The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

May / June 2018



GCSANC Thanks Lake Merced Golf Club 2018 S & R Tournament Host Facility



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PRESIDENT STACY WALLACE StoneTree Golf Club wallacestac@yahoo.com



SECRETARY TREASURER PETER BACHMAN San Jose Country Club pbachman@sanjosecountryclub.org



VICE PRESIDENT **BRIAN BOYER** Cinnabar Hills Golf Club bboyer@cinnabarhills.com



PAST PRESIDENT SEAN TULLY Meadow Club stully@meadowclub.com



Lake Merced Clubhouse at Night Photo

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EDITOR Sean Tully (415) 462-1010 stully@meadowclub.com PUBLICATION MANAGER Marc Connerly (916) 454-1320 MConnerly@connerlyandassociates.com







DIRECTOR CONNER GALEA San Francisco Golf Club connerg@sfgolfclub.com



DIRECTOR PETE GALEA, CGCS Farmload Distributors peterjg@pacbell.net

DIRECTOR **JOSH LEWIS** Almaden Golf & Country Club jlewis@almadengcc.com





DIRECTOR

Photos by Pete Galea, CGCS



DIRECTOR JOSH CLEVENGER Claremont Country Club jclev66@msn.com





President's Message

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

The Rounds 4 Research campaign for 2018 has been completed, and it is with great pride to announce we met our goal that we set for this year's event.

With that being said, there is enormous potential in our region to surpass the 2018 achievement due to all the great facilities in the area. We ask that you begin the conversation with your facility leaders and start promoting the 2019 research fundraising opportunity. Along with that, any feedback regarding research project ideas that would be beneficial are always welcome. We will take ideas from the membership and communicate them to appropriate organizations to develop the conversation on how to use these funds. Many of you already helped with our recent survey, and we are appreciative of that input.

Upcoming events include the Tri-Chapter meeting August 20th at CordeValle Golf Club, The Institute at Contra Costa Country Club November 5th, and the Assistant Boot Camp November 6th and 7th.

As you all by know, the dear friend of this organization, Clifford Wagoner, passed away last month. The model of volunteering that he and his wife Myrtle gave us should inspire us all to help our organizations and communities.

I would also like to introduce our new Assistant Director, Conner Galea from San Francisco Golf Club. Conner takes over for Eric Wiggins, who took the Assistant position at Eugene Country Club. We would like to thank Eric for his service and welcome Conner to the Board.

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 GCSANC, 2215 21st Street,

Sacramento, CA 95818.



Editor's Note



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

By the time this edition of Thru the Green reaches you, the Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Research and Scholarship will have passed. This year's event unfortunately bears the sad news of Clifford Wagoner passing away the previous month. I never had the opportunity to meet Clifford and Myrtle, and it's difficult to talk about them because I'm ignorant to the great things they did for the association. What I can talk about, though, is how I know them through the actions of members in the association.

Whether it's Gary Carls or Gary Ingram and their work with the Oakland Turfgrass Initiative, or the tireless work that Dave Bermudez from Del Rios CC does for the Sierra chapter and their Scholarship & Research tournament.

There's even the impact he's had on one of our newer members that was just shared with me the other day by Coby Byers. Coby mentioned that when he'd be getting tired and wanting to sit down at GIS, he'd see Cliff and Myrtle walk by and think to himself that if they could do it, he could do it a little longer too. My actions are impacted by the Gary's, David and Coby, whose careers were impacted in some way by Cliff and Myrtle. I guess that's the definition of a legacy.

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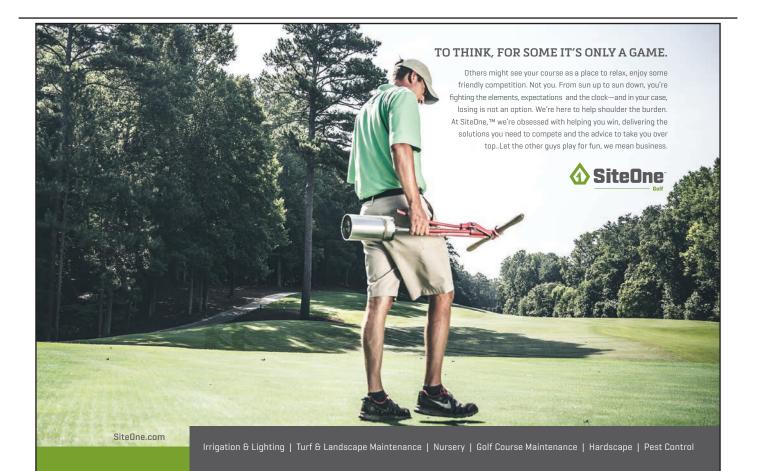
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Executive Director's Report



By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

We are just about to the halfway point of the year, and things are clicking on all cylinders for GCSANC. The recently completed S & R Tournament was a huge success by several measures: over \$20,000 raised; more than 100 registrants; numerous comments that it was among the best events in several years; and survey results indicating "good" to "excellent" in virtually every area.

I would also like to recognize this year's lone scholarship recipient: Erin Flanagan, daughter of Troy Flanagan, who was the winner of a \$1,500 Legacy Scholarship. Erin graduated with a 4.24 GPA from Aragon High School in San Mateo, and plans on pursuing a degree in Physics at UC Santa Barbara. In addition to being class Valedictorian, Erin was a member of the principal's honor roll (with highest honors), the PE Student of the Year, an AP Scholar, and California Scholarship Federation member.

Congratulations to Erin on her outstanding achievements to date, and best wishes on successful endeavors in the future!

GCSANC would also like to extend our thanks to the Sam Singh Memorial Scholarship program. The Sam Singh ceased operations this year, and the leaders of that program, including Jay Neunsinger (Boundary Oak Golf Course), Gary Ingram (Metropolitan Golf Links), Steve Harker (Touchstone Golf), and Shelley Hara (Metropolitan Golf Links), elected to contribute the remaining funds (more than \$4,300) to GCSANC's scholarship coffers.

Thank you to the Sam Singh Memorial Scholarship fund for what you have done on behalf of the industry, and for your generous contribution to GCSANC's scholarship fund.

Congratulations are in order to GCSANC Treasurer Pete Bachman of San Jose Country Club, who was married to Kayla Nelson on June 23 in Carmel Valley. Pete is an active, engaged and valuable participant on the GCSANC Board, and we wish Kayla and him all the best.

Finally, just as Stacy and Brian have done earlier in this issue, and as Gary Carls does quite eloquently in the ensuing article, I would like to recognize and appreciate Clifford (and Myrtle) Wagoner for their outstanding contributions to this organization. Although I didn't know them, the tributes speak for themselves, and the high regard in which so many people hold them is inspiring.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer!



A Legacy Lost - Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS

By GARY CARLS, CGCS, GCSANC Class A Life Member

Sadly, on May 15, 2018 our chapter lost a man who was truly one of the greatest leaders our business has ever seen. In 1973, as GCSAA's incoming President, Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS, spoke the following words: *"We must continue to work together, member with member, to strengthen and confirm the leadership of our association. I personally value the opportunity that association work gives me to keep on learning and growing."*

Cliff lived his entire life working to fulfill those goals and sharing his knowledge with many superintendents who followed in his footsteps. As part of the "older" generation (and someone who has had the privilege to know and work with Cliff Wagoner, CGCS, over the years), I would like to share just a small part of his respected tenure with the many GCSANC members who may have known the name, but not the man.

It's hard to believe that 2018 marked 45 years since Mr. Wagoner served as GCSAA President. Cliff worked in the Modesto area and spent most of his career at Del Rio Country Club before retiring in 1985 after 35 years at the club. Cliff first joined GCSANC in 1951, and by 1952 was already involved as the Bylaws Committee Chairman. A few years later, Cliff was serving on the Board of Directors. Later, he served three terms as GCSANC President ('59, '65, '67).

As if doing all this wasn't enough to keep him busy, Cliff also was very involved in the formation of the California Federation of Golf Course Superintendents (known today as the California Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association) and served as the second president of that group in 1965.

Having a strong focus on the importance of research and education was very important to Cliff, and he made sure the chapter did everything it could to support efforts for those initiatives. Besides providing a great deal of funding to support research (being conducted at UC Davis by Dr. Bill Davis at that time), Cliff also recognized the importance of sharing that information with the general membership. Working with University of California and the NCGA, an educational program was developed in 1967 as a vehicle to share this information with the membership. The program was called the Turfgrass Adaptive Research Program (TARP for short), and was the forerunner for programs like the GCSANC Institute and the USGA/NCGA Regional Meeting, which the chapter still assists with hosting today.

While serving on the GCSAA Board of Directors Cliff continued to focus on the importance of professional development and expanded education for superintendents. For three years, working with fellow GCSANC member Walter Boysen, he co-chaired the committee that created the GCSAA Certification program and was among the first class of 20 Certified Golf Course Superintendents recognized by GCSAA in 1971. The voluntary program was among the first-ever such programs developed by a profession in which members set standards and committed to continuing education as a means to remain at the top of their profession. Today, approximately 1,700 GCSAA members retain the designation of CGCS.

In 1973 Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS, was elected President of GCSAA, where he continued to focus his attention on the following priorities:

- 1. Formulating and promoting sound educational programs;
- 2. Raising professional standards
- 3. Developing more membership services that will be of value to an expanding membership
- 4. Expanding the membership and getting it more involved for broader representation
- 5. Improving communications

It's amazing how many of the same things we hear today that were also common themes some 45 years ago.

Among the many honors Cliff received throughout his career were:

- GCSAA Distinguished Service Award (1985)
- GCSANC Honorary Membership (1985)
- GCSANC George Santana Distinguished Service Award (1996)
- The first GCSANC Superintendent of the Year Award (1974)

Eleven years ago GCSANC renamed their annual Scholarship and Research Tournament The Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament in their honor. The event was held this year on June 11th at Lake Merced Golf Club.

On a personal note, no discussion about Cliff would be complete without including at least a brief, yet very warm mention of his lovely wife Myrtle. Before she passed away last summer, Cliff and Myrtle celebrated over 75 years of marriage. They truly were always a team in everything they did. They have two children, Shirley and Darryl, as well as several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. They also had an extensive circle of strong

Continued on page 8

extended family and friends. Many of their extended network of friends comes through their years of work with GCSAA and GCSANC.

From day one, Myrtle was helping Cliff with all of his various roles and dedicated volunteerism to our association. Myrtle was always his strongest supporter and a resource to the GCSANC that will be long appreciated. As Cliff described it, they were a great team and a good example of a "complimentary relationship." Cliff and Myrtle both remained involved with GCSANC up through the 75th Anniversary Meeting just a few years ago by participating on the planning committee for the event.

It is impossible to share fully all of the contributions Cliff Wagoner and his wife Myrtle made for the betterment of our profession in their 60-plus years with both GCSAA and GCSANC. I always had nothing but the greatest respect for this team and everything they did for the betterment of future generations of golf course superintendents. They both openly shared their knowledge with anyone who would ask for their advice on any association related matters. It's hard to believe we will ever see another couple that will contribute so much to our profession as they did.

This is probably way too simplified, but it can be said that Clifford Wagoner helped make the profession of golf course superintendent better for everyone who has been fortunate to follow in his footsteps.

There's an expression we often hear, "Go make a difference in the world." I think Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS, definitely did that, and then some!

On behalf of those of us who knew you and were able to learn so much from you, thank you my friend. You will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace.



From the Field



By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

Is your facility looking for a community service project that promotes the turf industry, develops future golfers and future employees, while providing some positive media coverage? If so, The First Green might be for you.

The First Green is an innovative education outreach program using golf courses as hands-on environmental learning labs. First Green has worked with golf course superintendents for over 20 years and is now under the umbrella of GCSAA through our philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG).

The premise of the program is simple: Superintendents host a class of students on field trips where they have the opportunity to see first-hand what the golf industry is all about. Water conservation, water quality, soil tests, plant identification, wildlife habitat, equipment demonstrations, landscaping, and the opportunity to hit balls at the practice range or putt on the putting green are just a few of the hundreds of activities that can be implemented at a First Green Field Day.

The program has traditionally been for grade school age children ranging from 3rd to 8th grade. With GCSAA now overseeing the program, we will be instituting additional materials for high school students so we can better promote the turf industry as a potential career.

Typical class size for a field trip is 25 students, and trips are approximately 90 minutes in length. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to find a local school with whom to arrange the field trip. Most of us know a teacher, maybe are married to one, or know somebody who can assist in setting up a trip. Once you get it set-up with the school (through personal experience, it is easier to work with a private or charter school), ask a few local superintendents to help you out, as well as your golf professional or general manager. The day can serve as a great teambuilding exercise for your staff as well.

More information, including curriculum examples, videos, and hosting tips are available at <u>www.thefirstgreen.org</u>. Curriculum for high school age students will be available later this summer after the transition to GCSAA/EIFG is complete. I am involved in several of these trips each year in Arizona and California, and they are a great way to promote the game, the profession and environmental sustainability to our local communities.

If you have any questions regarding First Green or if I can assist you with any other GCSAA related matters, please email me at jjensen@gcsaa.org.

Last, but not least, please support your local chapter events this summer. Your Board of Directors and Chapter Executive Marc Connerly are working hard on your behalf to provide quality education, venues and golf, and they deserve your support.



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Assistant Superintendent Profile: Drake Muir, Fountaingrove Golf 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 Drake Muir from Fountaingrove Golf Club in Santa Rosa.

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

DM: Wanting to work outdoors and be a part of the golf industry

CG: What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry? DM: Working with the USGA for the 2017 US Amateur at Riviera Country Club

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

DM: Paul Barr, Superintendent of San Luis Obispo Country Club

CG: Where did you grow up? DM: Pasadena, California

CG: Your best Nicknames? DM: Ducky

CG: If you could drive any vehicle, what would it be? DM: Tesla Model X

CG: Do you have any pets? DM: 1 cat, a ragdoll Bonnie

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

DM: I was driving around and picked up a coworker. He told me it was cool and he had caught one before and I had no idea what he was talking about. When I turned to look at him there was a lizard sitting on my shoulder and I hadn't noticed, and then walked around for an hour with a lizard sitting on my shoulder.

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

DM: I went to Australia to study abroad and visited New Zealand.

CG: What was your lowest score playing golf, and where? DM: 70 at Dairy Creek Golf Course and at Brookside Golf Course

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

DM: Spray hawking greens because it takes concentration, thought and you get to work with a partner, making the job more entertaining

CG: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you? DM: Go away from your hometown for college.

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?

DM: Fishing Pole, racket ball, kayak, sleeping bag and pillow

CG: Favorite Beer? DM: Unfiltered Double Barrel Ale from Firestone Brewery

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

DM: Fish whereever I want to

CG: Favorite sports teams? DM: Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Kings, USC Trojans

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

DM: Poa Annua. It is what I have the most experience with and is extremely resilient, being able to recover quickly if something goes wrong.

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

CG: What do you enjoy outside of work? DM: Fishing and skiing





GCSAA News

By MICHAEL LEE, Manager, GCSAA Government Affairs

2018 NATIONAL GOLF DAY IS A WRAP!

The 11th Annual National Golf Day recently wrapped up, and what an event it was! In all, more than 240 professionals from the golf industry attended the three-day event in Washington, D.C. As in previous years, GCSAA members made up the largest contingent of We Are Golf, with 135 total participants. We want to say a special "THANK YOU" to all the Ambassadors who attended this year, and hope we can continue to increase participation in 2019. There was an extraordinary amount of media coverage during the week, but for a brief recap of <u>#nationalgolfday</u>, see the numerous photos, videos, and articles below:

GCM - National Golf Day Rewind

GCM - <u>Report: Golf Drives \$84.1 Billion in Economic Activity</u> We Are Golf - <u>WeAreGolf Celebrates 11th Annual Golf Day in</u> <u>Washington, DC</u>

GCSAATV - <u>2018 National Golf Day Community Service Project</u> GCSAATV - <u>2018 National Golf Day Lobby Day Recap</u>

GCSAA JOINS NTF LOBBY DAY

The National Turfgrass Federation (NTF) held its lobby day May 22 in Washington, D.C., to push for greater federal funding for turfgrass research programs. <u>Read how GCSAA's</u> <u>Bob Helland and Mark Johnson</u> joined the discussion with lawmakers on Capitol Hill and also sat down for an exclusive meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

TIME TO TAKE ACTION ON THE FARM BILL!

The Farm Bill is currently up for consideration in both the House and the Senate. <u>The House version</u> is chockfull of regulatory reform provisions benefitting golf course management including items such as WOTUS repeal, PRIA reauthorization, turfgrass research prioritization, and a few other measures all supported by the golf industry. <u>The Senate</u> <u>version</u> doesn't include any of the regulatory reform pieces, but does include the language supporting turfgrass research.

Continued





For more information on this provision, <u>read the letter sent</u> by GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans to Senate Ag Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking member Debbie Stabenow highlighting the importance of funding for critical turfgrass research.

House and Senate leadership hope to have the bills pass through their respective chambers before the end of the month. Differences between the bills will then be negotiated in a conference committee before heading back to each house for final passage. Please reach out to your Members of Congress and congressional staff contacts throughout the month of June and ask for their support of the Farm Bill.

For House Republican outreach, you may utilize <u>this action</u> <u>alert</u>.

For Senate outreach, use the links above for talking points and simply call, email, or write a letter asking for their support of the Farm Bill. If you need contact info for a Senate office, please <u>email Michael Lee</u>.

DHS TO ISSUE 15,000 ADDITIONAL H-2B VISAS

On May 31, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released the temporary Final Rule that will <u>increase the H-2B</u> cap by 15,000 visas. In addition to filing Form I-129, eligible

petitioners for H-2B visas were also required to submit a supplemental attestation on Form ETA 9142-B-CAA-2 with their petitions.

Due to an overwhelming number of applications filed within the first five days the supplemental visas were available, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) again <u>utilized</u> <u>a lottery system</u> to randomly select which petitioners would receive the visas. Only petitions received between May 31 and June 6 were considered for the lottery.

Temporary cap relief over the last two years has been insufficient and the H-2B visa program will likely continue to be unreliable until permanent reform is passed by Congress. The next opportunity for them to do so is during the consideration of upcoming appropriations bills. If your Members of Congress sit on either the <u>House</u> or <u>Senate</u> Appropriations committees, please contact them immediately and tell them permanent H-2B cap relief is critically needed for many industries, including golf. To assist you in this outreach, use <u>this template</u> <u>letter</u> as talking points, or you can personalize it and send it to them.

To better understand current usage of the H-2B program in the golf industry, <u>read this article</u> featuring GCSAA Director of Congressional and Federal Affairs, Bob Helland.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: I-9 COMPLIANCE WEBINAR

If you weren't able to attend the I-9 Compliance webinar earlier this month, you can find it on-demand in <u>My Learning</u> <u>Hub</u>. Don't miss this informative discussion led by leading immigration attorney Christopher Thomas of Ogletree Deakons law firm discussing the Trump administration's emphasis on worksite enforcement and methods by which you can establish effective compliance programs, options associated with cleaning up problematic Forms I-9, and recent audit and investigation activity by immigration authorities.

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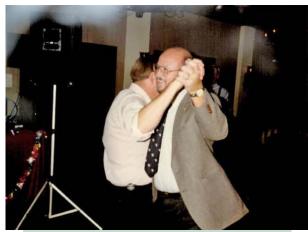
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Blast From The Past



Rodney Kilcoyne (L) and Phil Brown (R) 1992



Don Naumann and Friend 1992



Pete Bibber 1989

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