# Thru the Green

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

February /March 2017



# Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club Host of the 2017 GCSANC Annual Meeting



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Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club, 2017 Annual Meeting Host

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## Greetings From President Tully

By SEAN TULLY, 2017 GCSANC President, Meadow Club

Well, 2017 has certainly gotten off to an interesting start! Record rainfall along with storm damage and continual cleanup is in stark contrast to previous years' talk of drought and calls for reductions in water use. Just trying to find the time to get some of our fungicide apps out, along with our seed head products, has been a bit nerve wracking.

Back in January, I was honored to be elected your President, taking over for Fernando Villagran at his course in Santa Rosa. I am excited to be working with our current Board of Directors, and know that we are working hard towards improving how your association works for you, our members.

Please feel free to contact your GCSANC Board members if you have any questions and/or concerns; we are here to serve you and we want to make your membership with the GCSANC benefit you. There are some issues that I feel strongly about and share with our board, including working on ways to improve our educational offerings, increase communication on all levels, work on outreach by increasing interest in our industry for employment, and trying to find better solutions to support our turf grass programs and research efforts in California.

We are still working to finalize a couple events this year, and are trying to have the meetings benefit our members by having topics that cover the wide range of issues that face our members. We are looking forward to the annual GCSAA/USGA/NCGA meeting that will be held at Blackhawk Country Club on March 13th. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sean

Sean Tully Meadow Club stully@meadowclub.com

## NORCALENDAR

#### May 11

**GCSANC Turf Field Day** Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course *Palo Alto* 

#### June 5

10th Annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament Peninsula Golf & Country Club San Mateo

#### August 21

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

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 <u>mconnerly@</u> <u>connerlyandassociates.com</u>.

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 is ahead of us, and for the first time since 2013 there is no extreme drought in California. Take a moment to reflect on that for a minute; it feels good! We had a wonderful Annual Meeting in January at Santa Rosa Country Club, where our new Board members were elected and awards were presented. Please take a moment to read about the award winners in this issue; we had great group of winners!

Jeff Jensen, our GCSAA Regional Rep., has a nice write-up on the turnout at the Golf Industry Show, and some of the

efforts GCSAA is undertaking to form a PAC that can help advance our positions in the political spectrum.

Again, if you have anything that you have written, or something you might want to write about, please reach out to me at stully@meadowclub.com This is a great opportunity not only to share some of the work you may be doing at your course, but also position yourself with a voice and help to share ideas and concepts with your fellow superintendents.



## **Executive Director's Report**



By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

As we conclude one of the wettest winters in recent history and untold acre-feet of water rushes to the Pacific, I am reminded of the vital roles that public policy and advocacy play in our lives. It was two short years ago this month that Craig Kessler, Brian Boyer, Ron Zraick, and I spoke on behalf of the California golf industry before a crowded hearing room at the State Water Resources Control Board headquarters in Sacramento, urging SWRCB leadership to use caution in their approach to water restrictions on golf courses. Strict day of week or time of day constraints could be fatal to golf courses, we warned them, and on that day we walked out of the SWRCB chambers with an advocacy victory.

The following month, Governor Brown issued his Executive Order ratcheting up the conservation mandate, and the industry was forced to decipher the meaning of the Governor's edict, and then to scramble to negotiate with hundreds of water providers statewide. Many of those advocacy battles we won as well, but not all.

Two years later, we have more water than we can contain, and all we can do is dream of a California with ample water supply to survive the severest of droughts, and adequate storage capacity that our rivers and streams are not eclipsing their levees in the wettest of seasons.

This water storage conundrum strikes at the heart of advocacy and the ongoing battle between environmental groups who thwart attempts at every turn to develop new storage facilities,



and those who view water storage as the key to solving our feast or famine water conditions.

Whether the issue is water storage, getting golf courses off the public water grid, gaining adequate funding for turf research programs, or a host of other initiatives, advocacy is at the core of many issues, and it is essential that the golf industry in California become more unified, effective and proactive in our advocacy efforts if we are to achieve our desired results.

The California Alliance for Golf (CAG) is currently reevaluating its mission and purpose, and some on the task force in charge of that effort, including I, believe that CAG must remain focused on advocacy, and in fact must greatly increase the scope of its advocacy activities in order to be more effective and relevant.

Another concept that includes in its mission the funding of advocacy, the formation of a California Golf Course Commission, has gained sufficient momentum to warrant the creation of a task force comprised of the eight (8) major stakeholder groups in the state (California GCSA, CGCOA, CMAA, CTLF, NCGA, NCPGA, SCGA, and SCPGA). That task force will soon begin meeting to discuss the details of a Golf Course Commission, and how those details might need to look in order to satisfy the disparate wants and needs of our varied industry segments.

Finally, the GCSANC Board will meet with Jeff Jensen of GCSAA at Claremont Country Club on April 21 to develop a new strategic plan for GCSANC. No doubt member programs and services, turf research, and a variety of other topics will be discussed in detail, and it is my hope that we will give serious attention to the topic of attracting qualified labor and promoting the superintendent profession. There was discussion of that subject at the last GCSANC Board meeting, and it was clear that it is a topic that warrants attention and leadership. As one of the most stable and significant GCSANC taking the lead on such an important matter.

If you have ideas for topics of discussion at the upcoming strategic planning meeting, or for subject matter at any future events, please feel free to email me at info@golfcalifornia.org.

## From the Field



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

Thank you to all of the GCSANC members who attended the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. The show was a resounding success for GCSAA, with attendance rising across all areas, and we couldn't accomplish it without your support.

13,600 attendees viewed the latest and greatest in golf maintenance products, equipment and solutions from 569 exhibitors. 600 of those attendees were first-time visitors to GIS. 5,800 seminar seats were filled (the highest mark since 2008), and thousands more attended the free education sessions offered throughout the week.

Additionally, the GCSAA Golf Championships were held, with 460 players participating over five Orlando area courses. California GCSA and Central California GCSA member Mike Stieler, CGCS at Spring Creek Golf and Country Club in Ripon captured the National Championship, shooting a two-day total of 2-over-par 146. The two-shot victory marked Stieler's second National Championship (2012).

For a complete overview of GIS, visit the social hub at http:// www.golfindustryshow.com/social-hub.

In other news, GCSAA is exploring the formation of a Political Action Committee (PAC). A PAC is a group of individuals with common interests who want to advance a specific policy agenda by contributing funds to political candidates who share their views.

A GCSAA PAC would be about promoting policy, not personality or politics. Donations would only go to those federal officials who play a direct role in the support of GCSAA priority issues (water management, value of golf, fertilizers, pesticides, labor and immigration, ADA). GCSAA would be able to solicit funds from any U.S. citizen who is a member of GCSAA, including rank and file members as well as GCSAA staff. All donations are voluntary and can only come from individuals, not golf facilities or affiliated chapters.

A PAC would assist GCSAA in opening doors with key decision-makers, and allow us to continue our already strong legislative, regulatory and compliance efforts at the national level. The timeline for a PAC launch would be the fall of 2017 so we could maximize our involvement with the 2018 Congressional midterm elections.

For more information, visit the PAC website at <u>http://</u> <u>cqrcengage.com/gcsaa/gcsaapac</u> to watch the videos and read through the comprehensive brochure. A feedback button is located on the upper right hand side of the page, and we would greatly appreciate your comments (good, bad or indifferent) concerning a potential PAC.

Thanks again, and I look forward to catching up with all of you soon. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me at <u>jjensen@gcsaa.org</u> if you need assistance, and follow me on Twitter @GCSAA\_SW for daily industry updates.



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## Assistant Superintendent Profile: Sean Sherbert, Spyglass Hill Golf Course

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 Steve Hoying, assistant superintendent at Silver Creek Country Club in San Jose.

**PB:** *What made you decide to get into golf maintenance?* **SH:** Working at the course behind my house growing up. I enjoy working outdoors and with my hands. I love the game of golf.

**PB:** *What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?* **SH:** Getting my first Assistant job in Monterey. I've made a lot of great friends and met some really good people.

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

**PB:** *Where did you grow up?* **SH:** St. Henry, Ohio. Small-town USA.

PB: *Your best Nicknames?* SH: Steve-o!

**PB:** *If you could drive any vehicle, what would it be?* **SH:** Any Ferrari.

**PB:** *Curly fries or regular, and wby?* **SH:** Curly for sure, more flavor.

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

**SH:** Watching a member throw a demo wedge into a pond, then going in after it!

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

**SH:** My Mom and Dad come from huge families. I have 75 first cousins, no joke.

**PB:** *What was your lowest score playing golf, and where?* **SH:** 80 at Nicklaus Club.

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

**SH:** Cutting cups; I find it relaxing and I get to see a lot of the golf course.

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

**SH:** "Be patient, see what happens tomorrow." Easier said than done.

#### 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?

SH: A tent, a chainsaw, a fishing pole, a deck of cards, snorkeling gear.

**PB:** *Favorite Beer?* **SH:** Coors Original.

**PB:** *If you had your choice, what would you do in retirement?* **SH:** Golf, fish and travel.

**PB:** *Favorite sports teams?* **SH:** Ohio State Buckeyes

PB: What's your favorite type of grass to manage as a putting surface and why?SH: Bent, it can take a lot of abuse and doesn't need much.

# PB: If you could have lunch with anyone, past or present, who would it be and why?

SH: Jack Nicklaus, I bet he's got some great stories!

**PB:** *What is your favorite golf maintenance related quote?* **SH:** Pete Bachman said it best (safety meeting): "If you love it, lube it!"





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## GCSANC Congratulates Our Annual Award Recipients

At the 2017 Annual Meeting at Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club, GCSANC presented five awards to worthy recipients. Presentations were made for Superintendent of The Year, Excellence in Turfgrass Management, George Santana Distinguished Service, Bert Graves Affiliate Merit, and President's Award.

# Congratulations to all of our deserving 2016 award recipients!

2016 GCSANC Superintendent of The Year



Matt Muhlenbruch Poppy Hills Golf Club

The 2016 Superintendent of The Year Award was presented to Matt Muhlenbruch, Golf Course Superintendent at Poppy Hills Golf Course.

Matt has been the Superintendent at Poppy Hills since July 2013 after graduating in 2002 from Penn State University with a B.S. in Turfgrass Science. In 2010 he earned his MBA from San Francisco State University.

Before becoming the Superintendent at Poppy Hills, he worked at The Olympic Club and The California Golf Club. Matt also hosts the NCGA Assistant Superintendent Bootcamp annually in Monterey.

Matt spends his time off with his wife Tessa and daughter Cora.

## 2016 Excellence in Turfgrass Management



Austin Daniells Monterey Pines Golf Course

GCSANC presented the 2016 Excellence in Turfgrass Management Award to Austin Daniells, Superintendent at Monterey Pines Golf Course.

Austin is a California native and has been fortunate to spend all of his career working for the US Navy on golf courses throughout the state.

He started his career in San Diego at Admiral Baker Golf Course, where he spent more than 10 years. He took his first Superintendent job at China Lake Golf Course in Ridgecrest, CA, and after 1 1/2 years at China Lake was lucky enough to make the move to Monterey in January of 2009.

Austin has now spent the last eight years in the Monterey Peninsula with his wife Heather and their two kids, Emma and Luke. He has a degree in golf and sports turf management from Cuyamaca College in San Diego.

## GCSANC Annual Award Recipients

### 2016 George Santana Distinguished Service



Tim Sedgley, CGCS Poplar Creek Golf Course

The 2016 George Santana Distinguished Service Award was given to longtime GCSANC member and Board member Tim Sedgley, CGCS, of Poplar Creek Golf Course in San Mateo.

Tim earned his B.S. in Landscape Horticulture with a Turf Management option at Colorado State University. He has been Superintendent at eight different golf clubs, from Chicago to California, and has served as mentor to four Superintendents. He was Assistant Superintendent at Cherry Hills Country Club for the U.S. Open Championship, and was General Manager at Palo Alto Hills for two years.

Tim has been responsible for four construction/grow in projects at startup courses, and has hosted three Champions Tour events. In 1988, he served as President of the California GCSA, and has also served on the Board of Directors for the Rocky Mountain GCSA, Southern California GCSA, Sierra Nevada GCSA, and, of course, GCSANC. He has also worked on several

GCSAA committees, and volunteers at LPGA, PGA, Champions, and US Open Events.

### 2016 Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award



Mitch Frasier *Turf Star* 

GCSANC was very pleased to present the 2016 Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award to Mitch Frasier of Turf Star.

Mitch graduated from Vintage High School in Napa, where he focused his Vocational Studies on Agricultural Management and Ornamental Horticulture.

After high school, Mitch went to work in the wine industry, managing a greenhouse for Duckhorn Winery's vine propagation business. He later assumed a position with the Napa Valley Unified School District, where he worked as Operations Manager, maintaining 300 acres of irrigated turf.

In 1985, Mitch joined the Toro family just as "West Toro" was becoming "West Star Distributors." He has been serving his customers in the same territory for over 31 years. Mitch married "the girl next door" in 1980, has three sons, a five year old grandson, and another on the way. He loves his work with Turf Star and counts his customers among his best of friends.

## GCSANC Annual Award Recipients

### 2016 President's Award



Thomas Bastis, CGCS California Golf Club

Outgoing GCSANC President Fernando Villagran presented the 2016 GCSANC President's Award to Thomas Bastis, CGCS, Superintendent at California Golf Club in South San Francisco.

Thomas grew up in San Diego, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1995. He has been a Superintendent for 20 years, with the last 15 years

at California Golf Club of San Francisco.

Bastis is a certified arborist, pest control advisor, certified irrigation auditor and the Turfnet/Syngenta 2010 Superintendent of the Year. He holds a qualified applicators license and C-27 landscape contractor license.

In his spare time, he competes in ultra-distance trail running, kayaking and mountain biking. He has been married for 21 years and has two children, Colin, 12, and Lindsey, 10.

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**Décember 2, 2016 GCSANC Holiday Party** Santa Claus (aka Don Naumann) made his annual appearance at the GCSANC Holiday Meeting in December.



**2017 Annual Meeting** GCSANC President Sean Tully (Meadow Club) shares his vision for 2017 at our Annual Meeting on January 23 at Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club.



## Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association: Year in Review 1933



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

January: Annual meeting at San Francisco Golf Club President - Ray Hanna

Vice President - Will Rogers Secretary/Treasurer - Ellis Van Gorder Directors - Bill Mayo, Tom Nicoll, Bob Dutton, Ed McEnroe **Dues set at \$5 per year** *Highlights of the day were homemade pies by Mrs. Rogers* 

#### March & April:

**Millbrea Country Club** — H. Sam Smith, Greenkeeper hosted an event by Buckner Sprinkler Company, a sprinkler demonstration was led by Gordon Buckner.

**Orinda Country Clu**b — RD Dutton, Greenkeeper; the bylaws were amended and copies were to be printed. A form letter was to be sent to all Green Chairmen of Northern California Golf Association representing to them that the Association would share maintenance costs.

#### May & June:

**Berkeley Country Club** — Earl Morrill, Greenkeeper; a committee was formed to plan a barbecue for members' family

and guests. Motion from April meeting to share maintenance costs was defeated.

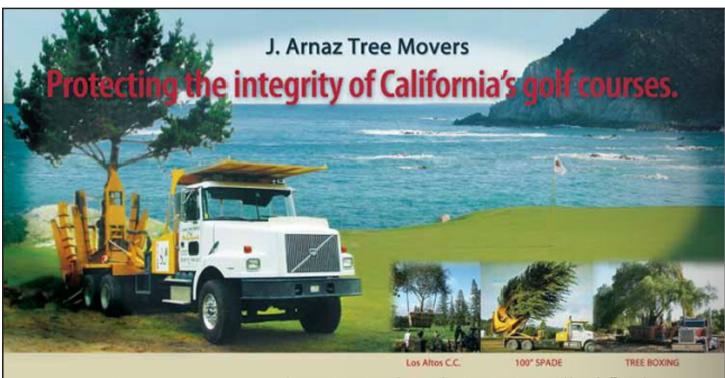
**Crystal Springs** — ET Smith, Greenkeeper; \$50 was approved to defray expenses for the outing. Balance to be prorated among those taking part.

#### July:

**Peninsula Club** — At issue was officers and directors not attending meetings and handicapping the association. An amendment was presented that any officer and director of the organization who is absent for three successive meeting shall be declared vacant. It was suggested that members play or at least walk 9 holes of golf on the course where the meeting was held.

#### **November:**

**Menlo Country Club** — Dr. Montieth from the USGA Green Section was the guest speaker and was considered an expert in turf problems. Secretary was instructed to send a letter to all Northern California Greenskeepers before the January meeting to increase attendance.



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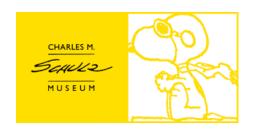


## Out of Bounds

By SEAN TULLY, Meadow Club

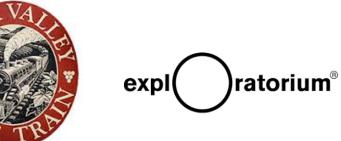
Hopefully during these wet winter months you have found some time to get away from work and get your mind off budgets and fungicide apps! Here is an interesting concept that can help you explore the city and some of its many museums and other cultural attractions. I have used **Discover & GO** for a number of museums in the Bay area and my family loves it.







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**Discover & GO** offers you free or a reduced price for over 35 cultural attractions in the Bay Area and beyond. How do you access it? It's easy; as long as you have a library card at a participating library, you can access their website, determine the dates you would like to visit, and print the tickets right at home! If you don't have a library card, here's a great reason to get back into a library for some books and checking out some movies! Here is the link to their easy to use website Discover & GO where you can see the listing of the locations that are available.

#### Some examples:

- Asian Art Museum
- Balboa Swimming Pool
- California Academy of Sciences
- Charles M. Schulz Museum
- Exploratorium
- The Lawrence Hall of Sciences
- Legion of Honor
- Napa Valley Wine Train
- Sacramento Children's Museum
- St. Mary's College of Museum of Art
- Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

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