THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

March / April 2018



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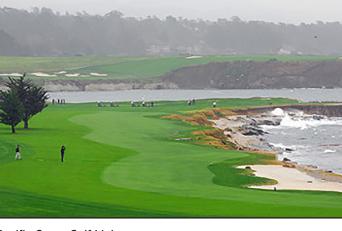




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INSIDE

NORCALENDAR
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 3
EDITORS NOTES by Brian Boyer
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT by Marc Connerly
FROM THE FIELD by Jeff Jensen
SUPERINTENDENT INTERVIEW8
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE by Eric Wiggins
GUEST ARTICLE by Lark Breen
FROM THE ROAD by Phil Brown
UCR TURFGRASS PROGRAM UPDATE by Dr. Jim Baird
BLAST FROM THE PAST 18

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President's Message

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

As I sit in my office on the first day of spring, I sit back and reflect on the previous year along with the upcoming season. The one thought that keeps resurfacing is "the only thing that stays the same is change."

One of the changes here at Bay Club StoneTree is the retirement of Juan De La Rosa. Juan was in the turf industry for 50 years, starting back in 1967 working for Bob Lewis at Diablo Country Club. From there he spent almost 20 years as the Superintendent at Sonoma Golf Club, then finished his career here at StoneTree Golf Club. I got the privilege to work side by side with Juan the last 11 years and will miss his leadership, stability, and calm demeanor. We wish you the best in retirement and thank you for your service to the industry over the last 50 years.

We would like to thank everyone for attending the GCSANC/USGA meeting at Silverado Resort. Our next event will be the Scholarship and Research Tournament at Lake Merced Golf Club (in addition to the joint event with the Sierra Nevada chapter on April 23 at Hedgerow Farms). This will be another outstanding event for a good cause, so please put it on your schedule to attend. We are gearing up to obtain donations for the raffle. If you or your company has something in mind, contact us so we can get a head start on this process.

Another meeting to put on your radar is the Tri-Chaper event on August 20th at CordeValle. There is a block of rooms that has been made available for those wanting to spend the night. This is a great facility and will be a fun event to attend and network with our comrades from other parts of California and Nevada.

Along with the upcoming events, we are in the middle of our campaign to solicit tee times for Rounds 4 Research (R4R). Rounds 4 Research was started in order 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 to May 6, 2018. Participating facilities have the ability to restrict rounds to certain days and times, as well as the option of setting your opening bid. The donation process can be completed online and takes approximately 10 minutes. Please visit http://www.eifg.org/research/rounds-4-research/donate-a-round/online-form and complete the form. 80 percent goes to the chapter, with the remaining 20 percent going to EIFG to assist with running the program.

We are starting to take a hard look at how our research dollars are spent so that R4R benefits our membership to its fullest potential. Surveys were recently circulated to help us with this process. Your feedback is crucial to lead us in the right direction regarding our research dollars.

Yours in turf,

Stacy Wallace

NORCALENDAR

April 23, 2018
GCSANC/Sierra Nevada
GCSA Joint Meeting
Hosted by Pacific Coast
Seed
Hedgerow Farms
Winters

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

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

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Editor's Note

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

"Suns out, Guns Out." If you saw Board member and Superintendent of Almaden Country Club, Josh Lewis, in shorts at the GCSANC/USGA meeting at Silverado, you may have heard that comment from him if you questioned him wearing shorts. It must be an Oregon thing because it was pretty darn cold. Like not wearing white after Labor Day, I'll keep the shorts for after aeration which, for many of you, has recently passed or is shortly upcoming. But we can still get our turfgrass management "guns" out as we prepare for a successful season. We've had the mostly cold and now rainy season to fill our brains with new ideas on how to manage our turf and soil or maybe you picked up some new management strategies you want to start with your staff. Optimism is at its peak and it's a time that I think most Superintendents relish.

As with Superintendents, there's a lot of optimism we're hoping to spread in this edition of the newsletter. Whether it's raising money for research through Rounds 4 Research or getting more research and scholarship dollars with the Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner S&R tournament, we're optimistic that donations will increase this year. Enjoy the beginning of another new season and our most recent addition of Thru the Green.

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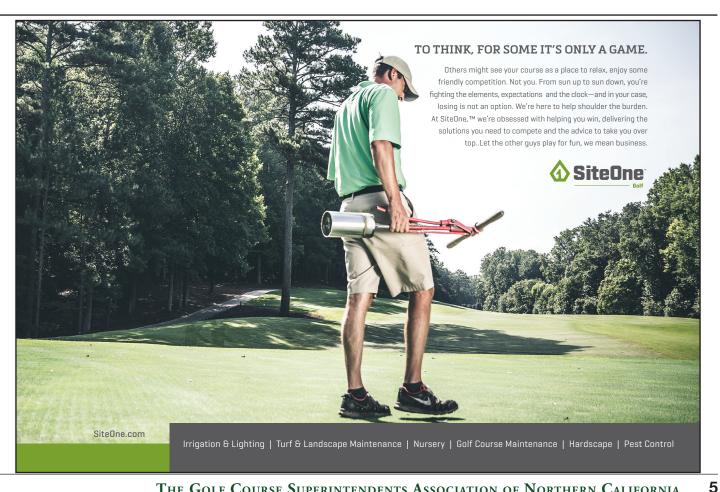


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Executive Director's Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

This issue of Thru The Green is probably my favorite rendition of the publication since assuming this role in 2014. I think that is because it was such a diverse team effort. Not only do we have the excellent and customary contributions from our President, Editor and GCSAA Field Representative, but we have excellent pieces from three additional Board members, a very well-written article by the daughter of member Kevin Breen, and an item from Dr. Jim Baird. In all, five Board members participated in this edition of TTG, which is great to see.

This diversity of contributions inspired me to write this month about teamwork, which is so important in virtually every aspect of our lives. Teamwork is certainly an integral part of a harmonious home life, and critical to success in sports, business and elsewhere.

I don't need to tell GCSANC members how valuable teamwork is to the very complex operation of a golf course. Maintenance crew members must work in a cohesive manner to maintain course conditions; communication and collaboration between the Superintendent, Golf Pro, event staff, and GM is essential to a well-run operation; and even the relationship between course management and vendors is heavily dependent on working together, helping each other out, and enduring that processes run as efficiently as possible.

Within the GCSANC fraternity, teamwork is evident on many fronts. The GCSANC Board, as an example, is as strong as it has ever been, and that is largely because we have an excellent team of Board members who are all chipping in, whether it is on newsletter articles, planning events, soliciting new sponsors, or participating on one of the many committees.

One such committee where teamwork is producing very positive results is in Rounds 4 Research (R4R). In years past, R4R donations have been gathered very informally. We've made announcements at meetings, included an ad in Thru The Green, and circulated a few emails. The results have

been uninspiring, to say the least, as we gathered a total of 9 donations last year.

This year, we formed a R4R (Rounds 4 Research) Committee, comprised of representatives from various regions within the GCSANC territory. The committee members have held a few committee calls, each committee member has contacted a handful of courses, and Dave Redfern of Affordable Turf & Specialty Tire has done an exemplary job of visiting dozens of courses and dropping off the R4R materials. As a result, with three weeks to go until the auction opens, we have 19 rounds donated (more than twice as many as the previous highest total for GCSANC), with commitments from eight more courses, and close to 50 additional courses that have been given the R4R literature and receiving consistent reminders from the committee.

That is a sterling example of teamwork paying off, and the result means a much greater pot of money to spend on very important turf research! A big "thank you" goes out to the R4R Committee members and those courses that have generously stepped up to make this year's R4R a great success for GCSANC. If your course has not yet donated to R4R, there is still time to do so at www.rounds4research.com.

One final comment that I think ties in well with the topic of teamwork is something I gleaned from this issue's Assistant Superintendent Profile, conducted by Eric Wiggins and featuring Eric McAlister of Peninsula Golf & Country Club. When asked for the greatest piece of advice he has ever received, McAlister replied, "Manage your staff as unique individuals, but hold them all to the same standard." That is definitely great advice for building and maintaining a successful team!

As the busy season for golf dawns this year, we hope your team is in midseason form. The GCSANC staff and Board of Directors are here to help with any needs or requests; just let us know how we can be of assistance.

From the Field



By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

I wanted to thank all of you who made the trip to San Antonio for the Golf Industry Show (GIS). It was another successful event for GCSAA. GIS makes up nearly 47 percent of GCSAA's operating revenue so member and vendor support at our showcase event is critical to financing our member services and programs.

The 2018 Conference and Show was attended by 11,700 participants and featured 531 vendors showcasing their products over 184,000 square feet of exhibit space. Inside the Ropes and the Test Drive Technology Center continued to be a hit with those in the industry. Over 28,000 square feet was committed to the Inside the Ropes area that featured bunker and equipment displays, irrigation education, golf course dog demonstrations and much more.

The Education Conference featured 97 seminars and 20 sessions covering all areas of golf course management. Over 5,600 education seats were filled during the week, including numerous new education tracks for assistant superintendents and equipment managers.

Additionally, the GCSAA Golf Championships were played over five San Antonio area courses with 465 players competing in various formats, including 164 players for the Sunday scramble event. Matt Cowan, Superintendent at the Hills Course at The Hills at Lakeway in Austin, TX, was crowned National Champion, firing a two-day total of 2-over-par 146.

As we move into the spring season, please keep in mind the numerous educational opportunities available at gcsaa.org. The online education, particularly the live and on-demand webinars, are a great way to supplement the extensive education that you receive at your chapter events. Upcoming webinars include "Factors influencing Growth Rate and Nutrient Requirements" (April 24).

The webinars are free to GCSAA members, 60 minutes in length, and members receive .20 education points for participation. <u>Click here</u> to visit the GCSAA Learning Hub for a calendar of live webinars as well as registration information.

It was great to see so many of you at the GCSANC/USGA Regional Conference at Silverado, and thank you for your continued support of GCSANC and GCSAA. If you have any questions, please contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter gCSAA_SW for industry updates.





Superintendent Interview: Josh Smith, Orinda Country Club

By JOSH CLEVENGER, Superintendent, Claremont Country Club

Josh Smith has been honing his craft in and around golf for close to thirty years. From caddying at Waverley in Portland to working on golf course construction projects with names like Doak, Urbina, Devries, and Phillips leading the way, Josh's career is as varied and unique as any.

Working on classic courses like Meadow Club, San Francisco Golf Club and the California Golf Club of San Francisco, and now as Superintendent at Orinda Country Club, Josh has developed an eye for how golf was meant to be.

Josh's golf landscape oil paintings of some of the top courses around the world command respect from the golf and art world. He has become one of the top golf course landscape artists anywhere, with some of his original works being commissioned by the best and brightest in the business. I really enjoyed sitting down with Josh on a rainy day talking golf, art and life.

JC: Where did you get your start in golf?

JS: My dad introduced us to the game and we began playing golf at age 9 or 10 in Lake Oswego, OR. We played the 9 hole muni and loved it from the start. From there I went on to play high school golf and eventually college golf at St. Mary's right down the street from Orinda CC. After school, I went into the construction side of golf with Wadsworth and was with them for five years. I got tired of the travel and ended up getting into the greenkeeper side with Thomas Bastis at the Cal Club.

JC: Who would you consider being most influential in your career?

JS: I think the most influential was Tom Doak. We were building courses a certain way at the time and then I saw Pacific Dunes and how they were building; it was totally different than what we were doing. That was a fork in the road for me to see that there was a cooler way to build than what we were doing. He's also been very supportive of my oil paintings and has given me the faith to think that I had a skill there. I have to say on the agronomy side, Thomas Bastis has been very influential helping me to grow and learn what it takes to be a Superintendent.

JC: Your background brings a unique perspective. As a contractor, what's one piece of advice you'd give to a Superintendent? As a Super, what advice would you give a contractor?

JS: The Superintendent should be well thought out with planning, especially as it relates to grassing. As a Superintendent, I say the contractor should come in with a clean slate and without a cookie cutter way of building that is carried site to site. Be prepared to build something unique.

JC: If you could change one thing in the industry what would that be?



Josh Smith, Orinda Country Club

JS: I think that there is an issue with golf

equipment technology that's resulting in certain courses becoming obsolete. We're not seeing players playing long irons the way they did.

JC: Give me one thing you see as overrated and one underrated in golf maintenance.

JS: I think tee maintenance is a little overrated. Bunker maintenance is overrated for sure. Lots of opportunity to cut costs in these areas. I think underrated is light green grass. I'm not a huge dark green grass guy; I like a light green grass and too much is put on color in general. I'd say dark green grass is overrated for sure.

JC: Your artwork is amazing. What sparked that passion in you?

JS: Seeing Pacific Dunes under construction sparked it for me. I never thought I'd like to paint golf courses, but once I saw how natural that presentation was, I thought, "I can paint golf courses and they can be mistaken for beautiful landscapes."

JC: Do you see being an artist as an asset for you as a Superintendent?

JS: It goes back to being observant and having a good eye. As an artist and a Superintendent the two go hand in hand.

Continued

Josh Smith Continued

JC: Favorite course to paint?

JS: Bandon Dunes resort in general. I've really enjoyed painting Cypress, but it's been a while. Everything at Bandon is so natural that I really enjoy painting anything there.

JC: Favorite course to play?

IS: Sand Hills in Nebraska

JC: When not at work, what are you up to?

JS: When away from work, it's family time with my wife and kids. I've got two daughters, 5 and 3, and I love spending time with them. When I can wedge in some time to paint, that's next.

JC: How do you maintain a good work/life balance?

JS: Everyone who's given me advice on this has said family first. Even those that hire you understand that family has to come first. You have to keep that in mind and realize that you have guys on your staff that can take care of things when you have something at home that is more important. Try not to take life too seriously; try not to take work overly serious and realize you have people around you that can get it done.

JC: Top three bands on your playlist?

JS: Dispatch, Counting Crows and Kenny Chesney

JC: What's your beverage of choice?

JS: Something with some citrus, so Greyhound or a Margarita. I'll go with the jalapeno infused margarita.

JC: You have one last meal, what's it going to be?

JS: Chimichurri grass fed steak

JC: One last round of golf, who's in the group?

JS: Gotta go with family there. I have a foursome with my wife and daughters. If it's within the industry: Mike Keiser, Bill Coore and Phil Mickelson

JC: If you were not in the golf biz what would you be doing?

JS: I'd be trying to make a living oil painting full time. There is too much to like about this that I couldn't see myself punching into a regular job.



Orinda Country Club - Par 3 8th hole



Orinda Country Club - Short par 5 8th hole



Assistant Superintendent Profile: Eric McAlister, Peninsula Golf & Country Club

By ERIC WIGGINS, Assistant Superintendent, California 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 Eric McAlister, Assistant Superintendent at Peninsula Golf & Country Club.

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

EM: My passion for the playing the game and being outdoors

EW: What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?

EM: Working the 2015 US Open at Chambers Bay

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

EM: Scott McBeath. Scott made my first experience working on the golf course very enjoyable and always encouraged me to consider a career in golf. It was working for him that I found my passion for the industry and that will always be what's most important.

EW: Where did you grow up?

EM: Tacoma, Washington

EW: Your best Nicknames?

EM: McMasters, Big MAC

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

EM: 1970 Chevy Camaro

EW: Do you have any pets?

EM: 2 Cats, Cheddar and Rollo (aka Shredder and Rollo

Coaster)

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

EM: It was hard to see from where I was but had to be the day I tripped backwards over a downed tree during a rain storm and fell 4 feet into the mud completely ripping the crotch out of my pants in the process. We still laugh about it to this day.

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

EM: I love to cook competitively...She always wins.

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

EM: 82 at Lake Padden Golf Course

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

EM: Cutting cups. It allows me to see all the greens and slow down play for my staff.

EW: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?

EM: Manage your staff as unique individuals, but hold them all to the same standard.

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?

EM: Mountain Bike, Rifle, Box of Ammo, Fishing Pole, Kayak

EW: Favorite Beer?

EM: Pyramid Hefeweizen

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

EM: Travel the world

EW: Favorite sports teams?

EM: Seattle Seahawks and Mariners

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

EM: Poa Annua. If managed properly, it's a high quality putting surface and I prefer not to pick it or try to spray it out of my greens.

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

EM: Roger Federer

EW: What do you enjoy outside of work?

EM: Spending time with family and friends

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Guest Article

By LARK BREEN, Daughter of Kevin Breen, Superintendent, La Rinconada Country Club

Golf is, in my opinion at least, the most frustrating, low-reward sport a person can play. Still, I haul my clubs to practice half the year and constantly survey the green expanses out my window. Golf is inextricably a part of me. As soon as I could stand, my father taught me to clap my hands together twice and then slap my fingers around a golf club. Every night as the sun lowered behind the pine trees, I clapped, laughed, and raced around the putting green of our front lawn with a wide smile and popsicle juice on my face. More than twelve years, thousands of range balls, hundreds of holes, dozens of lessons, three sets of golf clubs, and innumerable blisters later, golf is no easier or more enjoyable.

One element of golf is, however, a constant source of enjoyment: the course itself. My dad is Kevin Breen, a Golf Course Superintendent. I've always thought he was a big deal in the golf industry, at least since the commercial in which he appeared alongside Justin Timberlake promoting Timberlake's new course and its environmentally friendly water usage.

I was born in Truckee, California, when my dad was employed at Lahontan Golf Club, working with a team to build it, essentially, from bare soil. I enjoyed Lahontan immensely. With my special access to the course, I got to climb the waterfalls on the par three course, build tunnels in the massive piles of sand and soil that were deposited in the maintenance parking lot in preparation for aeration, and hop on the snowmobile with my dad in the winter, when the cart paths were transformed into trails for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

I also participated in golf and tennis lessons, and the many camps offered at the pool during the summer. I loved the playground as much as any other kid, but I'd abandon it in a second if my dad offered me a ride on the "bumpy path," the tanbark trail more or less reserved as a shortcut for maintenance vehicles. In the summer, I would brave the frigid temperatures of Tahoe summers at 5:00 a.m. in order to join my dad and his crew on the course on Saturday mornings. I was usually in charge of divot repairs, picking up pinecones and trash, and, if I was lucky, maybe even working the dew whip or driving the cart.

During the week, I was forced to attend golf lessons and compete in matches through the Northern Nevada Junior Golf Association. As I swung my seven iron time after time in the blistering heat of Fallon, Nevada, I couldn't wait for Saturday morning. But, when I stopped going to the course to work and all that was left were lessons and competitions, I began to hate golf. I wasn't having fun, partly because the girls I competed against were really mean, partly because I could not possibly be happy in such high temperatures as I experienced at the matches, and partly because I wouldn't allow myself to enjoy it. This hatred soon began to diminish my enjoyment of participating in the world of golf course maintenance, too.

When we moved to Los Gatos, California for my dad to assume his current position as Superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club, I was less than delighted about the location of our house: in the maintenance yard, right along the fourteenth hole. It seemed I could never escape golf! Little did I know that this proximity would allow me to embrace the sport and the course on my own terms and learn to love it.

I continued playing golf competitively on the high school team, and as player number 5 out of the top 6 on varsity, I always played with the girls who were out on the course simply to enjoy the day and get their PE credits: a.k.a. nice, uncompetitive people.

I examined my dad's course whenever we played there, and discussed the conditions and reviews with him afterwards. My dad would pick me up in a golf cart and take me home to our house on number 14, and we would eat dinner on the back deck, looking out over the calm spread of green, green rye grass before us. The greatest gift golf course maintenance ever granted me is my dog Meggie, and then, later, my dog Arlo.

Meggie and Arlo, both gorgeous Australian Shepherds, became members of my family for the express purpose of chasing geese off the greens at Lahontan (Meggie) and La Rinconada (Arlo). The only way my dad could convince me to spend time on the course for a long time was by bribing me with time spent with the dog, and the possibility of stopping at the turn to eat Goldfish crackers.

Continued

Guest Article Continued

After a time, twilight excursions around the golf course, checking valves, chasing geese, and eating goldfish became routine. I would put on goofy glasses that reveal dry patches and use fancy tools to gauge the moisture of the soil. I assembled the new bunker rakes when they arrived in the yard, and painted the maintenance break room green when the ugly cream color got too dingy.

When it was too hot in the summer, my dad's air conditioned office, full of irrigation charts and turf textbooks, became the perfect refuge. I can honestly say I feel as much at home at the golf course as I do in my actual house. Which isn't saying much, I guess, since the address is exactly the same.

The time spent with my dad at the golf course or at industry events has taught me how to dedicate myself to hard work, how to be resilient in the face of challenges, and how to love and appreciate my family and my living situation. As a result of these lessons, hammered into me through years of involvement in the golf industry, I began working as a supervisor at the

country club pool and quickly became the go-to on-call employee because of my dedication to doing my job properly as well as my proximity to the workplace.

I love driving a golf cart across the course to work, and taking my lunch break at the turn by the pond. I love helping my dad fix a broken mower in the evening or adjusting the valves in the pump station when a pond gets too full. I love being a part of the golf course environment and learning from it each and every day.

The gist is that I am basically a real-life version of Maggie O'Hooligan from the cinematic icon Caddyshack, but without the pregnancy scare or caddy boyfriend. I can attest to the surprising accuracy of Caddyshack's ridiculous depiction of country club life, from the bickering old men to the staff parties at the pool to the dancing, evasive gophers that seem to survive everything my dad could dream of throwing at them. I am ever thankful for my childhood spent playing, working, and growing on the golf course.



From the Road with Phil Brown



By PHIL BROWN, Ewing Irrigation

I got to thinking one day that because it's my responsibility to get out and see many of you throughout Northern California and the greater Bay Area, it allows me to come across many different locations and enjoy varied experiences. So, I thought I would share with you some of the interesting people, places and things I encounter "From the Road." This article is not to sway, bore or influence you as a travel guide in any way, but to bring to your attention some of the activities, curious tidbits, and delectable locations in our places we call home, among our turf head brethren and colleagues.

A recent visit to Palo Alto to see how the Stanford University Golf Course renovation and irrigation project was coming along, and boy is it looking awesome. It helped me realize just how incredible this property is. If you haven't been around the campus lately, and I'm not exactly sure why you would, but it's a spectacular place that Leland Stanford developed. However, now it's as if the whole place is under construction. From expanding medical facilities to increased student and staff housing, and it's own energy production plant, I know where the money's being spent, that's for sure.

Upon leaving Stanford, it was time for a trip to one of my favorites, the "Dutch Goose." If you've never been there, it's a great little sports bar in Menlo Park known for their burgers, brews, sweet potato fries, deviled eggs, and fun atmosphere. You'd better be wearing some Cardinal red to hang in this place.

If you need to walk off some of that great food, then I'd suggest a short jaunt up to Filoli, just up the way in Woodside. This place, with its sixteen acres of formal gardens, surrounded by another 654 acres of estate property, is absolutely beautiful. Did I just say that? Regardless, this place is truly a treasure to be experienced. If one needs to clear the mind and see a different landscape from the hustle and bustle of bumpers and break lights, this is worth checking out.

I realize we're all busy juggling balls between job, family, and spiritual and mental preservation. Or should it be the other way around? Regardless, we must take a moment for ourselves to enjoy the many fruits of our labors, quality time with loved ones, and see the splendor afforded to us in our surroundings. This is one "from the road!"

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UCR Turfgrass Program Update

By DR. JIM BAIRD, Turfgrass Specialist, UC Riverside

Personnel

The UCR Turfgrass Program grew stronger in scope and personnel in 2017. Dr. Marco Schiavon, former post-doc, assumed a new role as Assistant Researcher focusing on Turfgrass Water Conservation and Salinity Management. This new appointment was made possible by a generous donation from Mr. John Foster, Founder and President of West Coast Turf. Drs. Marta Pudzianowska and Pawel Petelewicz joined our team as post-docs in Turfgrass Breeding & Genetics and Pest Management, respectively. Both received their doctoral degrees from Warsaw University of Life Sciences in Poland. Last, but not least, several students provided valuable support to the program, including Pawel Orlinski, Magdalena Poleska, Antonio Verzotto, and Diego Ibarra-Cruz.

Turfgrass Breeding & Genetics

In 2017, we received a new grant from the California Turfgrass & Landscape Foundation (CTLF), United States Golf Association (USGA), Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California, and Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) to continue research toward development of warmseason turfgrasses with improved winter color retention and drought tolerance. We established 12 of our most promising bermudagrass genotypes in comparison with Tifway, TifTuf, Santa Ana, and Bandera cultivars in replicated trials at UCR, West Coast Turf farm in the Coachella Valley, and Meadow Club in Fairfax (Marin County). In addition, we added to our kikuyugrass germplasm collection and selected genotypes for improved drought tolerance.

In 2018, we will focus on establishing hundreds, if not thousands, of new progeny from crosses made with our bermudagrass collection. During this round, particular emphasis was placed on parental genotypes with known winter color retention and drought tolerance. These will be planted at UCR for initial evaluation and promising hybrids will be expanded for further evaluation across California, as well as in Phoenix and Las Vegas. In addition, we are ready to begin crossing our kikuyugrass genotypes with the goal of improving quality, drought tolerance, water use efficiency, and disease resistance. Using androgenesis to reduce chromosome number, we are very close to producing haploid kikuyugrass plants that should also be less vigorous and possess improved turf quality traits.

Turfgrass Water Conservation & Salinity Management

In 2017, a grant from the CTLF allowed us to establish a new annual bluegrass putting green for salinity management and rapid blight research. Preliminary results indicated that lighter, frequent (daily) irrigation was more beneficial for managing salts compared to less frequent but deeper irrigation. Although rapid blight symptoms were evident as the study progressed, we were unable to positively identify the causal agent of the disease. Nevertheless, Contend A (benzovinduiflupyr + difenoconazole), Velista (penthiopyrad), and Lexicon (pyraclostrobin + fluxapyroxad) provided the best turf quality by the end of the experiment in 2017. We also completed a two-year study evaluating various combinations of Revolution wetting agent, Primo Maxx (trinexapac-ethyl), and N formulations on bermudagrass turf under deficit irrigation. Although the best turf quality with the least amount of irrigation water was achieved with a combination of all three, Revolution was the most significant contributor to water conservation.

In 2018, we will continue our annual bluegrass putting green salinity management research with emphasis on irrigation management strategies and nutrient/biostimulant products, some of which appear to have a positive effect on turf under salinity stress. We will also continue to evaluate new and existing fungicide chemistries for management of rapid blight disease. In addition, we will continue to evaluate newer cultivars of tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass as part of the USGA/NTEP Cool-Season Drought Tolerance Trial. We also plan to start a new experiment on bermudagrass turf to evaluate performance of various wetting agents under different levels of deficit irrigation. The ultimate goal is to identify the most (cost) effective product(s) for water conservation on large areas including golf course fairways.

Turfgrass Pest Management

In 2017, we conducted trials across the entire state for a number of turfgrass pests including gray snow mold (Martis Camp Club), spring dead spot (North Ridge CC), Anguina nematodes (Pasatiempo GC, Spyglass Hill GC, Laguna Seca GC), anthracnose (UCR), gray leaf spot (San Clemente GC), and Poa annua (Pleasanton Golf Center, Bel-Air CC). In addition, we conducted fertilizer formulation and PGR trials

at UCR and Pasatiempo GC. In the Coachella Valley, we tested various combinations of chemicals including Turflon (triclopyr), Reward (diquat), Scythe (pelargonic acid) and Primo Maxx for overseeding preparation on greens and fairways. The most significant findings were that Primo helps overseeding establishment when applied not only before scalping but also after scalping and just prior to overseeding. In addition, we found no negative effects from tank-mixing Turflon and Reward compared to either product applied separately prior to overseeding.

As always, our pest management research changes from year to year based on pest outbreaks, local needs, and company requirements for registration. In 2018, we will continue nematode studies toward registration of Divanem (abamectin) nematicide and PoaCure (methiozolin) herbicide.

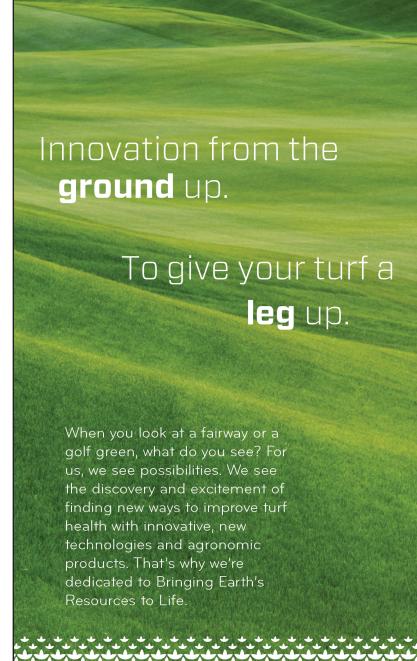
On behalf of the UCR Turfgrass team, we appreciate the continued support from our industry and the CTLF.



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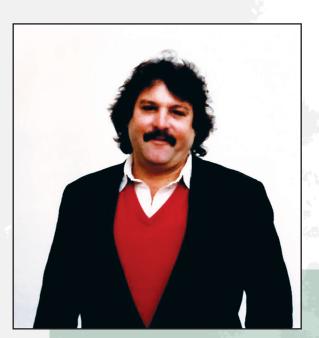
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Lou Tonelli and Robert Klinestecher 1992



Charlie Gibson and Jim Hansen (unconfirmed)

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