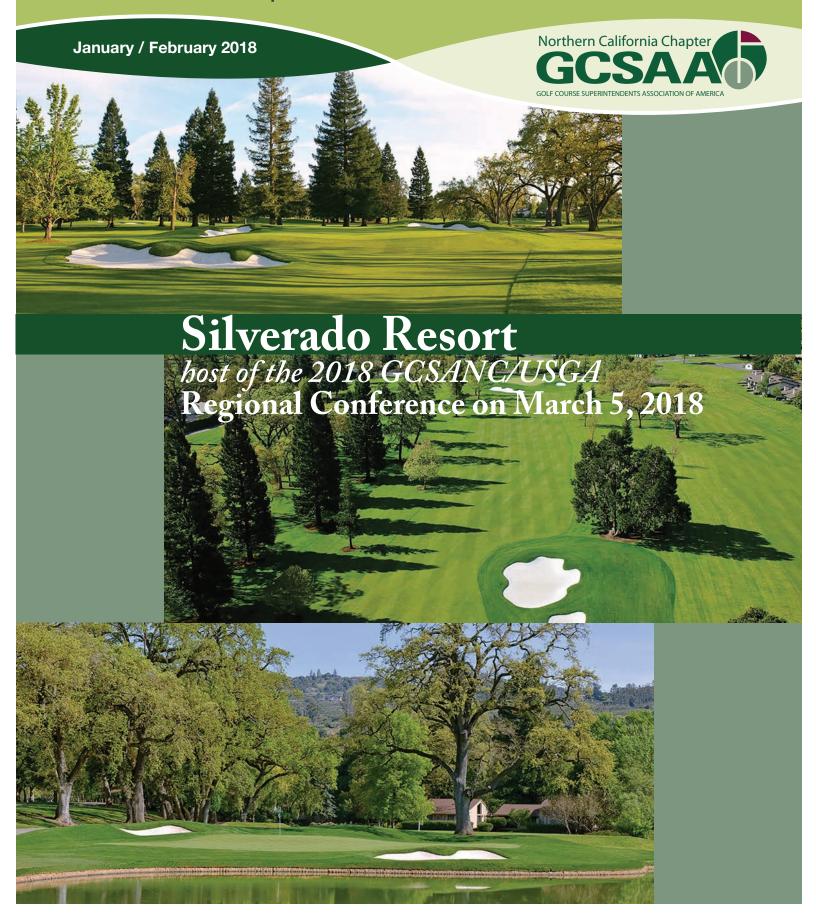
# THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California



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Photos by Pete Galea, CGCS



Silverado Resort, Host of the 2018 GCSANC/USGA Regional Conference on March 5, 2018

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## President's Message

By STACEY WALLACE, GCSANC President

By the time you read this, the Annual Meeting at the historic Meadow Club will be completed. Congratulations again to the deserving award winners, not only for what they bring to our profession, but what they do for their clients on a day to day basis. With the staffing challenges the industry is facing, it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide the conditions our customers expect. Your commitment to the profession is commendable and greatly appreciated.

I would like to welcome Josh Clevenger, Brett Thornsbury, and Eric Wiggins to the Board. We have an excellent group of members this year, and I am looking forward to working with everyone. I also want to thank outgoing members Fernando Villegran-Costello, PJ Ringenberger and Bubba Wright for the time they spent on the Board. I realize how busy we all are in today's society, with work and family, so thank you for your service!

As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, we would like to see an increase in participation in the Rounds 4 Research program and an increase in Superintendent attendance at our meetings throughout the season. Rounds 4 Research was started to address funding shortages in the areas of turfgrass research, education, and advocacy. To date, the auction has raised more than \$782,000 nationally. The premise of the program is simple: Golf facilities can support the effort by donating rounds of golf for two or four or "stay and play" packages and other items that will be auctioned online through a nationwide auction from April 30 – May 6, 2018. Participating facilities have the ability to restrict rounds to certain days and times, as well as the option of setting the opening bid. The donation process can be completed online and takes approximately 10 minutes. Please visit http://www.eifg.org/reasearch/rounds-4-research/donate-a-round/0nline-form and complete the form. 80 percent of the funds raised goes to the chapter, with the remaining 20 percent going to EIFG to assist with running the program.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for allowing me to be a part of this great organization. We are always looking for new and innovative ideas, not only to help our organization, but also to help the industry as society and needs change around us.

We live in a very dynamic time, so any feedback is welcome. We have some magnificent events lined up this year, and we look forward to seeing you there. May the new year bring you personal and professional success.

Stacy Wallace

#### **NORCALENDAR**

March 5, 2018 GCSANC/USGA Regional Conference Silverado Resort & Spa Napa

June 11, 2018
Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner
Scholarship & Research
Tournament
Lake Merced Golf Club
Daly City

August 20, 2018
Tri-Chapter Meeting
(GCSANC Host)
CordeValle Golf Club
San Martin
(NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
AND VENUE FROM LAST
ISSUE OF THRU THE
GREEN)

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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### **Editor's Note**

By BRIAN BOYER, GCSANC Vice President / Thru The Green Editor

For those of us on calendar year budgets, the flip of the calendar represents a new beginning. New beginnings not only to our budgets, but agronomic programs, management goals, and maybe a New Year's resolution or two.

The same sense of optimism holds true for the GCSANC Board as we welcome new Board members and set strong goals. We aim to increase Superintendent attendance, double our Rounds 4 Research income, and look to address our future through means of assistants and interns. It's for sure to be an exciting year and we look forward to publishing our efforts and achievements throughout the year.

## Ryan Nicholson Scores Hole in One at GCSANC Annual Meeting

Congratulations to Ryan Nicholson, Superintendent at Silverado Resort, for scoring a hole in one on #11 at Meadow Club at the 2018 GCSANC Annual Meeting on January 16. Furthermore, he accomplished it in the fog!

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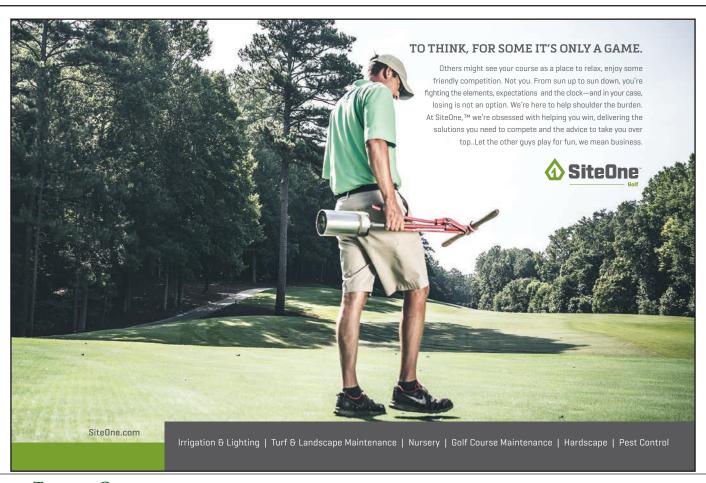


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## **Executive Director's Report**

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

In the last issue of Thru The Green, we recapped the many accomplishments of GCSANC over the course of 2017. In this issue, the first of 2018, I will preview the many activities and projects that the Board of Directors and staff will be tackling in the year ahead.

GCSANC has gradually begun to expand our brand in the form of tangible complimentary items and products for purchase with the GCSANC logo and name. Last year, we began giving away free GCSANC notepads at events, and we also made available a divot repair information piece that includes the GCSANC logo, and may be purchased by courses for display or for sale on their pro shop counters.

At our Annual Meeting last month, we began selling GCSANC golf towels with the association logo, and at the GCSANC USGA Regional Conference on March 5, we will also have GCSANC logo caps in blue and gray for sale. Both items will soon be available for purchase on <a href="https://www.gcsanc.com">www.gcsanc.com</a>.

The association is in the process of establishing an investment account with Fidelity Investments so that we can start generating better returns on our reserve funds. \$75,000 will be transferred from the organization's low-interest savings account to the Fidelity account.

Part of the motivation to generate more revenue to the association is a desire to increase the association's research funding. We have traditionally donated \$10,000 per year to CTLF, which in turn funds UC Riverside turf research, and in 2018 the Board has committed \$15,000 to research funding, with the goal of increasing that amount in future years.

Speaking of research, GCSANC's increased focus on the Rounds4Research program appears to be paying dividends. We are nearly two months prior to the rounds auction in late April, and already we have more rounds donated than we received all of last year. Currently, 11 courses have contributed rounds (compared with 9 all of last year), and the R4R committee is hard at work seeking additional rounds donations. The goal is \$5,000 in funds raised in 2018, and we appear well on our way to surpassing that number.

Another exciting and ambitious initiative underway is the creation of an intern program designed to promote the development of future assistants in our area. The plan is to leverage GCSAA resources promoting the profession, along with touting the appeal of working at Top 100 clubs, participating in major events, gaining valuable experience, and enjoying free or subsidized housing. We have held one committee call on the topic, and intend to hold another this month.

Finally, this year GCSANC will begin managing the Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp. We intend to continue the impressive tradition sustained by Matt Muhlenbruch for several years, with minimal changes. We expect to have a late October or early November event date, so watch for further details later this year.

We hope that you are as excited as we are about the coming year's activities, and we look forward to seeing you on March 5 at the GCSANC USGA Regional Conference at Silverado Resort & Spa in Napa.

## From the Field



By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

GCSAA has established a Political Action Committee (PAC) to support members of Congress who support GCSAA's Priority Issues Agenda. The PAC will give GCSAA the opportunity to gain greater access to members of Congress, provide a direct means to petition the government for the long-term viability of golf facilities, and establish new relationships while fully integrating our direct and grassroots lobbying efforts.

The PAC will be governed by a five-member Board comprised of the chair and vice-chair of the GCSAA Government Affairs Committee and three at-large members.

By law, contributions to the GCSAA PAC are limited to a restricted class of donors, including: rank and file GCSAA members in the United States, GCSAA executive and administrative personnel and their families, GCSAA non-executive and non-administrative personnel and their families with limitations, GCSAA corporate members, and United States citizens who have an interest in supporting GCSAA's priority issues agenda, provided they are not solicited by GCSAA. Funds or donations from individual GCSAA chapters cannot be accepted.

Funds will be distributed starting with the 2018 midterm elections. For more information on the PAC, visit the website at <a href="https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/gcsaapac">https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/gcsaapac</a>.

GCSAA has been working with the EPA on the review of propamocarb use on turf. Propamocarb is the active ingredient in Banol and Stellar, two products that provide preventative and curative protection from Pythium Blight and Pythium Root Rot. While we don't believe there will be any issues with propamocarb, we are diligently working with the EPA to make sure that these products remain available to golf course superintendents.

These reviews will remain on the forefront of GCSAA advocacy efforts moving forward. I thank the superintendents and researchers that provided feedback on Banol and Stellar use in the Southwest. Your assistance in these matters is greatly appreciated.

Last, but not least, the California BMP Committee has chosen a third-party consultant to assist with our efforts to

develop a statewide BMP manual. Blankinship & Associates, Inc. out of Davis, CA has been awarded the contract and will work with the committee to produce a completed document by this summer. Blankinship & Associates has conducted consulting work for dozens of courses throughout the state and regularly provides advice on BMP selection, design and implementation.

Thank you for your support of my position, and if I can be of any assistance to you or your facility/company, don't hesitate to contact me at <a href="mailto:jjensen@gcsaa.org">jjensen@gcsaa.org</a>, and make sure to visit the Southwest Region website at <a href="https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/secure/southwest">https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/secure/southwest</a> for regional updates, including a calendar of chapter events.







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## 2018 GCSANC Annual Meeting and Awards Recap

2017 GCSANC President Sean Tully hosted the 2018 Annual Meeting at Meadow Club on January 16. Attendees recognized several worthy award recipients and enjoyed a keynote presentation by Bradley Klein, architecture editor of Golfweek magazine and the founding editor of Superintendent News.

Mr. Klein reflected on his many years in golf, including interactions with President Trump prior to his presidency, his years as a caddie, major events in America and abroad, and experiences with Tiger Woods.

#### This year's worthy award recipients included:

#### Superintendent of The Year

## Jay Neunsinger Boundary Oak Golf Course

After becoming a first-time father in December of 2017, followed by his recognition as the 2017 National Public Course Environmental Leader in Golf Award (ELGA), Jay capped off a year of tremendous personal and professional accomplishments with his recognition as 2017 GCSANC Superintendent of The Year.

Jay was recognized for his years of contributions and involvement with GCSANC, his sustainability and conservation activities, and involvement in youth



programs, reflecting favorably on GCSANC.

He is a graduate of Colorado State University, and has been in the Bay Area for almost 10 years, with stops at Franklin Canyon, Tilden Park and now at Boundary Oak Golf Course since 2015.

#### President's Award

## Terry Grasso CGCS, Sequoyah Golf Club (Retired)

Terry was a member of both GCSAA and GCSANC for 30 years, and became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 2010. He started his career at Claremont Country Club, working for Randy Gai, then went on

to work for John Fleming at Olympic Club. After his time there, he took on the Superintendent position Burlingame Country Club for 10 years before moving to the East Bay to Sequoyah Country Club as the Superintendent. worked there for 17 years before retiring in 2017.

served terms on the Board



and was active in the association throughout his career. He was awarded the George Santana Distinguished Service Award in 2012, and in 2004 was honored as the Superintendent of the Year.

Terry was also a supporter of the California Alliance for Golf and several community-based golf initiatives, such as Sequoyah Country Club's Youth Merit Scholarship program, The First Tee of Oakland, and the NCGA Foundation.

## 2018 GCSANC Annual Meeting and Awards Recap

#### George Santana Distinguished Service Award

### Mike Garvale

CGCS, Callippe Preserve Golf Club

Michael Garvale's long history of service to the turfgrass industry began in 1972, when he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from the University of Detroit, then took on the position of Assistant Superintendent at Plum Hollow Golf Club in Southfield, Michigan. From there, he completed his graduate studies in Biochemistry at the University of Detroit, and, in 1976, took on the role of Assistant Superintendent at Orchard Lake Country Club in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

That same year, Michael graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Turfgrass Management. He worked as Superintendent at Grand Traverse Resort in



Traverse City, Michigan from 1978 to 1984. It was in 1984 that Michael's career brought him to California, where he worked as Superintendent of Palo Alto Hills Country Club until 2007.

Mike held a position at Harding Park Golf Club in San Francisco as Director of Agronomy for preparation of the

Presidents Cup, and in 2010 he took on his current role as Superintendent at Callippe Preserve Golf Club in Pleasanton.

Michael's service to the industry includes several accomplishments, including being recipient of the GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award in 1987, and serving as our association's President in 1991.

## Excellence in Turfgrass Management (Public)

### **Denis Kerr**

Golf Club at Quail Lodge

Upon graduation from Oregon State University, where he worked his way through school employed at West Delta Golf Corse under the direction of Mr. John Zoller, Jr., Denis moved to California and took a position at Monterey Peninsula Country Club working for Mr. Bob Zoller.

Denis' first and only Superintendent position has been at the Golf Club at Quail Lodge, where he has worked for the past 27 years. Denis currently works with two of the finest assistants in the industry: Danny Buckley and Eric Martin. He is also very appreciative of his current

coworkers, as well as the many colleagues he has had the privilege of working with in the past.



## 2018 GCSANC Annual Meeting and Awards Recap

Excellence in Turfgrass Management (Private)

## Justin Mandon Pasatiempo Golf Club

Justin is the golf course superintendent at Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz. Prior to Pasatiempo, Justin was the golf course superintendent at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. His duties during while at The Olympic Club for seven years included Lake Course Superintendent for the 2012 United States Open Championship, numerous renovation projects and improvements to the 45 hole facility.

Justin is a GCSAA Class A Superintendent, and he graduated from Rutgers University Professional Turf



Management School in 2001. He is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, and also worked La at Rinconada Country Club and Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club.

**Bert Graves** Affiliate Merit Award

### **Thor Larson**

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Thor got his start in the golf course industry at an early age, working after school and during the summers at a course in rural Minnesota. While attending college at the University of Wisconsin, he continued his golf course work at the university's course, finishing with a Bachelor of Science in Soil Science/Turfgrass option. After college, he returned to Minnesota and continued to work his way up the ladder in the golf course industry.

In 1997, after a long, cold winter, he decided the grass was greener in California, and so moved to Monterey where he has been ever since. He was the Assistant Superintendent at both Quail Lodge and Spyglass Hill, and eventually became the Superintendent of Del Monte Golf Course. In 2006, he changed directions with his career and started working with Farmload Distributors.

During his time with Farmload, Thor attended

Monterey College of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor in 2010. One of the things he appreciates most about his work the numerous relationships he has built with his customer base.



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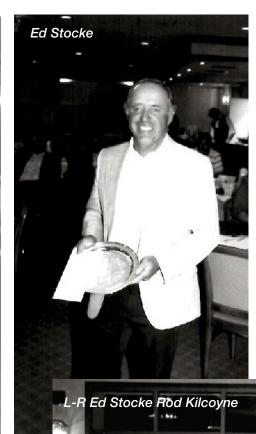


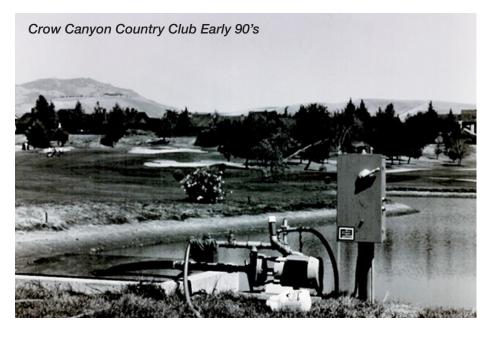


## **Blast From The Past**

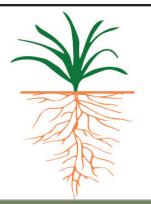








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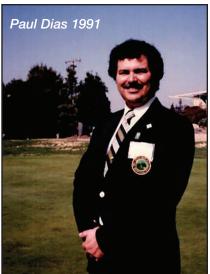
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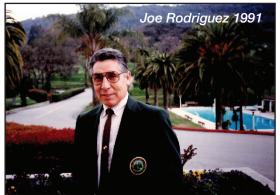
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## **Blast From The Past**











Early 1990's L-R Leonard Walsh Receives Distinguished Service Award From Brian Bagley



Early 1990's L-R Brian Bagley Presents President's Award to Rod Kilcoyne



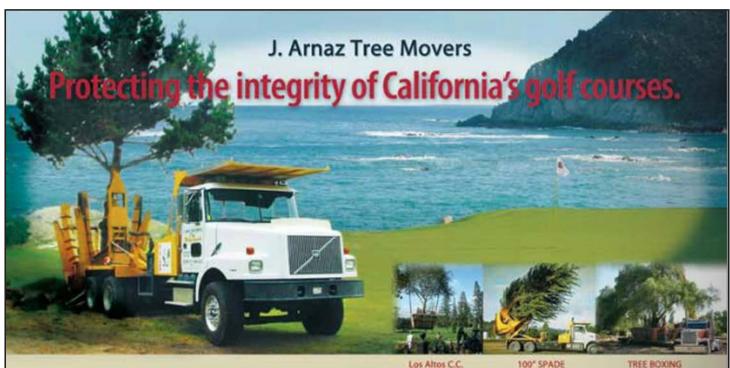
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## Assistant Superintendent Profile: Joe Budinich, The Peninsula Golf & Country Club, San Mateo

By ERIC WIGGINS, GCSANC Board of Director

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 Joe Budinich, Assistant Superintendent at The Peninsula Golf & Country Club in San Mateo.

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

**JB:** My father always kept our yard in perfect shape growing up, which in turn led me to enjoying doing the same to the yards of my neighbors who envied our yard. Also, my father was a general manager and teaching professional at a local public golf course, which is where I fell in love with the game and just being out on the course.

**EW:** What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry? **JB:** Being promoted to the 1st Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Peninsula Golf & Country Club.

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

**JB:** Paul Colleran, although I only had a three-month internship with him. His management philosophies wore on me and he encouraged me not to tie myself down geographically in my pursuit of being a superintendent.

**EW:** Where did you grow up? **JB:** Maple Valley, Washington.

EW: Your best nicknames?

JB: Wild Bill

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

JB: A lifted Ford Raptor



Joe Budinich, Assistant Superintendent at The Peninsula Golf & Country Club in San Mateo

EW: Curly fries or regular, and why?

**JB:** Regular because why fix what's not broken?

**EW:** What is the funniest thing you have ever seen on a golf

**JB:** Watching Josh Lewis do a belly roll after sinking a long putt from off the green.

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

**JB:** I coach a high school basketball and baseball team.

**EW:** What was your lowest score playing golf, and where? **IB:** 79 at Newcastle Golf Club.

**EW:** What is your favorite manual labor job on the golf course and why?

JB: Walk mowing greens! It's therapeutic.

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

**JB:** Everyone wants to move up quickly in our industry. The right move is to not chase the title, be patient, perfect responsibilities you have now, and be strategic with each career move you make.

#### Profile: Joe Budinich Continued

**EW:** 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?

**JB:** My golf clubs, Blake Lively, 1 pallet of my favorite beer, Bill Murray, and my fishing pole.

EW: Favorite Beer?

JB: Firestone Walker 805 blonde ale.

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

**JB:** I would play golf at least 5 days a week and be a season ticket holder to the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Mariners.

**EW:** Favorite sports teams?

**JB:** New York Yankees, Seattle Mariners, Seattle Seahawks, Seattle Supersonics (RIP)

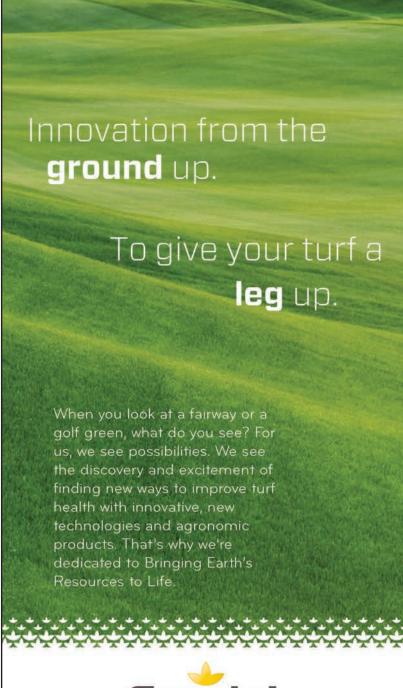
**EW:** What's your favorite type of grass to manage as a putting surface and why?

**JB:** Bentgrass – It does not need many inputs to maintain and keep as a high quality putting surface.

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

**JB:** My grandpa, who passed away 5 years ago. He was a great man and was influential in my passion for the game of golf.

EW: What is your favorite golf maintenance related quote? JB: "As beautiful as trees are, and as fond as you and I are of them, we still must not lose sight of the fact that there is a limited place for them in golf. We must not allow our sentiments to crowd out the real intent of a golf course, that of providing fair playing conditions. If it in any way interferes with a properly played stroke, I think the tree is an unfair hazard and should not be allowed to stand." - Donald Ross





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