THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

April / May / June / July 2017

Northern California Chapter

GCSAA

2017 Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament Host

Peninsula Golf & Country Club



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10th Annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament Host, Peninsula Golf & Country Club

INSIDE

NORCALENDAR 3
GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT by Sean Tully
RESEARCH UPDATE by Sean Tully
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT by Marc Connerly
GCSANC CHIPS
FROM THE FIELD by Jeff Jensen
SIERRA PACIFIC TURF SUPPLY GIVES BACK10
GCSANC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 11
WHAT IS YOUR SINGLE BIGGEST INPUT? by Brad Snavely
HOWARD EARL FISHER, JR 14
AROUND WE GO 15

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Greetings From President Tully

By SEAN TULLY, 2017 GCSANC President, Meadow Club

This year has been an interesting one with our range of weather, but the rain was great and much needed. It feels like we have been having a cooler than normal year for most of the courses in our area, and then we got a week of temperatures in the 100's, followed by a drop back to cooler temperatures. I'm not complaining, just hard to get used to the heat only to get back into the 60° range a couple of days later.

We had a great turnout for the Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament, and we need to thank Scott Stambaugh and everyone at Peninsula Golf and Country Club for hosting our event. The wonderful Donald Ross golf course was in great condition, and the work done in the clubhouse, along with the food, made for a great event!

Thank you as well to all the vendors that provided auction and raffle items, and all our members that bid on them as well. It is always great to see the support on both sides of the event to raise money for our scholarship program and to help fund research programs that can help benefit our members.

The Tri-Chapter Meeting this year is hosted by the Sierra Nevada Chapter, and it is being held on August 21st at Del Paso Country Club in Sacramento. This is a great opportunity to see a great golf course that was renovated by Kyle Phillips and hosted the 2015 Senior US Open. Another reason is to meet some of your fellow superintendents from other chapters and compare notes and make new friends.

Sean

Sean Tully Meadow Club stully@meadowclub.com

NORCALENDAR

August 21
Tri-Chapter Meeting (Hosted by Sierra Nevada GCSA)
Del Paso Country Club
Sacramento

November 6
GCSANC Institute
Sonoma Golf Club
Sonoma

December 8
GCSANC Holiday Meeting
Monterey

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.



Research Updates from UC Riverside

By SEAN TULLY, Meadow Club

Dr. Baird and his students will be very busy this year working on a number of research efforts in Northern California. This research is funded in part by our association in an effort to help our fellow Superintendents with issues that they face on the course. Following is some of the work that they have going on currently and hope to get started this year:

Bermudagrass evaluation at Meadow Club -

Work with potential new varieties of Bermuda grass that can hold winter color

Poa control at Pleasanton Golf Center and Martis Camp - Continued work with Poa Cure

Fairway Fertilizer study at

Pasatiempo - What are some good
options that can work at your course?

New Anguina/root-knot nematode trials locations -

They are looking for locations to work with, do you have nematode issues?

PGRs/Poa control/ herbicide trials on bentgrass fairways - What options will work the best on this and provide quality conditions?



Be sure to check in and see how the research efforts are progressing and if they can help you with the issues at your course!



The work plugging test area with 16 varieties of Bermuda grass at Meadow Club.



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Executive Director's Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

Much has been going on "behind the scenes" at GCSANC. As mentioned later in this issue, we recently completed the 2017 GCSANC Wage and Salary Survey, and those results have been publicized to members. If you have not yet checked out the results, please take a moment to do so.

We netted more than \$17,000 at this year's Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament, and awarded \$11,500 to seven very worthy students. Congratulations to those students, and thank you to the many individuals and businesses who helped make this year's event a success.

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The new website has now been live for a several months, and we continue to populate it with fresh content. Not only will you find very informative and timely tweets from Dr. Jim Baird and others, but the new site includes a very streamlined Vendor Directory, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, updated Mission and Vision Statements, and more.

If you have content that you would like to contribute to the GCSANC website, have a request for additional content, or have a question about where to find a specific resource, please call the GCSANC office at (916) 454-1320 or email me at mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com.

In April, the GCSANC Board convened to complete a Strategic Plan for guiding the association in the coming years. In addition to updating the Mission and Vision for the association, the plan calls for the Board to develop a comprehensive financial plan, primarily focused on investing GCSANC reserves, by the end of 2017.

The Strategic Plan also aspires to increase the number of students and opportunities to join the profession, to begin discussions with the Northern California Golf Association to discuss collaborative opportunities (something on which Pete Bachman and I got the ball rolling in May), and increase Superintendent participation at events in 2018.

The plan provides the Board and staff with a map of the association's priorities in the near future, and will guide us as we strive to benefit the Superintendent profession and make GCSANC stronger and more relevant.

Honeybee Restoration Project in Spokane, WA

Interested in learning about the honeybee restoration project underway at Downriver Golf Course in Spokane, WA? Visit the following link to learn more: http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/jun/18/bees-among-the-tees-golf-course-embarks-on-honeybe/.

The article details a number of ways in which golf courses benefit the community and the environment, including a habitat for honeybees and produce (pumpkins and tomatoes in the case of Downriver), producing oxygen for the community (the article refers to a study regarding the oxygen created by healthy turf), and providing benefits to schools and children.

2017 GCSANC Wage And Salary Survey

The 2017 GCSANC Wage and Salary Survey is complete (based on 2015 data), and the results may be found online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-27HNKMXB/.

How many rounds did GCSANC member courses do in 2015? What are the average hourly wages for maintenance staff? What are the typical benefits provide to GCSANC Superintendent members?

All of this and much more may be found in this year's survey.

Rounds 4 Research

Thanks to generous contributions from Troon, Boundary Oak Golf Course, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, Metropolitan Golf Links, Monarch Bay Golf Club, San Jose Country Club, Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club, Silverado Resort & Spa, and Yocha Dehe Golf Club, GCSANC this year received a check in the amount of \$1,924.80 from Rounds 4 Research (R4R).

While the amount is approximately double what the association raised last year, and last year's amount was more than double what was raised in 2015, there is still a tremendous amount of growth potential for this program, which offers the association a very effortless way to raise significant amounts of money for turf research.

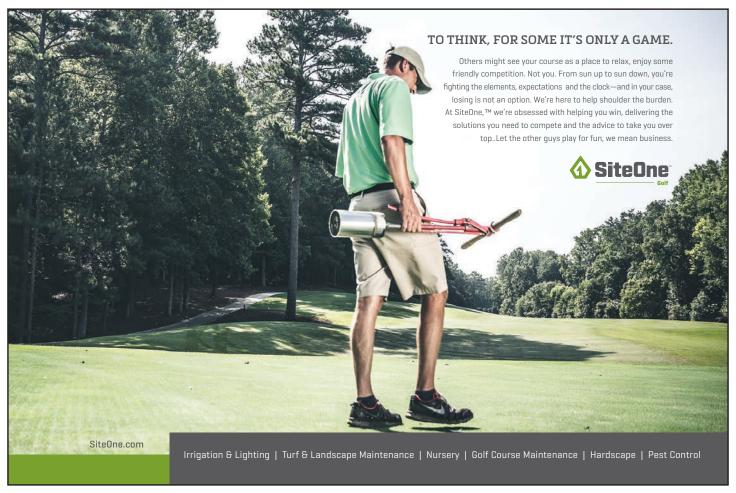
To put in perspective the potential, R4R this year raised more than \$219,000, including \$50,000 from the Carolinas GCSA, followed by almost \$20,000 from Georgia, more than \$15,600 from Florida, over \$13,000 from Tennessee, and more than \$10,000 from GCSA of New Jersey.

With countless top caliber courses in our region, it is very realistic to believe that we can crack that list of top 5 fundraising chapters in the country next year.

Used Equipment For Sale

Bob Klinesteker of San Francisco Golf Club has for sale a 2008 Toro Core Processor with low hours, and he indicates that it works great. Asking price is \$10,000, and Bob may be reached at 415 469-4124 or bobk@sfgolfclub.com.







From the Field

By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

GCSAA recently announced the expansion of the Turf Equipment Technician Certification Program, adding two new certificates: Metal Working and Fundamentals of Agronomy.

The program is a series of exams designed to demonstrate proficiency in key competency areas related to turf equipment. This certificate program is available to all turf equipment technicians regardless of whether you work for a golf course. The program is also open to superintendents, assistant superintendents and any GCSAA members looking to further their education and knowledge.

Metal Working will include topics on cutting, drilling, welding, grinding, machining, design/measurement, finishing and safety. The Fundamentals of Agronomy will focus on primary turfgrass practices, fertilization, irrigation, pest management, management of hazardous materials, crisis management and communication with management, staff and guests.

With the Equipment Manager (EM) membership over 700 strong and growing, the time was right to invest more capital and resources into the program that now features eight areas of study:

- Hydraulic Troubleshooting
- Electrical Troubleshooting
- Internal Combustion Engines
- Drivelines
- Sprayer Troubleshooting
- Cutting units
- Metal Working
- Fundamentals of Agronomics

You can choose to take one exam or work to complete the entire program by successfully completing all eight exams in any order.

Exams are \$40 (per category) for GCSAA members and must be passed with at least an 80 percent grade to earn a certificate. The fee includes two attempts at each exam. Exams vary in length from 30 to 60 questions and study manuals are available for sale by clicking <a href="https://exams.ncbi.nlm.ncb

All exams are online and must be proctored. For more information on proctor options, click here. Certificates may be printed online following successful completion of the exam.

As a reminder, membership for EM's is \$95 per year and includes free online education (live and On Demand), special EM forums, weekly and monthly communications, career services, access to the job board and a free one-time full-package registration to GIS (\$440 value).

GCSAA will continue to identify and look at opportunities to broaden the scope of the EM program to include like industries and international entities with the goal of increasing the pool of qualified technicians that can assist you and your facility.

Thank you to all the GCSANC members for your support of GCSAA and the other golf industry initiatives taking place in California. Please contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org with any questions and make sure to follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW for daily industry updates.



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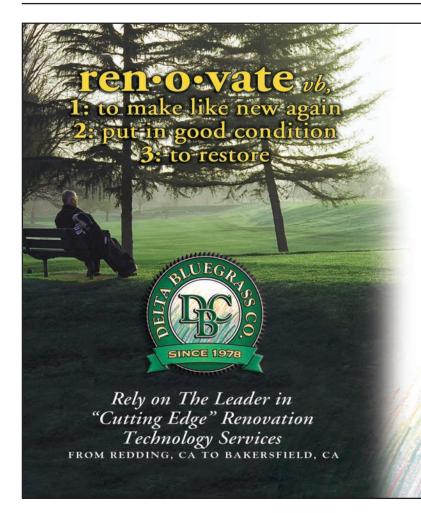
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Sierra Pacific Turf Supply: Community Giving a Cornerstone Principle

Sierra Pacific Turf Supply was born in the back of owner Don Naumann's pickup truck in August of 1982. With 5 years' experience and a handful of customers, Don launched what has become the leading turf grass products supplier in Northern California and Nevada. He quickly picked up some distributorships, and 9 months later his wife Becky left her job and joined him.

From the first facility in Campbell of 1300 square feet, Sierra Pacific has grown to 3 locations, including a 21,000 square foot warehouse in Campbell, a 12,000 square foot facility in Rocklin, and a 12,000 square foot facility in Sparks, NV.

The number of employees has grown as well. From the early days of Don selling and Becky running the office, and one delivery person, Sierra Pacific has grown to 33 employees. The product line has expanded to include Rain Bird irrigation parts and golf accessories, in addition to the original offerings of grass seed, fertilizers and chemicals. Services include irrigation system service and technical support, and turf grass management consulting.

Sierra Pacific is also active in the community through several organizations and activities. Every year gifts are purchased for foster children at Christmas time, and backpacks are filled with school supplies for the children in the summer. Sierra Pacific has sponsored several of the City of Campbell's "Concerts in the Park," and also supports Campbell Park and Recreation's Fun Runs.

Sierra Pacific employees bring in canned goods to support the Second Harvest Food Bank. There is also a "jar" in the front office in which employees can drop off their spare change. This jar is called the "Coins for the Community" jar. At the end of the year Sierra Pacific matches the money raised and the money is given to a deserving family (or organization) in the community. And, for the first time, this year Sierra Pacific will be a sponsor of the San Jose Giants.

Three years ago, Don Naumann made a commitment to give back to the community that has supported him for so many years. In the 39 years that Don has been in the industry he has witnessed friends lose their jobs, others lose family members, some have lost their homes due to floods or fires, and a few have been struck with major injuries or illnesses.

In 2015, he established the Naumann Benevolent Fund which sponsors a golf tournament each year. The money raised at the Naumann Benevolent Golf Tournament is a way to give back to Golf Course Superintendents and their immediate staff who work or reside in Northern California and Northern Nevada. Since the inception of the Tournament, the Naumann Benevolent Fund has been able to support eight members of the industry. This year's golf tournament was held at Canyon Lakes Golf Course & Brewery in San Ramon on May 23.

Sierra Pacific has built strong customer relationships throughout Northern California and Northern Nevada, and is committed to providing top quality products at fair prices, as well as giving excellent customer service. Please visit Sierra Pacific Turf Supply at one of their locations, or visit their website www.sierrapacificturf.com to learn more.



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2017 GCSANC Scholarship Recipients

Nicholas Niles (Turf - \$2,000)

Nick is attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he is studying Agricultural and Environmental Plant Science, with a focus in Field and Turf Management. He hopes to land an Assistant Superintendent job on the Central Coast or in Northern California, and eventually to be a private club Superintendent.

Steven Spatafore (Turf - \$2,000)

Steven just completed his third year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he is majoring in Agricultural and Environmental Plant Science, with a concentration in Turfgrass and Sports Field Management. He expects to graduate in June 2018. He has received numerous academic awards.

Lark Breen (Legacy - \$1,500)

Lark just graduated from Los Gatos High School, and is preparing to attend Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. She was Captain of the Varsity Golf Team, and recognized as a "Scholar of Distinction" all four years of high school, graduating with a GPA of 4.5.

Natalie Kinney (Legacy - \$1,500)

Natalie just graduated from Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills, and will be attending Chico State University, where she will play on the golf team. She will be majoring in Business and Marketing, and has a desire to get into sports marketing.

Scott Fernald (Legacy - \$1,500)

Scott graduated from St. Francis High School in Mountain View last month, and plans on attending either New Mexico State University or Mission Community College in Santa Clara. He played 4 years of high school baseball, and plans to pursue a degree in kinesiology.

Alexa Checklenis (Legacy - \$1,500)

Alexa will graduate from Leigh High School in San Jose this week. She was a member of the National Honors Society, and will be attending Penn State University, where she will pursue a degree in Communications with an emphasis in Sports Broadcasting.

Austin Piper (Legacy - \$1,500)

Austin is a current student at the University of Arizona. He is pursuing a Global Studies major, with a Business minor. While out of school he is working at Del Rio Country Club, and he hopes one day to be employed in the field of International Business.





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What is Your Single Biggest Input?

By BRAD SNAVELY, Vice President and Technical Director, Sustainable Turf Science (Thank you to Brian Whitlark of the USGA for his permission to illustrate the Irrigation Normalization Spreadsheet.)

What do you apply more than anything else? 10-15 years ago, the most common answer would be nitrogen, or calcium; water was never a consideration. Ask that same question today, the answer 4 out of 5 times will be WATER. With increasing use of recycled water, nutrient loads are becoming greater and we typically amend the soil to combat the detrimental constituents, such as too much sodium, chloride, sulfate, magnesium, and let's not forget bicarbonate. We must acidify! For those who are blessed with using pure water sources, infiltration and potential for nutrient stripping is a concern. If you are using poor water quality, be careful with what, and how much you apply, or you can induce your own salinity issues. As we enjoy the benefits of rain, starting with a clean slate and drought restrictions lifted, higher prices for water will still prevent many Superintendents from implementing leaching fractions to prevent accumulation of detrimental salts in the root zone by applying more water than is needed for ETo rates. As we head into our long stretch with little or no rainfall, reductions in water usage will favor salt accumulation, as we have learned to become better environmental stewards by irrigating at about 60% of ETo on warm season grass, with 70% to 80% of ETo being applied to cool season turf varieties. Due to this water conservation strategy, other methods should be considered to maximize salt management. Good soluble sources of calcium, penetrants, carboxylic acid(s), and aminated compounds all work well, but keep in mind that salt management starts with water movement and good drainage. We must also take into consideration Sufficiency Levels of Available Nutrients (SLAN).

Management strategies should be applied in front of the problem. Be proactive! Two items that can assist turf managers are the greens irrigation normalization spreadsheets (below), developed by Brian Whitlark, Regional Agronomist with the USGA. http://www.usga.org/course-care.html.

The STS Turf Nutrient Contribution Spreadsheet (next page - top right) helps to identify site-specific water challenges, based on estimated, or calculated volume of water to be used in specific areas. This will quantify constituent contribution and provide for flexible amendment scheduling with options to fit any soil type or situation. This enables the user to proactively maintain ideal soil content and balance, as opposed to reacting to soil testing and making corrections after the fact.

A few early season reminders of potential water quality issues that deserve attention include the Sodium Adsorption Ratio, or SAR, which helps quantify the potential sodium hazard of water. This value determines the relative proportion of sodium, compared to calcium and magnesium.

Greens Irrigation Normalization Spreadsheet - Brian Whitlark USGA Agronomist

Site Specific Data in Yellow Areas					Desired Inches of Water	Min Per Head at Desired	Percentage To Apply In Computer
Green	# of Heads	GPM/Head	Sq.Ft	Inches/Hr	0.5	Depth of Water	For Each Green
- 91	1 4	23	4200	2.11	14.23	15.00	99%
2	2 5	23	4780	2.32	12.95	13.00	90%
3	5 5	23	4875	2.27	13.21	14.00	92%
4	5	23	4825	2.29	13.08	14.00	91%
	5 4	23	4250	2.08	14.40	15.00	100%
6	5 5	23	4925	2.25	13.35	14.00	93%
7	4	23	4100	2.16	13.89	14.00	96%
8	5	23	5025	2.20	13.62	14.00	95%
9) 5	23	5150	2.15	13.98	14.00	97%
10) 5	23	4750	2.33	12.87	13.00	89%
11	5	23	4775	2.32	12.94	13.00	90%
12	2 5	23	4990	2.22	13.52	14.00	94%
13	3 4	23	4125	2.15	13.97	14.00	97%
14	5	23	4885	2.27	13.24	14.00	92%
15	5 5	23	4850	2.28	13.14	14.00	91%
16	5 5	23	4825	2.29	13.08	14.00	91%
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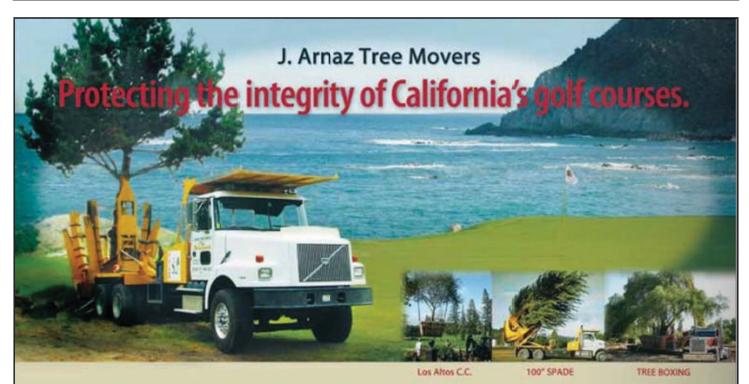
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Howard Earl Fisher, Jr.

A joyful Calistoga lad who went on to manage four golf courses and embrace family, Rotary, abalone hunting, and ballroom dancing, died in a Sonoma care center on March 6, 2017, after a months-long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 81.

Howard and wife Mary retired to Gualala, Mendocino County, in 1998. Howard was born in the historic Calistoga Hospital on November 18, 1935. His dad, a builder/handyman who created many structures still standing around Calistoga, paid the hospital two cords of wood for his delivery.

Howard graduated from Calistoga High School in 1953. His life in golf began during weekends and summers back then, when he hitchhiked back and forth to caddy at a Santa Rosa golf course.

He spent four years in the late '50s as a Navy gunnery yeoman. He married Mary Derby, a friend from Santa Rosa golf days, in 1962. That same year, he become the first fulltime superintendent of the Mt. Saint Helena Golf Course at the fairgrounds in Calistoga. He held that post for 22 years, making hundreds of grateful life-long friends.

He moved on to supervise the public golf course at Bishop, CA; the Lakewood Country Club course at Dallas, TX; and

two Navy courses in San Diego.

Howard won the Golf Course Superintendents Association senior championship four times, most recently at Hilton Head, SC, in 2003. Another claim to fame: four holes in one; the last at the Gualala course in 2005.

Howard had enjoyed prying abalone from seashore rocks since childhood and had a huge collection of shells. Abalone and homemade ice cream were prominent features of any dinner he and Mary hosted. Abalone was also a gift to family and friends they visited on frequent treks across the nation.

Howard faithfully attended Rotary Club meetings on those trips to maintain a 47-year record of perfect attendance.

Howard is survived by Mary; their son Howard Earl, Ill; daughter Darcy Cook and her family, husband Doug and three kids - Jeff (Chandler), Kade, and Lindsey; two sisters in Calistoga, Virginia (Beanie) Rannells and Nancy Blakeley; and dozens of cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Howard and Mabel Fisher; two sisters, Marjorie Cambra and Helen Klingbeil; and mother-in-law Wilma Derby.

The family is planning a memorial event for Howard in Calistoga this summer.











