He has

successfully taken us through a major transition, keeping the GCSANC one of the most financially stable superintendent associations in the country. He has run numerous successful Scholarship and Research Tournaments, which provide a large portion of the association' funding, as well as exceptional networking opportunities.

Last year was very challenging for many superintendents due to the drought. Brian jumped into the arena and became one of the leaders in the conservation efforts and relationship management with government regulators.

He was a key player on the Northern California Golf Industry Water Conservation Coalition, attended State Water Resources Control Board meetings in Sacramento, and joined the Santa Clara Valley Water District Landscape Committee, attending numerous district meetings on conservation and recycled water.

As a direct result of Brian's efforts, Cinnabar Hills was awarded the Water Saving Hero Award by Santa Clara Valley Water, recognizing individuals and businesses who have developed water friendly landscapes and implemented effective water conservation strategies and sustainable environmental practices.

The course was also recognized for taking a leadership role in conserving water while educating golfers, industry colleagues, and employees about the importance of conservation.

Upon receiving the 2009 Turfgrass Excellence Award for Public Course, Brian was asked about his management style. The first point he made was that it's not those who know how who succeed, but those who know why. His second point was that the only true mistake is when nothing is learned from it.

Brian is married to his wife Jennifer, and they have two children, Samantha and Benjamin. The family spends numerous hours reading joke books, playing cards and doing science projects.

Away from work, Brian spends time running ultra-marathons, and he's currently training for his 100K run in May in Golden Gate Park.

When asked for a comment about Brian, 2014 GCSANC Superintendent of The Year winner Kevin Breen, who runs regularly with him, commented, "I'm surprised how much he is able to accomplish with so many balls in the air."

Congratulations to Brian Boyer, and thank you for your contributions to the Golf Course Superintendent profession.

Continued on page 9

Insects can really hurt a golf course. But not as much as a lack of funds.



The Environmental Institute for Golf is helping GCSAA chapters raise funds for turfgrass research, and you can help. All you have to do is donate a round to our online auction. The funds raised will go to agronomic studies, awareness, scholarships and other education programs.

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Auction Date: April 1-10, 2016

Questions? Contact Mischia Wright, Associate Director, EIFG 800.472.7878, ext. 4445 • mwright@gcsaa.org



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2015 GCSANC Award Winners

Continued from page 7

2015 George Santana Distinguished Service Award

Bob Lapic, Orinda Country Club (retired)



Born and raised Burlingame, this year's George Santana Distinguished Service Award winner went to Mills High School, then attended Brigham Young University on a golf scholarship. His first year at BYU was the same year that Johnny Miller graduated.

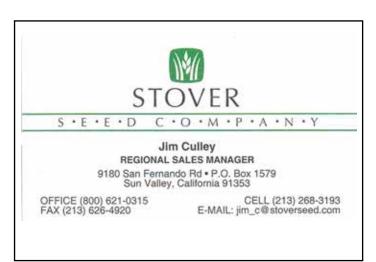
After receiving his BA in English Literature,

Bob worked from 1977 to 1985 at Peninsula Country Club as a laborer. That was followed by a lengthy stint as Superintendent at Boulder Creek Golf and Country Club before he went to work at Orinda Country Club in 1998.

Bob worked at Orinda as the Superintendent for 17 years before retiring in 2015 after more than 40 years on the golf course.

He served on the GCSANC Board for five years, serving as President in 2003, and winning the Superintendent of The Year Award in 2005.

Married in 1984 to his wife of over 30 years, Liz, the couple have a grown son and daughter.



2015 Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award

Dean Kinney, Sierra Pacific Turf Supply



Dean Kinney, the 2015 Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award winner was born in El Paso, Texas, but spent most of his childhood in Oregon.

In high school, he was an avid baseball player, playing in the Oregon state championship. Today he is an avid runner.

His first job was thinning peaches when he was 13, and he quickly knew that he did not want

to carry a ladder around all day.

After high school he went to Oregon State University, where he got a BA in Production Horticulture. While at OSU, he worked for Harry and David (from Fruit of the Month gift basket fame) checking pear and peach orchards for pests, and in Corvallis for DuPont as a Research Assistant.

He enjoyed the research position so much that, after graduating from OSU, he moved to Arroyo Grande, CA to take a Research Assistant position for RhonePoulenc Ag Company, now Bayer.

Thinking research was his calling, he went back to school to get to get a Masters in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he met his wife Victoria.

He soon accepted a sales job with Rhone-Poulenc, where he worked for another five years before taking a job with Chipco International.

Dean was married in 1993, and after learning that the couple would have their first child, took a job with Novartis (now Syngenta) that offered a smaller territory and the ability to stay at home more.

The couple has two daughters, Natalie and Chloe. Natalie, 16, is an avid golfer with a 7.9 index, and Chloe, 10, enjoys playing soccer.

Dean is a valuable asset to Sierra Pacific Turf Supply and the community of golf course superintendents, organizing various educational events and always being willing to lend a helping hand. We congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

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2015 GCSANC Award Winners

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2015 GCSANC President's Award

Dr. James Baird, UC Cooperative Extension

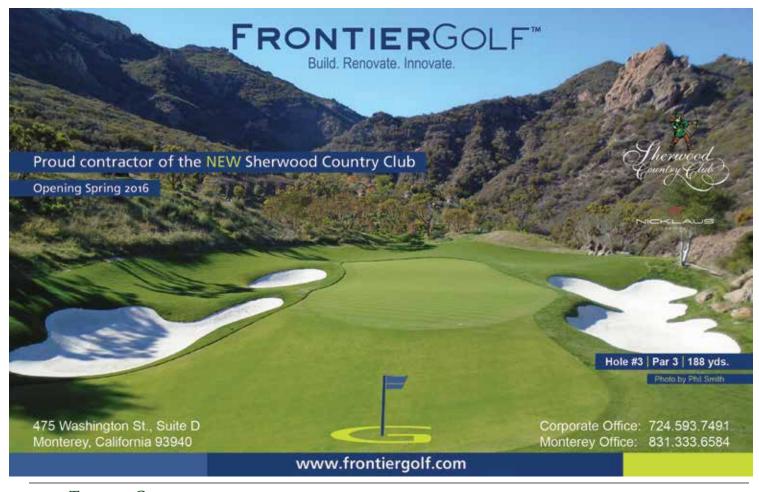
Dr. James Baird was presented with the 2015 GCSANC President's Award by outgoing GCSANC President Jim Abate.

Dr. Baird has been a longtime asset to the golf industry through his extensive research on turf grass improvement, with emphasis on fescues, ryegrasses, Bermuda grass, and kikuyu grass, as well as water conservation, salinity management, pest management, and weeds and diseases.

Dr. Baird received his Ph.D. from Auburn University in 1993, annually hosts a Field Day for Superintendents at UC Riverside, was a presenter at our 2015 Institute, and much of his research may be found on the GCSANC website.

Congratulations to Dr. James Baird, and thank you for your contributions to turf grass research for the benefit of the golf industry.







Assistant Superintendent Profile: Ross Johnson, Spanish Bay Golf Links Golf Course Superintendent at The Links at Bodega Harbour

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 get to know Ross Johnson, Assistant Superintendent at Spanish Bay Golf Links in Pebble Beach.

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

RJ: I always wanted a job outdoors. I was offered a construction job at a golf course in Colorado the summer after my senior year in high school. I enjoyed the work and the atmosphere so much that I came back the next summer for the golf maintenance crew and became hooked.

PB: What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?

RJ: Being a part of the numerous construction projects throughout my career.

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

RJ: All people I have worked for and with have been extremely influential. The single person would have to be Tom Huesgen because he helped start my career.

PB: Where were you born?

RJ: Kenosha, WI.

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

RJ: A trophy truck (the off-road racing trucks).

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

RJ: Hopefully neither.

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

RJ: Seeing a crew member, who was naturally goofy, banging a couple of sticks together and yelling while driving a golf cart around in circles in a fairway trying to chase some coots.

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

RJ: I enjoy welding.

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

RJ: I believe a 94 at Petrifying Springs Golf Course in Kenosha, WI.

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

RJ: Raking bunkers.

PB: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?

RJ: It could always be worse.

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?

RJ: Leatherman, girlfriend, matches, fishing pole, Auto Trader magazine

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

RJ: Race cars/trucks

PB: What is your favorite golf maintenance related quote?

RJ: There is more than one way to skin a cat. •

Remembering A Longtime Friend and Colleague

By JOHN SINGH

Editor's note: Harkewal "Henry" Singh was a longtime member of the golf industry, and had a passion for the game and the profession of Golf Course Superintendent. He passed away last July, and the following tribute is provided by his son, John Singh.

Henry Singh came from the Fiji Islands to the United States (Yuba City, California) in 1959. His first job was at Peach Tree Country Club, where he worked from 1959 to 1962. He served on the maintenance crew and was instrumental with the installation of their irrigation system.

In 1962, he moved to Folsom, California, and was the Golf Course Superintendent at El Dorado Hills Colf course in El Dorado Hills from 1962-1971.

Henry was the first Golf Course Superintendent at Rancho Murieta Country Club. He was instrumental in the construction of the North Course that was built that year and the South Course that was built in 1979. The 1986 "Senior's Golf Classic" at Rancho Murieta was the area's first major tournament. He was there from 1971-1986.

In 1987, Henry became Golf Course Superintendent at Diamond Oaks Golf Course in Roseville, California. He was at Diamond Oaks from 1987 to 1990, and was responsible for the new construction of their first maintenance yard.

Henry became a member of the City of Roseville's Streets and Landscaping Department in 1991, when Diamond Oaks was contracted out to Environmental Care. He worked for the City from 1991 until he retired in 2000.









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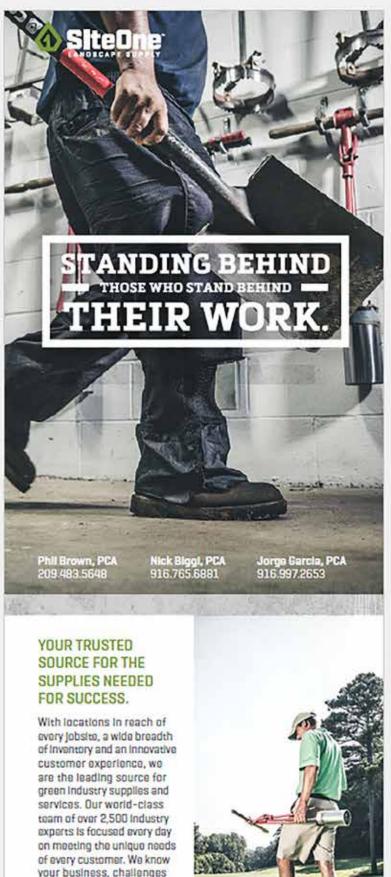
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Bring Back The Fun

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

Golf can be a good walk spoiled, but it doesn't have to be as hard as it is often presented to the average golfer. In most cases, golfers will be their own worst enemy by playing from the back tees even when their game doesn't warrant it. They are often the same people pushing to have the course's par defended by narrowing the fairways, speeding up the greens, and growing out the rough. Where's the fun in that?

Fairway width has been narrowed for a quite a while with a recent emphasis on challenging the length of a golf ball by rewarding accuracy. Where 25-30 yards has become the norm, golf suffers by forcing a "target golf" mentality on everyone. Where older courses that once had fairways as wide as 60 yards now find the best angles into the green lost in the rough. Fairway bunkers have been lost in the rough and should be called "rough bunkers."

Bringing back fairway width requires that fairways play as firm as possible to give a ball the chance to work itself into or out of position. Balls will go further down the fairway, but golfers will also run the risk of hitting a shot that runs into a bunker or doesn't allow for a good angle into the green.

Good examples for wide fairways would be at San Francisco Golf Club and The Valley Club, where some fairways are 50 yards wide. I have also included images of the fairway widening at Shore Acres (Brian Palmer GCS), in Lake Forest, Illinois that gives a player more room to play their tee shot and to get a better angle into different hole locations. It is great to see how much fairway turf was added on each hole and how it brings back bunkers and hazards that had previously been guarded by rough.

The views below of the ninth and eighteenth holes show a before and after (2013 vs. 2015). Here is a link that shows how the widening of the fairways looks while also highlighting what makes Shore Acres such a wonderful golf course. http://www.golfcoursegurus.com/reviews/shoreacres.php.

Pace of play and bringing fun back into the game are still being discussed as issues that golf needs to address moving forward, so why not look at making the course wider to allow for faster play and less punishing to the average golfer. After all, isn't this game hard enough already!





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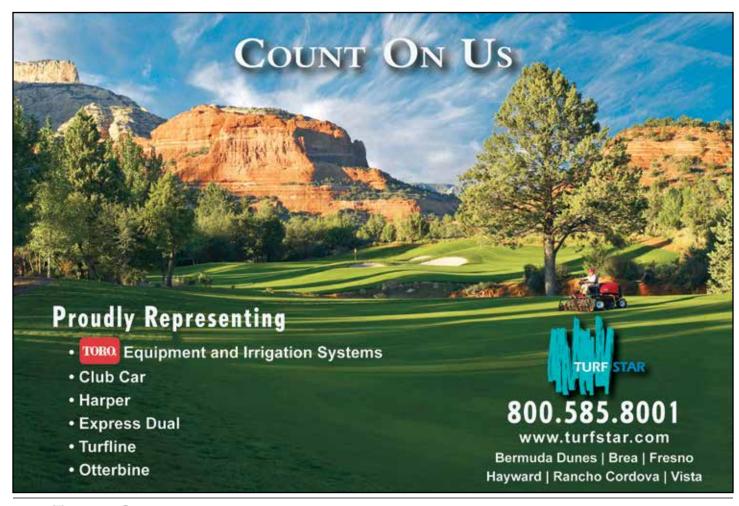
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Superintendent Profile: Pete Bachman

Golf Course Superintendent at the Links @ San Jose Country Club

By TIM SEDGLEY, CGCS Poplar Creek Golf Course

Pete Bachman is hosting the upcoming USGA/NCGA Regional Conference. Pete grew up in Palmyra, a suburb of Hershey, Pennsylvania, not knowing that his career would lead him to the more desirable climate of Northern California.

Pete played high school golf among other sports in Palmyra. He decided to attend Penn State University after considering Ohio State and Clemson, and obtained his BS degree in Turf Grass Science. After graduating, Pete served an internship at Beaver Stadium, the grass field for the Nittany Lions with a seating capacity of 106,000 (the second largest stadium in the U.S.).

Pete then headed west for a job at The Preserve Golf Club in Carmel, California under the tutelage of Kevin Siring. Andrew Morgan, currently at Palo Alto Hills, was the main contact for acquiring Pete's position at The Preserve. Andrew and Pete played on the same high school golf team back in Palmyra.

Soon thereafter Pete headed to Pebble Beach Golf Links for seven years (four of which he was the Assistant Superintendent). Pete credits Chris Dalhamer for mentoring him and helping him prepare for his current Superintendent position at San Jose Country Club.

Pete's current challenge is dealing with a club in transition, working with two different General Managers in one year, as well as a new board of directors. Future plans for the club include developing a long range architectural plan after the completion of the Billy Bunker System.

Pete served as GCSANC's Assistant Superintendent Director, and was recently elected to a two year term as a Superintendent Director. He has served on the Research, Web/Social Media, and Education committees, and his favorite part of the business is performing physical labor on golf course projects.



He has an older sister and a younger brother on the east coast, and spends most of his free time with his girlfriend Kayla. The best advice ever given to Pete was never to pass up an opportunity to shut up. His favorite hobbies include golf, back packing, fishing, and exploring the Sierras and the west coast with Kayla.

Pete remains a true fan of the Steelers, Penguins, and the Pirates, and you won't find his favorite beverage, Yeungling beer, at Safeway. It is brewed at America's oldest brewery, which is located in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where Pete could once be found driving his first car, a 1991 Chevy Beauville Sports Van.

After moving out West, his favorite golf courses have become Pebble Beach, Spyglass Hill, The Preserve, and Cypress Point Golf Club. His favorite golf foursome to play with would include John Daly, Mario Lemieux, and Ben Roethlisberger.

Around we go...

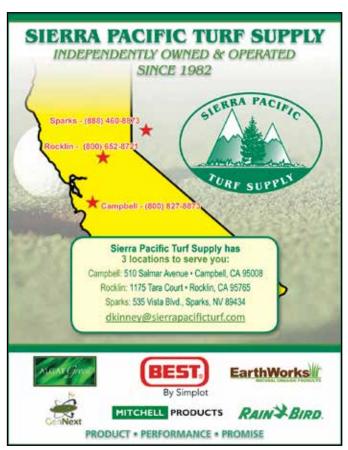


Jim Culley of Stover Seed Company and Brian Whitlark of USGA take a break at the USGA Regional Conference









(80)

Out of Bounds

By SEAN TULLY, Meadow Club

I'm still finding new podcasts to listen to! Gastropod and Sporkful are fun podcasts that look at food in some new and interesting ways. For those that have followed my previous Out of Bounds articles, you will recognize that I draw a lot of content from the 99% Invisible podcast, and for good reason.

Enjoy!



Technology has helped to make our world a much smaller place. It only makes sense that we are finally getting around to understanding the smaller things with that same technology. We have a lot of questions dealing with microbes in our soil, and it appears that

we have even more to learn when it comes to the microbes in our stomachs. Have a listen to this podcast from the Gastropod titled, "The End of the Calorie," and find out why it is hard for some people to lose some unwanted weight.

http://gastropod.com/the-end-of-the-calorie/



Protecting the public has a funny way of making sure things are covered properly without fully understanding the bureaucracy that gets in the way. Here is an interesting podcast that gives some of the background on why expiration dates found their way onto our food. Roman Mars and the rest

of 99% Invisible deliver again on an engaging topic, "Best Enjoyed By."

http://99percentinvisible.org/episode/best-enjoyed-by/



