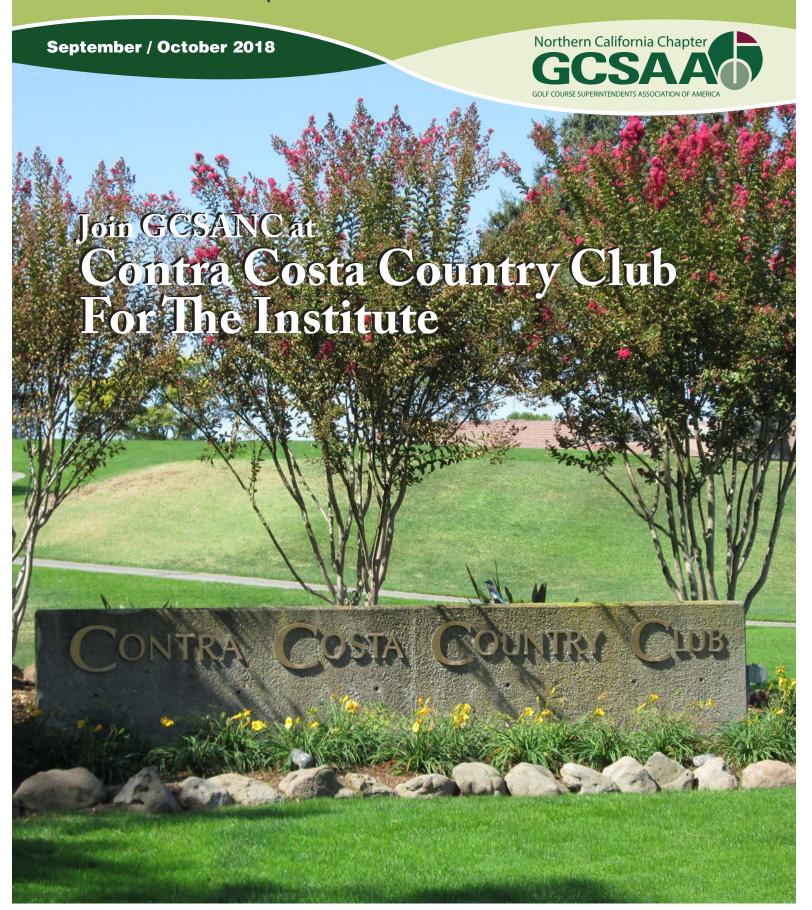
# THRU THE GREEN

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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 Stone Tree

As I sit and write this, we are into the month of October. It has been 5 months since we have seen any measurable rain, so I am sure everyone is looking forward to the upcoming rainy season.

Along with that, everyone is firing up the aeration equipment to rejuvenate their properties from the stress of the long summer. It is a good time to discuss being safe with your staff. After a long, busy summer and the upcoming aeration projects, accidents can happen. It can be easy to let your guard down, so safety communication is important.

Our region has some great events going on this time of year. During the last weekend of September, we had the Champions Tour at Pebble Beach, and the first weekend of October the PGA Tour had an event at Silverado. Hopefully you had the opportunity to attend one or both events.

We also have some great upcoming events, starting with The Institute, which is being held at Contra Costa Country Club on Monday, November 5th. We have some great speakers lined up and Ryan Maher and his staff have the place in amazing condition.

November 6th and 7th is the Assistant Boot Camp down in Monterey. This is a great event for your assistants to attend and network with peers, along with learning ideas to enhance their careers and personal life.

Another item to mention is the California Room, to be held at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego on February 6th. It is being held at the Omni Hotel San Diego, and registration is now open. Hopefully many of you will get a chance to attend this year. It is always nice when the GIS is held on the west coast.

Yours in turf,

Stacy Wallace

### **NORCALENDAR**

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 Monterey

December 7, 2018 GCSANC Holiday Meeting Del Monte Golf Course/Hyatt Regency Monterey Monterey

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; Superintendent, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club

In June of this year I attended a US Open party with a gathering of local superintendents. While there, Gavin Dickson of Tehama Country Club and I discussed the fact that we only had about 60 more days until we could breathe a sigh of relief. It's been about 90 days now, and I'm starting to see communications pick up again and guys starting to talk about what worked and hadn't worked over the last few months.

In regards to the association, you may have missed the Tri-Chapter event held at CordeValle with host Superintendent Brett Thornsbury. I've had the chance to get to know Brett through our Board work together. and what an outstanding job Brett and his team did for us.

While there aren't many that get down to UC Riverside from GCSANC for their turf field day, that event happened on the second Thursday of September as it has been for many years now. Locally we had Josh Lewis, Thomas Slevin, Mike Basile, Akoni Ganir, and Andrew from Diamond Oaks in Roseville (sorry, I can't remember your last name Andrew). Having attended numerous times over the years, I was happy to see some familiar research with positive results along with some new trial work that will make an impact in our area. As noted previously, I had the pleasure of sharing lunch at @Home Thai with Mike Basile, and, wow, did it deliver.

Welcome back as the days have now become shorter and California winter approaches. We've got a slew of events coming up with the Institute, Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp, a USGA meeting on warm season turf, and the holiday meeting. I look forward to seeing or talking with many of you and hearing your experiences of what was the 2018 season.

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# **Executive Director's Report**

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

With 2018 now in the final quarter, many of you have probably wrapped up or are just about to wrap up next year's budgets, and we're starting to look back on this year while simultaneously looking to next.

October in California also means the legislative session has just concluded, so I want to share with you two pieces of legislation (one favorable, one not so favorable) that were signed into law and may impact Superintendents in the future.

One bill, SB 1343, addresses sexual harassment training. Current law requires employers with 50 or more employees to provide such training to supervisory employees every two years. This bill drops the threshold for that requirement to 5 or more employees and adds a requirement to provide one hour of harassment training to non-supervisory employees every two years.

The other, SB 966, begins to lay the groundwork for regulations that would open the door to on-site treated non-potable water systems (i.e., on-site water treatment and recycling systems). As new recycling technologies have emerged creating

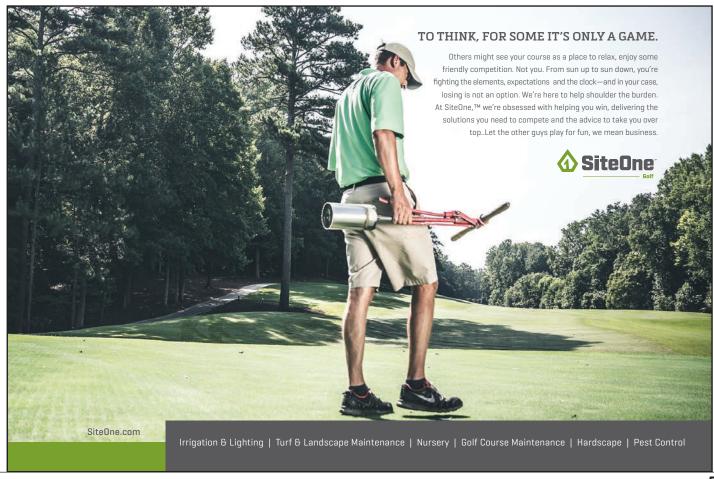
the opportunity for on-site water treatment, the state is moving on from the expensive, cumbersome and complicated "purple pipe" projects and looking towards opportunities for numerous "micro-recycling" projects that will be far more affordable and attainable.

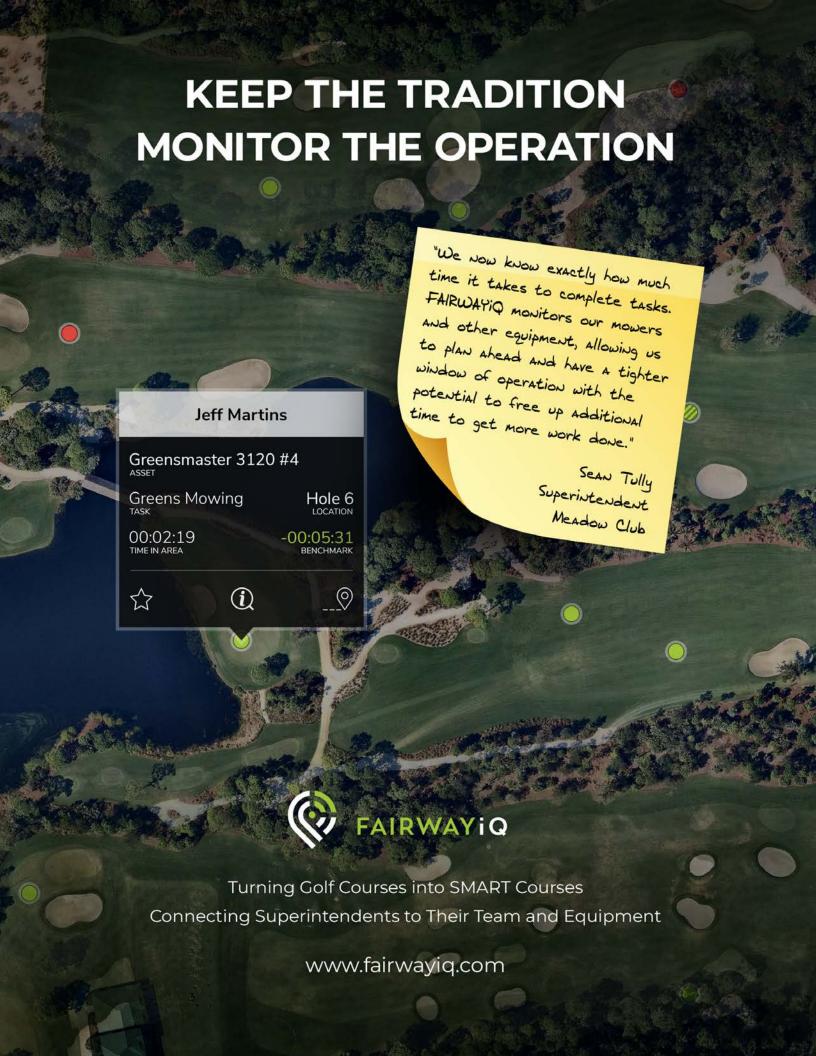
The impacts of the bill are still many years off, but it is a step in the right direction as the California golf industry seeks to remove itself from the potable water grid.

Looking ahead to next year, the calendar of events is already beginning to take shape. The 2019 Annual Meeting will be Monday, January 19, at Bay Club StoneTree, and the USGA Regional Conference will be Monday, March 4, at Claremont Country Club.

We hope to see you at the upcoming Institute and/or Boot Camp, and wish you a happy fall!

### **Advertise in Thru The Green**





### From the Field



By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

GGCSAA recently announced candidates for the 2019 GCSAA Board of Directors. The election will take place at the GCSAA Annual Meeting on Feb. 7, 2019 in San Diego.

#### Below are the candidates:

### **For President**

**Rafael Barajas**, CGCS, Boca Grove Plantation, Boca Raton, FL.

### **For Vice President**

**John Fulling Jr.,** CGCS, Kalamazoo Country Club, Kalamazoo, MI.

### For Secretary/Treasurer

**Mark Jordan**, CGCS, Westfield Group Country Club, Westfield Center, OH.

**Kevin Breen**, CGCS, La Rinconada Country Club, Los Gatos, CA.

### **Board of Directors** (3 open positions)

**Carlos Arraya**, CGCS, Bellerive Country Club, St. Louis, MO.

**T.A. Barker**, CGCS, Fore Lakes Golf Club, Taylorsville, UT.

**Paul Carter**, CGCS, Bear Trace Golf Club, Harrison, TN.

**Doug Dykstra**, CGCS, White Mountain Country Club, Pinetop, AZ.

**Jeff White**, CGCS, Indian Hills Country Club, Mission Hills, KS.

Bios and candidate videos will be available following the annual **GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting** in Kansas City on November 13-14.

Please note that the **2019 Annual Meeting** time has been moved from its traditional Thursday afternoon slot at the *Golf Industry Show* to Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m.

On the state front, the **California Best Management Practices** (BMP's) **Committee** has been making strides in the completion of the California state guide. Working with the environmental consulting firm *Blankinship & Associates*, the committee has completed three sections (groundwater management, integrated pest management, pollinators) of the guide and is currently in the process of developing the fourth.

The California BMP Guide will contain 17 sections: Plan, design and construct; irrigation; surface water management; water quality management; nutrient management; cultural practices; integrated pest management; pesticide management; pollinator protection; maintenance operations; landscape; energy; groundwater management; air quality; endangered species; urban golf and seaside golf.

Upon completion and online publishing of the state guide, it will be available for superintendents to download and customize to their facility and agronomic region. The guide will be free of charge and can be printed in a PDF format.

Future plans call for educational sessions on how to best implement the guide, as well as a voluntary state level certification program for superintendents.

The project cost has been funded through a portion of profits from the annual Golf Industry Show California Room, as well as \$15,000 in grant money from GCSAA. Completion of the guide is expected in the Spring of 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact me at <u>jjensen@gcsaa.org</u> and follow me on Twitter @GCSAA\_SW for daily industry updates.



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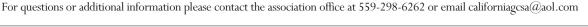
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### Making Space to Breathe:

# The Importance of Dissolved Oxygen in Lakes and Ponds

By PATRICK SIMMSGEIGER, DWI President & Certified Lake Manager (CLM), Email: dwicontact@dwiwater.com

Company Description: Diversified Waterscapes, Inc. (DWI) is a lake management company based in Southern California. We offer comprehensive lake management services, as well as a full line of lake and pond treatment products.

Dissolved oxygen is one of the most vital components of any aquatic ecosystem, and is largely defined by the water temperature at the time. As temperature increases, dissolved oxygen decreases in the water. In a small lake for instance, the water at the surface is going to be the warmest in the lake so it will also have the least amount of oxygen. Descending, water starts to get much colder, and accordingly this is where the highest amount of available oxygen is found. This difference in oxygen content is due to the solubility of water, which increases as temperature decreases, allowing more oxygen to be dissolved into a form that aquatic life can utilize.

During the summer, surface water is at its hottest, so fish will move to deeper sections of their system to access higher levels of oxygen. In a well-balanced environment fish can make this move without harm, staying deeper until temperatures start to cool off and oxygen levels return to a more favorable distribution. Unfortunately, this balance can be easily disrupted, and the consequences can be severe for aquatic organisms.

One of the most common problems lake and ponds have during the summer is algae blooms. Many algae species react quickly to raised temperatures, and will begin to bloom in huge numbers if they have sufficient nutrients to do so. Algae is photosynthetic, meaning during the day oxygen is produced, just like with terrestrial plants. However, at night algae does not photosynthesize, but instead switches around and pulls oxygen from the water. If a bloom is large enough, this oxygen demand can be much more than the water can actually provide. In this case, not only do other aquatic organisms die-off, but so does all of the algae.

Another major factor that affects oxygen levels is organic matter decomposition. Organic matter can be things like leaf clippings, dead algae, or even bird droppings. Whatever it is, when it gets in the water it all sinks to the bottom and decomposes. Decomposition also uses up a large amount of oxygen, and can make life for aquatic organisms even more challenging when the weather is hot and oxygen levels are already low.

If there is too much of any process with high oxygen demand, creatures like fish can end up in a situation where

there is simply nowhere to breathe. In the summer when the surface water is already low in oxygen, and excesses of algae or organic decomposition are taking the oxygen from the bottom; fish die-offs are unfortunately a common occurrence. Fish and other aquatic organisms need available oxygen, and this can only be maintained year-round through healthy circulation, keeping waste out of the water, and monitoring algae populations. Freshwater systems can support incredible ecosystems, but they need balance, and sometimes it can take just one bad day for a beautiful ecosystem to collapse.

One of the best long-term ways to lower the chances of experiencing those bad days is by introducing aeration. Aeration is a great way to introduce oxygen into the water column, increasing the amount available and expanding the areas creatures can easily breathe. There are multiple ways to introduce oxygen into water, but two of the standards are diffusers and fountains.

Diffusers are one of the most beneficial additions to ponds and lakes because they are great at efficiently oxygenating water. Diffusers take oxygen-infused water and force it to mix with the rest of the system. By doing this, high oxygen water gets dispersed throughout the system, and brings up the average level of oxygen available for breathing. Once the diffuser is established in the ecosystem, the water should be much more livable for many aquatic organisms year-round as they are better equipped to handle seasonal changes and other pressures.

Fountains are another great addition because they are not only aesthetically pleasing, but they also help aerate water in their own way. Fountains are not dedicated aerators like diffusers since they mostly just pull water from the upper few feet of water, but they can still help. While they likely won't affect oxygen content in a deeper system, in shallower bodies of water like ponds, fountains can make a serious difference in the introduction of oxygen to water.

There are many different factors affecting dissolved oxygen in water, and there are many ways to maintain and increase it. Proper aeration is generally an effective way to address this problem, but it does require some thought. Before installation it is best to be familiar with the physical aspects of the water and surrounding landscape, and also to have a knowledge of the water quality. Having this knowledge makes it easier to choose the approach that that most effectively addresses ecological issues, cuts down on labor time, and saves money.



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# The Groundwater Manager's Dilemma: How to Comply With New California Law Without Changing Water Rights

By CHRISTINA BABBITT, (Bio) and DANIEL M. DOOLEY, New Current Water and Land



Groundwater pumps in California's Pajaro Valley. Photo credit: USDA

Over the next two years, more than 100 groundwater sustainability agencies in California will have to hammer out a plan to make their groundwater basins sustainable. But, as mangers in many areas work to combat decades of over-pumping, they face a major dilemma: in dividing the groundwater pie to avoid overuse, they can't change Byzantine groundwater rights that date as far back as 1903.

In a new working paper, "Groundwater Pumping Allocations under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act," Environmental Defense Fund and New Current Water and Land – a California-based consulting firm – provide water managers with a recommended approach to navigate this challenge and develop plans that are more durable, and thus likely to succeed, under the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Choosing which approach is best is a critical step for cutting back groundwater use, which many basins will have to do, and for creating water trading systems, which many basins are considering to better manage increasingly limited groundwater. Before you create a market, you have to define who has how much – in this case, groundwater pumping rights – in order to trade.

### Four options for allocating groundwater

Any allocation method will require substantial stakeholder engagement, in part to explain why the framework is being used and to explain groundwater rights more generally. Water agencies are currently considering a few different allocation approaches, including seemingly simple frameworks that divvy up water proportionally based on land ownership or historic water use. However, if there is opposition, plans based on these allocations could wind up in court.

Continued

The safest way to ensure that the allocation approach withstands judicial review is to allocate groundwater in a way that aligns with common groundwater rights law. To reach this conclusion, we analyzed four allocation options:

- 1. Pro rata allocation per overlying acre. This approach divides available groundwater proportional to property size. One problem is that it can be viewed as creating inequities for those who have invested heavily to exercise their groundwater rights.
- Pro rata allocation per irrigated overlying acre. This
  approach allocates each irrigated acre a specific quantity
  of groundwater. It's relatively simple to calculate, but
  one downside is that it does not consider unexercised
  pumping rights.

- 3. Allocation based on fraction of historic pumping. This approach allocates water based on historic groundwater use. This can reduce conflict among existing groundwater pumpers. But one potential major challenge is it requires data about individuals' historic use that may not exist.
- 4. Comprehensive allocation method (recommended method). This approach allocates groundwater based on California groundwater law to the extent practical and preserves the relative priority of water users. Consequently, we believe this method is more likely to survive judicial scrutiny if tested in court. However, it may be more complicated and time-consuming to apply and would require substantial stakeholder engagement.

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# The Groundwater Manager's Dilemma: Continued

### How would the allocation method work?

For many agencies, SGMA will require some hard choices about cutting water use. These choices are further complicated by ambiguity in California's groundwater law and imperfect information about water consumption.

To help navigate these challenges, our paper provides a hypothetical decision tree to show agencies how applying a comprehensive allocation method would work, as well as a short summary on the three groundwater rights categories in California (overlying, appropriative, and prescriptive).

### How will the allocation method hold up in court?

Lengthy and costly court challenges have riddled the California groundwater landscape for decades. Hoping to prevent legal challenges from delaying SGMA implementation, state lawmakers passed legislation to shorten adjudication timelines for SGMA cases and enable basins to continue implementing their sustainability plans during litigation.

If an agency's groundwater sustainability plan gets challenged in court, the judge may be more likely to issue a preliminary injunction that allows the agency to continue implementing the plan if it uses a comprehensive allocation method. The final court judgement also may be more likely to be similar to the plan adopted by the agency if that plan closely follows groundwater law. This could save valuable time and resources in a process that requires plans to be complete by 2020 or 2022, depending on the status of the basin.

Groundwater sustainability agencies that invest in this framework at the beginning of the process could be more likely to successfully implement their plans and ultimately create a more resilient water system. And that, after all, is the goal of SGMA and what California ultimately needs to ensure a stable, sustainable future for people, the economy and the environment.



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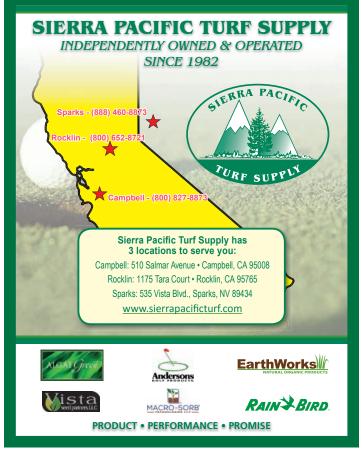


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# Assistant Superintendent Profile: Ben Genest, Menlo Country Club

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 Ben Genest from Menlo Country Club in Woodside.

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

**BG:** I grew up caddying at various golden age golf courses in Massachusetts and then in California and became fascinated with golf course architecture and history. Eventually I realized that caddying wasn't a great career for me long term, so I decided to enroll in the turf program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, to keep me on the golf course.

**CG:** What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry? **BG:** Working my way up from intern to assistant at Pasatiempo Golf Club

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

**BG:** Justin Mandon (Pasatiempo) & John Zimmers (Oakmont C.C., PA)

CG: Where did you grow up?

**BG:** Newton, MA. Seven miles west of Boston

CG: Your best Nicknames?

**BG:** Sheik

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

**BG:** When I was very young I was fascinated with Humvees. I'm sticking with that.

CG: Do you have any pets?

BG: I do not

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

**BG:** Last week one of our irrigation techs came up to me and said he was going to head in a few minutes early to fire up the grill at the shop before lunch break. I replied that the maintenance BBQ wasn't until the following week. He said in a very serious tone that he had "brought meat." He then went to his cart and proudly pulled out the biggest gopher I've seen caught in quite some time.

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

**BG:** I can snowboard. It used to be my favorite thing in the world. Just haven't been to the mountains in 10 years. My goal is get to Tahoe this winter.

**CG:** What was your lowest score playing golf, and where? **BG:** 80 at Los Angeles Country Club (North) back when I was playing golf twice a week.

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

**BG:** Prepping greens. It's challenging and takes a lot of focus to put down water only where it is needed.

CG: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?

**BG:** Don't worry about things that are out of your control

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?

BG: Boat, spear, mattress, pillow, canopy roof

**CG: Favorite Beer?** 

BG: That seasonal Sierra Nevada Celebration IPA

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

**BG:** Travel, play the best golf courses on other continents

CG: Favorite sports teams?

**BG:** Pats, Sox, C's, B's

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

**BG:** Most of my experience has been with managing Poa greens. Especially for events when you are keeping them on the brink. Amazing ability to recover quickly from extreme stress. I must say that bentgrass is growing on me quite a bit. I've been learning how to manage a pure surface over the last two months and its been very interesting.

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

**BG:** Charles Blair Macdonald

### CG: What do you enjoy outside of work?

**BG:** Watching my home teams when I can. Occasional live sports and music. I've been enjoying exploring the Bay Area.





