

THRU THE GREEN

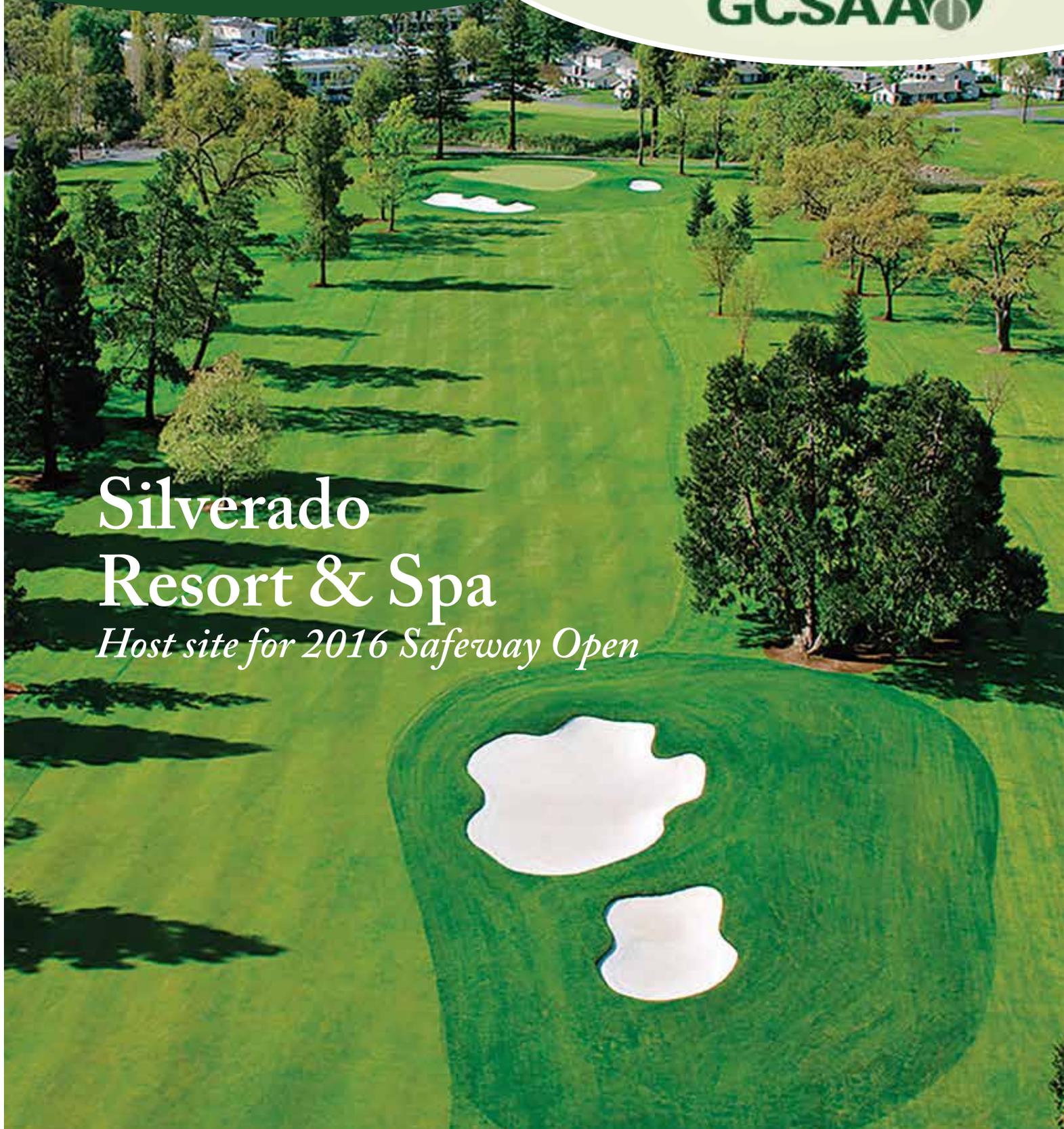
The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2016

Northern California Chapter
GCSAA

Silverado Resort & Spa

Host site for 2016 Safeway Open



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Greetings From President Villagran

By **FERNANDO VILLAGRAN**, 2016 GCSANC President,
Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe, but most of the season is behind us. Hopefully you had an exceptional year with your property, and if you are doing a fall aeration, best of wishes for you, your crew and your golfers.

I know we “Supers” are a very popular topic at the discussion tables in clubhouses when aeration time comes around. To help drive those conversations in a more positive direction, nothing is better than information and communication through emails, blogs, Twitter, bulletin boards, or other avenues. One of the most important methods of communicating with your golfers is still daily interaction with them at the course.

If help is needed writing communication letters, we have several resources to which we can turn, and most of those resources are not only written with us (the turf growers) in mind, but also to help the golfer understand “why we do what we do” when the golf course is typically in the “best shape ever.” Sources for this information include GCSAA, USGA Green Section, magazines, and more.

If you are working on your budget for next year, don't forget to include education, meetings and associations dues as a line item. These items are as important, in my opinion, as any of the products that we buy throughout the year because they are the only way to keep up with everything that is happening in our industry, and to learn about new trends and products.

Days might be shorter, but your association is still working hard to put together meetings with very interesting education topics. We just had the Assistant Booth Camp that Superintendent Matt Muhlenbruch puts together every year at Poppy Hills in Monterey; it is a great annual event full of information and camaraderie for Assistants.

The Institute at Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek with Superintendent Jay Neunsinger was very well-attended, and provided GCSAA and DPR points. Our next issue of Thru The Green will be a special recap of the Institute.

Also, registration has been open for a while for the GCSANC December Meeting and golf at Del Monte Golf Course. This is a great social event and an opportunity to bring your significant other to tell them “thanks for putting up with me” during all these long days. It is also a great way to meet more colleagues and Affiliates, and see guys that we don't see very often in a fun and relaxed atmosphere where everybody has a great time.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Fernando

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NORCALENDAR

December 2

Annual Holiday Meeting
Del Monte Golf Club/Hyatt
Regency Monterey
Monterey

December 12

Regional Meeting
California Club
San Francisco

NEWS PRINT

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

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Letter From the Editor

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

What a busy year! I'm not sure if the Major golf season had an effect on that with the inclusion of the Olympics into the mix, and jamming all the majors into a much tighter window. The Ryder Cup did benefit from the scheduling change, as it went a week later and had time to get cleaned up from some wet weather that would have impacted the event otherwise.

Hats off to Chris Tritibaugh, his staff, and volunteers at Hazeltine! I have known Chris for a number of years, and was

not surprised by how well the course was prepared and how smooth everything went. It was nice to see the Ryder Cup come back to our side, and I will look forward to seeing the Cup played for again in two years' time.

As the season starts to cool off and rain either comes or stays away, we are all shifting from this year and planning for the next. I, for one, am eager to talk with my fellow Superintendents and vendors as I work towards building my budget for 2017.

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SAVE THE DATE

Join us at California Club on Monday, December 12 for a year-end regional meeting covering online software, apps and social media sites that can be utilized to make the Superintendent's job easier and more efficient.

Hear tips on:

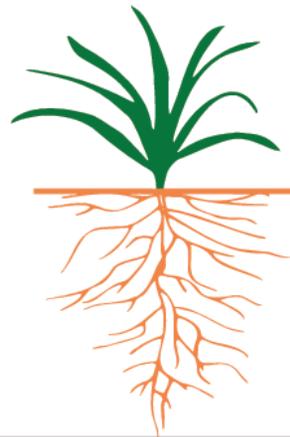
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Plus:

See the NTEP turf plots at California Club.

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Executive Director's Report

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

As I prepared to write my Executive Director's Report, and considered a topic, I realized how many of the messages in this edition of Thru The Green are focused on helping and providing resources to you, our members.

Fernando's President's Message reminds you to include GCSANC dues and event registration fees in your budget so you can benefit from our many events and resources; Jeff Jensen's From The Field shares information on GCSAA's emergency relief fund; and Sean Tully's Out of Bounds pieces always provide useful and informative podcasts that are "outside" what you might typically find in a superintendent's association newsletter.

All of that is exactly what an association is about: being a resource, a place to turn when facing a difficult or complicated situation, and a source for answers (or, at a minimum, assistance with where to find the answers).

For less than \$15 per month, GCSANC members have access to numerous events designed to inform and educate, six electronic newsletters per year, online resources via the association website, email bulletins, and webinars when relevant issues arise.

Additionally, members have access to the GCSANC benevolent fund and scholarships, the GCSAA emergency relief fund, and benefit from GCSANC's contributions to turf research efforts.

Membership in your trade association is both an investment in your career and an insurance policy against potential crises. We hope that you will think of GCSANC when a question arises that has you scratching your head, or you encounter a difficult situation that calls for outside assistance.

We are here to help and to make your job a little easier.

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From the Field

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

I hope your fall is off to a great start. The summer proved difficult for superintendents throughout the United States. From severe heat and wildfires in California to flooding in Louisiana and West Virginia, the summer of 2016 seemed to have it all. GCSAA members handled it as they always do: with patience, teamwork, creativity and a never ending work ethic.

As California is prone to numerous Acts of God, including earthquakes, floods and fires, keep in mind that GCSAA does provide an emergency relief fund for members during times of natural disaster. While it cannot be used at the facility level, GCSAA members who meet the below criteria for personal loss would be eligible for assistance.

The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to GCSAA members who suffer personal loss or medical hardship. Any GCSAA member is eligible for this assistance, and the amount of the assistance provided shall differ by situation, up to a maximum of \$2,500 per claim.

Initially, GCSAA will provide financial assistance (intended to assist with clothing, food and shelter) to members who contact us (via phone or email), whose daily lives are altered by the effects of the event, and who meet any of the following criteria:

- * Had to relocate/evacuate (whether they are staying with family, friends or in a motel) from their homes and were not able to return immediately following the event due to damage;
- * Remained in their homes, but lost basic necessities such as electricity, water, etc. for a period greater than 48 hours, which lead to unexpected financial burden;
- * Are employed at a golf course that sustained substantial damage and may not be a source of employment going forward;

These members will not be required to provide us with any documentation or invoices other than a verbal or email explanation of costs incurred and verification on our end that they are within the affected area. Our goal is to provide financial assistance as quickly as possible.

Once our members have had an opportunity to assess fully their long-term situation, in terms of personal loss and employment status, we will make available the entire \$2,500 following more closely the aforementioned criteria.

I'm hopeful that we never have to resort to this, but limited aide is available to those in need if the circumstance arises.

If you have any questions concerning the emergency relief fund or if there is anything else GCSAA-related that I can assist you with, please don't hesitate to email me at jjensen@gcsaa.org.

I look forward to seeing you at a GCSANC event soon.

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Assistant Superintendent Profile: Conner Galea, San Francisco 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 Conner Galea, Assistant Superintendent at San Francisco Golf Club.

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

CG: I am following in the footsteps of my dad, Peter Galea. I love being outdoors and playing golf.

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

CG: I had the opportunity to grow in Poa plugs on a nursery, which is now a PGA Tour green.

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

CG: Chris Dalhamer, Robert Klinesteker and Peter Galea

PB: *Where were you born?*

CG: Burlingame, CA

PB: *Your best Nicknames?*

CG: Connie Pebbles



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

CG: Lamborghini Veneno on the Autobahn

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

CG: No answer...

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

CG: A coworker reenacting Quagmire from Family Guy during greens aerification.

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

CG: I want to obtain my private pilot's license.

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

CG: 83, Pebble Beach

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

CG: Mowing greens

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

CG: Early is on time and on time is late.

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?*

CG: Coffee, Ka-Bar, duct tape, books and a backpack

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

CG: Travel the world skiing and hiking

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

CG: "If it's perfectly green, that tells me you're over-watering."



Did You Know?

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

In **1946**, there was a reorganization of this association due to the depression and WWII. Efforts to keep the association going were made, but it wasn't until after the war that attention returned to golf. Jeeps were in surplus, and many were being used to pull gang mowers.

In **1947**, UCLA announced that it would develop abbreviated courses in Turfgrass Management, while also maintaining turf plots. Turf plots were also established at UC Berkeley and maintained by Dr. Harry Shepherd. Toro became a Rainbird representative in Northern California, and the holiday party

was hosted at Green Hills Country Club, with only men admitted, and gifts exchanged.

In **1948**, the name of the association changed from Northern California Greenskeepers to Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association. Paul Paulsen replaced his father at San Francisco Golf Club. The association joined the California Horticulture Council, and helped to persuade the University of California at Davis to be helpful to the turfgrass industry. A salary survey that year revealed that there was a range of \$225 to \$450 a month, and an average budget for an 18 hole course of \$40,000!

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2: put in good condition
3: to restore

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Out of Bounds

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

Here is another round of Podcasts for you to help get your mind away from the golf course, or for the chance to learn something new for a few minutes on that long drive.



Gastropod —

Another Gastropod podcast, this time about caffeine. Coffee is a drink that most in our industry indulge in on our early mornings to wake us up and for warmth. I'm an outlier in this regard, having never taken to coffee, but find my caffeine from other less healthy sources. In this episode they take the idea of caffeine to places I would never have considered before listening to this podcast.

<https://soundcloud.com/gastropodcast/caffeine-the-worlds-most-popular-drug>

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