# The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

July / August 2018



# Thank you to CordeValle for Hosting the 2018 Tri-Chapter Meeting





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Corde Valle by day.

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Photos by Pete Galea, CGCS

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## President's Message

By **STACY WALLACE** GCSANC President, Superintendent, Bay Club at StoneTree

Here we are in the middle of our summer golfing season. This is a period that is conducive to burn out and stress, especially with the staffing issues we are dealing with in our industry. I encourage everyone to step back and take a day for yourself to relax and contemplate where your facility is and how to move forward with the resources available.

I remember a golf committee member a long time ago said, "We need to look outside the box." My response to him was, "We do not have a box to get into." This has never been truer than today due to the shortage of productive staff. We all have different hobbies and things we like to do away from the golf course. Make sure you give yourself a break and find time for those opportunities, along with spending quality time with your family and friends.

As an association, we just had a successful Scholarship and Research tournament at Lake Merced Golf Club. We would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in this great event. Special thanks go out to Matthew Dachowski and his staff for providing an excellent maintained facility on which to play. I also want to thank Brian Boyer for taking the lead on this event.

In the spirit of Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner, I volunteered to work on the maintenance crew at Shinnecock Golf Club during the U. S. Open. It was a great experience seeing some old friends, as well as making many new ones. I recommend to all to volunteer your time to an event like this or something you care about.

We have some great events coming up. The Tri-Chapter event is August 20th at CordeValle Golf Club. After that, we have the Institute at Contra Costa Country Club on November 5th and the Assistant Boot Camp on November 6th and 7th in Monterey. Make sure to mark these down and put them on your calendar.

As I wrap up, I would like to reiterate the importance of taking some time for yourself to revitalize and focus. We are also in the process of planning next year's events. If anyone is interested in having an event at their facility, give one of the Board members a call to discuss. We are here to serve, so educational and speaker ideas are always welcome too.

Yours in turf, Stacy Wallace

### NORCALENDAR

August 20, 2018 Tri-Chapter Meeting (GCSANC Host) CordeValle Golf Club San Martin

November 5, 2018 GCSANC Institute Contra Costa Country Club Pleasant Hill

November 6-7, 2018 GCSANC Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp Hyatt Regency Monterey/ Poppy Hills Golf Club

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:

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By BRIAN BOYER, GCSANC Vice President; Superintendent, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club

Another edition of Thru the Green and the Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament is still a focus. In this issue, we have a nice note from Natalie Kinney, a 2017 legacy scholarship recipient, recapping her first year at Chico State.

There's also a bio on the 2018 legacy scholarship recipient, Erin Flanagan. Having seen many of the legacy applicants over the years, I don't think it's a coincidence that Superintendents' children hit the genetic jackpot. My opinion is that most of us married up and the work ethic we've grown up with is showing through our children. It's either that or it's all the pesticides we've sprayed over the years that are turning out overachievers!

We've had the chance to tally up the funds raised from this

year's S & R event, and we raised over \$30,000! Thank you to all of our valued partners in making this year's event, in its 11th year, one of the most successful.

To determine how best to spend the money, the Board released a research survey in May and the highlights are presented in this issue. Looking at the data, maybe we find the best answer to converting poa to bent and we'd eliminate a lot of the problems people are facing. There will still be that group of people, though, that will argue that Poa annua makes the best surface, which I'll never understand.

In the next issue, look forward to a recap of the Tri-chapter event, which is being held at CordeValle on August 20th, with host Superintendent Brett Thornsbury.



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### **Executive Director's Report**



By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

As indicated in the Editor's Note by Brian Boyer, the GCSANC Board continues to devote considerable energy to the topic of turf research, and there is reason to believe that the association, which has traditionally contributed \$10,000 annually to the California Turf and Landscape Foundation (CTLF), money that is then funneled to the UC Riverside program, may soon be in a position to direct an increased contribution to turf research.

First, this year's Rounds4Research auction generated more money than ever before for the chapter – in excess of \$5,000. In fact, it was nearly three times as much as had ever been raised by GCSANC through R4R.

Second, this year's S & R Tournament netted more than any S & R in recent memory, and was possibly the highest netting GCSANC S & R tournament ever, with more than \$30,000 in net revenue.

On top of that, the Board continues to pursue creative

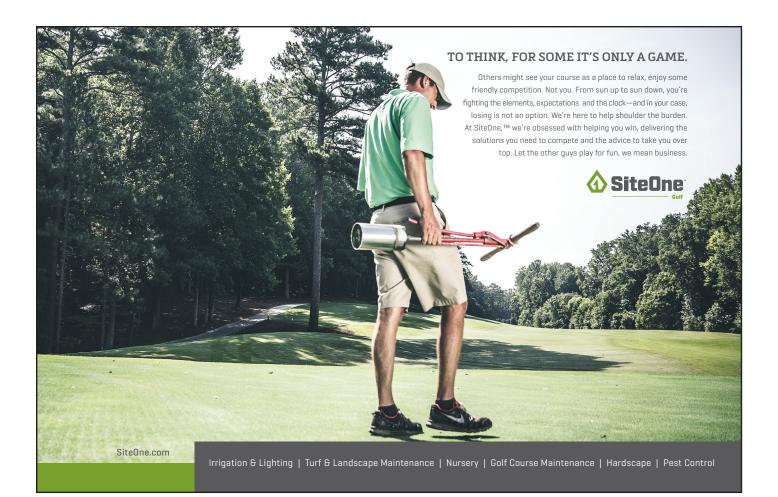
avenues to garner significant long-term support for turf research in Northern California. We will keep you informed as those ideas evolve.

Also on the turf research and resources, for the second consecutive year, the Board made a small contribution (\$600) to the GreenKeeper app, helping to continue funding for a very promising and valuable turf research tool.

All of this is to say that you have a very engaged and energetic Board that is actively and admirably representing your interests in furtherance of the Superintendent profession. This Board deserves a tremendous amount of credit for their creativity and willingness to try new things and pursue new ideas for the betterment of Superintendents in Northern California.

I hope that you'll thank a Board member for their time and commitment the next time you see them, and welcome each of you reading this to consider supporting the profession through Board service in the future.

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## From the Field



By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

GCSAA recently announced changes to the annual Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA). The changes will be effective immediately.

In past years, categories were established based on facility type, including Overall, National Public, National Resort, Chapter, and Merit winners. The 2018 addition of the awards will feature four categories: Natural Resource Conservation, Healthy Land Stewardship, Communications and Outreach, and Innovative Conservation. There will be one winner and two runnersup recognized for each of the four awards.

The Natural Resource Conservation Award will recognize individuals who employ effective strategies for water conservation, energy conservation and sound wildlife management.

The Healthy Land Stewardship Award will recognize individuals who employ effective strategies for efficient use of pesticides and nutrients as well as pollution prevention.

The Communications and Outreach Award will recognize individuals who effectively communicate conservation strategies with facility employees and others as well as share their efforts with golfers and other members of their community.

The Innovative Conservation Award will recognize individuals who utilize or invent unique and innovative strategies for conservation at their facility. The changes were made to encourage more superintendents to apply for the awards. Superintendents who may not have met the overall requirements in the past can now apply for a single category while they work on weaker areas through the use of GCSAA's Best Management Practices template. Applicants are encouraged to include photos and limited-size videos to help demonstrate their environmental efforts.

GCSANC superintendents have dominated the awards over the years, with Boundary Oak Superintendent Jay Neunsinger taking home the National Public Award in 2017.

The 2018 ELGA application period opens Aug. 1 and closes September 30. Applications will be accepted online at <u>www.gcsaa.org/ELGA.</u>

I hope to see some additional applications from our GCSANC members this year, as many of you have done numerous projects to reduce your environmental footprint. It's great recognition for your career, facility and the industry as a whole.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of your summer, and if I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to contact me at <u>jjensen@gcsaa.org</u> and visit my website at <u>www.</u> <u>gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/secure/southwest</u>" for updates from around the region and a calendar of events.

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO Erin Flanagan, 2018 GCSANC Legacy Scholarship Recipient

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California congratulates Erin Flanagan, daughter of Olympic Club Superintendent Troy Flanagan, for receiving a 2018 GCSANC Legacy scholarship.

Erin attended Aragon High School in San Mateo and will be attending the University of California at Santa Barbara this fall. Erin's intended major is Physics.

### Best of luck, Erin!



# Sam Singh Memorial Donation

If you have been in the Bay Area or have been affiliated with American Golf, there's a good chance you know the name Sam Singh. Sam had a long career as Superintendent and held the Superintendent position at Mountain Shadows Golf Club in Rohnert Park prior to being the Superintendent at Tilden Park Golf Course. He also served as a regional Superintendent for American Golf.

From his many years in golf, there are numerous members of the industry who consider Sam both a mentor and friend. Those folks, along with American Golf, wanted to preserve Sam's legacy following his passing, and began the Sam Singh scholarship in 2002 to benefit aspiring golf course superintendents through educational and financial support.

Monies were raised through the Sam Singh Memorial Golf Tournament. Since 2002, the scholarship has been able to help close to 20 Superintendents studying and working to pursue a career in the golf industry, many of whom are Superintendents today.

2017 marked the 15th and final tournament at Tilden Park in Sam's memory. The \$4,306 remaining balance from the memorial foundation was graciously passed on to GCSANC's Dr. Ali Harivandi scholarship, and will continue the mission of the Sam Singh Memorial Foundation through the association's scholarship program.

Thank you to the leaders of the Sam Singh Memorial Foundation for their generous contribution to GCSANC.

# **Guest Letter**

### By NATALIE KINNEY, 2017 GCSANC Scholarship Recipient

ear Golf Course Superintendents' Association of Northern California,

I wanted to thank you for the very generous scholarship that you awarded me last year. My freshman year at Chico State was everything I had hoped it would be and more.

My first year of collegiate golf was a busy one! My golf team and I traveled to play some pretty amazing courses, like Sand Hollow Resort in Hurricane, Utah, and the Classic Club in Palm Desert. Our best finish overall as a team was 4th place at Catta Verdera Country Club. My best individual score was a 77 at Hillcrest Golf Club.

This year was also the first year that Chico State women's golf was officially recognized as a CCAA Conference Sport. Being on the golf team has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences I have had, and I am extremely excited for our upcoming fall season to begin. We had no seniors graduate and have two incoming freshmen, so we have high expectations for this upcoming year.

My first academic year at Chico State was also a success. I finished with a 3.76 GPA and made the Dean's Honor list both the fall and spring semesters. I also received the honor of being included on the Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholars List

This summer I am playing in a few tournaments, including a match play tournament at Quail Lodge Golf Club and the US Women's Amateur Qualifier at Sequoyah Country Club. I am also keeping myself busy with a job in the Pro Shop at Granite Bay Golf Club and a summer accounting class.

But even with my busy schedule I still make sure to fit in the occasional round of golf with my dad! Thank you again for the scholarship that helped make my freshman year a success.

Best regards, Natalie Kinney



# The Survey Says...

In May, GCSANC and SNGCSA jointly sent out a research survey to determine three items: What's affecting our membership, how can we as associations best utilize the research dollars we raise, and how we can make our events better by bringing in pertinent speakers. The survey results in their entirety will be shared through email, and presented here are the highlights.

The survey had 60 participants whose primary greens grass species were bent/ poa mix.

Of the diseases listed, the most concerning were anthracnose and pink snow mold. Fairy ring was a distant third and the least concerning diseases listed were gray leaf spot and dollar spot.

Of the pests/ problems most concerning to our members, poa seedhead control was ranked #1. The least concerning were nematodes and I don't know if that is because they affect a small microclimate or because recent nematacides brought to market are solving that problem. It should be noted that GCSANC was a financial participant in the nematicide field trials performed by Dr. Baird and UC Riverside.

The last question to be highlighted was the level of interest in the following turfgrass categories: biologicals, water conditioning, organic fertilizer, organic disease control, MLSN, biostimulants, warm season turf, and GDD. Biostimulants topped the list, followed by organic fertilizer and GDD (GCSANC has and currently contributes to Dr. Kreuser's GDD research).

The results have been shared with the California Turf and Landscape Foundation, Dr. Baird and the GCSANC Board. Some of this research is currently being done at UC Riverside and regional sites throughout Northern California. You can see the research at UC Riverside for yourself on September 13 at their annual field day.









### Assistant Superintendent Profile: Carter Rockwell, Burlingame Country Club

By CONNER GALEA, Assistant Superintendent, San Francisco Golf 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 Carter Rockwell from Burlingame Country Club in Hillsborough.

#### CG: What made you decide to get into golf maintenance?

**CR:** After a few years of working in the brewing industry after college, I realized I needed a job that would allow me to work outside. Golf maintenance seemed like a career that would satisfy my cravings to be outside, work with my hands, and to be involved in the great sport of golf.

#### CG: What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?

**CR:** Every time a member approaches me to tell me that the course is in the greatest shape they have ever seen it in.

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

**CR:** I've worked with a lot of brilliant Assistants and Superintendents and I've learned a lot from all of them. But the most influential was Dave Held, former First Assistant at The Olympic Club, because of how much one-on-one time I had working alongside him at such an early stage in my career.

#### CG: Where did you grow up?

CR: Ingleside in San Francisco, CA

CG: Your best Nicknames?

**CR:** Farter

CG: If you could drive any vehicle, what would it be? CR: 1961 Cadillac Coupe Deville

CG: Do you have any pets?

CR: Nope. I have two kids, that's enough.

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

**CR:** An infamous member at The Olympic Club falling backwards into a newly shaped bunker still awaiting sand and turf and collapsing the edge while trying to hit his approach shot just on the edge of the GUR line. He got up, cursed the bunker and then told me we should get rid of it. CG: What is one thing that most people don't know about you?

**CR:** I turn my own baseball bats.

CG: What was your lowest score playing golf, and where? CR: 80 at Lincoln Park in San Francisco

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

**CR:** Leveling or replacing sprinkler heads. I like fine detail work so I like trying to get the sprinklers perfectly level and the sod back so it looks as if nothing had happened. That's also all I did every day for the first 6 months in the industry so it's nostalgic.

CG: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?

**CR:** "There's no such thing as a free lunch." From my grandfather's commanding officer in WW2, whom I was very close with.

CG: 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?

**CR:** A 7 iron, a bag of golf balls (I'm counting that as one because I would probably lose a lot), a notebook, a pen, and Moby Dick (I might actually be able to finish it given a year to myself).

CG: Favorite Beer?

CR: Tankovna Pilsner Urquell in the Czech Republic

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

**CR:** Own a big enough and interesting enough piece of land to build my own short course.

CG: Favorite sports teams?

**CR:** San Francisco Giants and Cincinnati Reds

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

**CR:** Creeping Bentgrass. I have worked with it a lot and it provides a very firm and smooth putting surface when healthy and pure.

CG: If you could have lunch with anyone, past or present, who would it be?

**CR:** Charles Blair Macdonald

CG: What do you enjoy outside of work?

**CR:** Spending time with my family and somehow incorporating baseball into that.

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