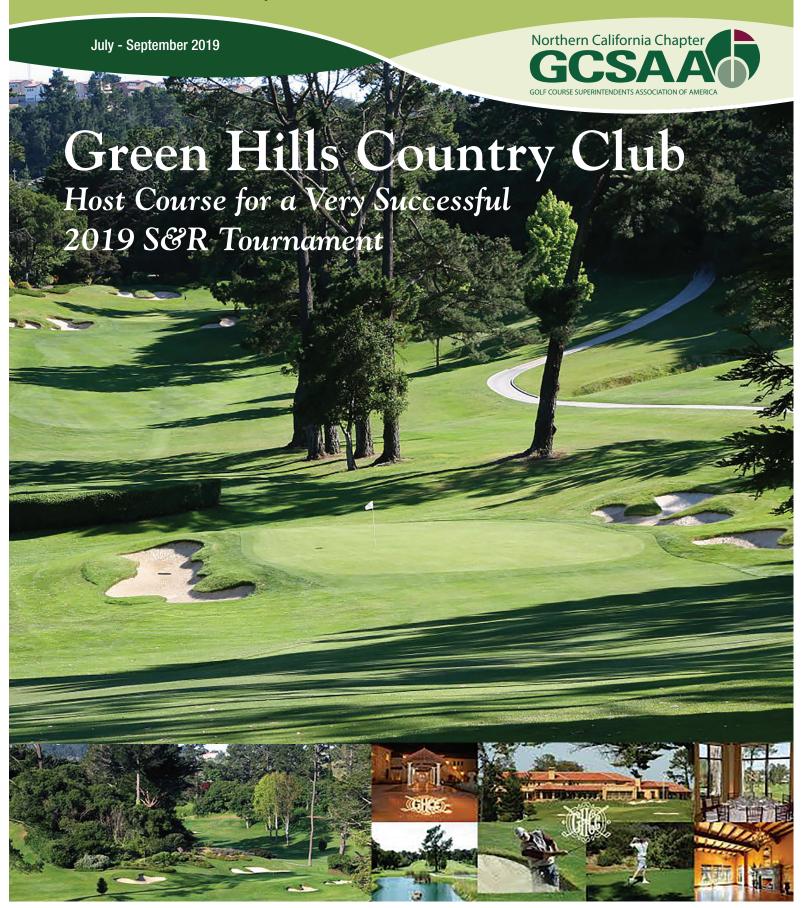
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DIRECTOR **GAVIN DICKSON** Tebama Golf Club gavin\_dickson1@yahoo.com



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



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



**DIRECTOR THOMAS SLEVIN** trslevin@gmail.com



**DIRECTOR BRETT THORNSBURY** CordeValle Golf Course brett.thornsbury@rosewoodhotels.com

Photos by Pete Galea, CGCS

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**EDITOR Stacy Wallace** 707-996-7255 SWallace@sonomagolfclub.com PUBLICATION MANAGER **Marc Connerly** 916-214-6495

MConnerly@connerlyandassociates.com



## President's Message

By **BRIAN BOYER**GCSANC President, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club

Golfer: What's with all the dry spots?

Me: It's August.

GM: Why haven't the cart paths been edged? Me: We're a daily fee and it's August?!

Wife: Why are you so cranky?

Me: Just like the past 14 years as superintendent, it's freakin' August!

So, August just wrapped, but you get my point. We're all a little burnt at this point. But August does have a couple of items of positivity to it.

First of all, it means that the Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner S&R event has come and gone. We had a good turn out this year at Green Hills Golf and Country Club, and Golf Club Superintendent Walt Berrett had the course dialed. We were fortunate to raise over \$22K, which will fund the next crop of scholarships and research donations. This year we gave away \$11K in scholarships, and we're thankful for all that was donated and purchased at the S&R auction.

Second of all, by the time you read this, the University of California Riverside Turfgrass Field Day will have just occurred. I've had the fortune of attending a handful of these, and I look forward to seeing the familiar faces and plots this year. As usual, I'll be headed to @Home Thai directly after the meeting, one of the annual "must do's" on the trip.

Despite the wretched month of August, the Board met at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. We spent a lot of time on our upcoming events and putting together the programs. For the Annual Meeting, we're bringing up endurance athlete Karl Meltzer for our keynote and Pat Gross as this year's President Award recipient. We've also got Gina Rizzi and Doug Soldat booked for Institute/Bootcamp in January, and we've got a couple events more in the queue. We also spent some time discussing the joint CGCOA & GCSANC meeting at Corica Park, which will be a lot of fun.

The last item of discussion the Board had was a review of the sponsorship program and updating that to increase the value to our valued partners. Affiliate director Coby Byers and VP Pete Bachman have dedicated a lot of time to this project, and we will be presenting it to our valued partners October 16th at Metropolitan Golf Links. We welcome and encourage your attendance and input.

Hopefully you're reading my next article watching the rain come down!

Brian Boyer

## **NORCALENDAR**

Monday, September 30, 2019 Joint GCSANC/CGCOA Meeting

Corica Park Golf Course

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 GCSANC Annual Meeting Cinnabar Hills Golf Club

Friday, December 6, 2019 GCSANC Annual Holiday Meeting

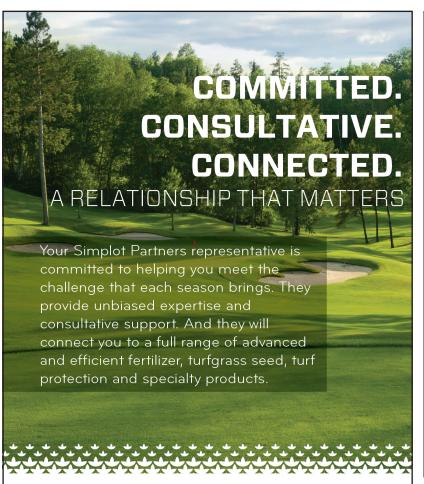
Hyatt Regency Monterey

Monday, January 13, 2020 GCSANC Institute Location TBD

Tuesday and Wednesday
January 14 - 15, 2020
GCSANC Assistant
Superintendent Boot Camp
Location TBD

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## **Editor's Note**

By STACY WALLACE, GCSANC Past Presidentm, Sonoma Golf Club

As Brian mentioned, it has been a hot and as usual dry summer. Hopefully everyone is seeing some relief as the days get shorter and the temperatures moderate. It is time for us to reflect on the season and assess our procedures, along with the beginning phases of the budgeting process at our properties. For me, I am taking our maintenance standards and determining how we can improve our labor model to meet those expectations. Part of that is evaluating our wages as they pertain to our region and the ability to attract quality staff. This is the biggest obstacle we all face in this industry, and the most fiscally challenging.

As you can imagine, the numbers and expectations are not coordinating. I am not sure what the answer is, but I do know that it is time our industry as a whole collectively collaborate and communicate with our owners, memberships, and government entities to see if we can come up with some middle ground to procure a viable workforce moving into the future.

On another subject, we are always looking for quality articles to add to the Thru The Green magazine. If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Hopefully things are settling down as we approach the fall season and you have more time to spend with family and friends. For those of you going to Orlando this year, registration is open for the California Room. It will be held at the Blue Martini Lounge on Wednesday, January 29th from 6PM – 9PM. This is always a great event to see everyone from throughout the state. Hopefully you can make it.

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## **Executive Director's Report**

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

As we send this issue to press, we are preparing for a busy season of GCSANC events. The September 30 joint meeting at Corica Park between GCSANC and CGCOA will be the first such meeting bringing the two associations together, and we hope that it will lead to similar collaboration in the future. The meeting was originaally planned to be a fundraising tournament for the Owners Association, but GCSANC has long had a desire to see the renovated course and learn about the construction project, so the event morphed quite naturally into a joint meeting. It should be an excellent opportunity for vendors to network with superintendents, GM's and owners.

The Annual Meeting at Cinnabar Hills on November 12 promises to be enjoyable. In addition to the usual reports, awards presentations and elections, the meeting will feature a keynote from an ultramarathon runner with a compelling story and message. Cinnabar Hills also features an extremely unique museum of golf memorabilia, so if you haven't seen it yet, you really owe it to yourself to attend and check it out.

Of course, the Holiday Meeting on December 6 promises to deliver the usual fun and social interactivity. It is the best opportunity for GCSANC members to let their hair down, relax, and share the camaraderie of the organization with their significant other.

The events that are commanding a great deal of our time at the present are the Institute and Boot Camp, January 13-15. While continue to hunt for a suitable venue, the presenter slate is shaping up nicely. Doug Soldat

has agreed to attend and present; marketing guru Gina Rizzi will give talks on promoting yourself and building a strong crew; and we are pursuing an expert on sleep health, as well as other informative presenters.

The upcoming Boot Camp dates are already being promoted statewide, and we are receiving very favorable responses, leading to anticipation that this could be the biggest Boot Camp yet!



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the ongoing support and generosity of The Cypress Point Club (Superintendent Jeff Markow, CGCS), who annually supports our Scholarship & Research Tournament with a cash donation, including another \$1,000 contribution this year.

## CYPRESS POINT CLUB

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July 11, 2019

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Marc Connerly, Executive Director

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Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of Cypress Point Club, please find the enclosed donation of \$ 1,000 to your Scholarship and Research Fund in support of our upcoming Tournament. We appreciate your efforts to foster and support turfgrass research and educational scholarships that benefit our industry and provide improved conditions for all golf courses in the area.

We send our best wishes for a successful event.

y Markon

For the good of the game...

Kindest regards,

Jeff Markow, CGCS

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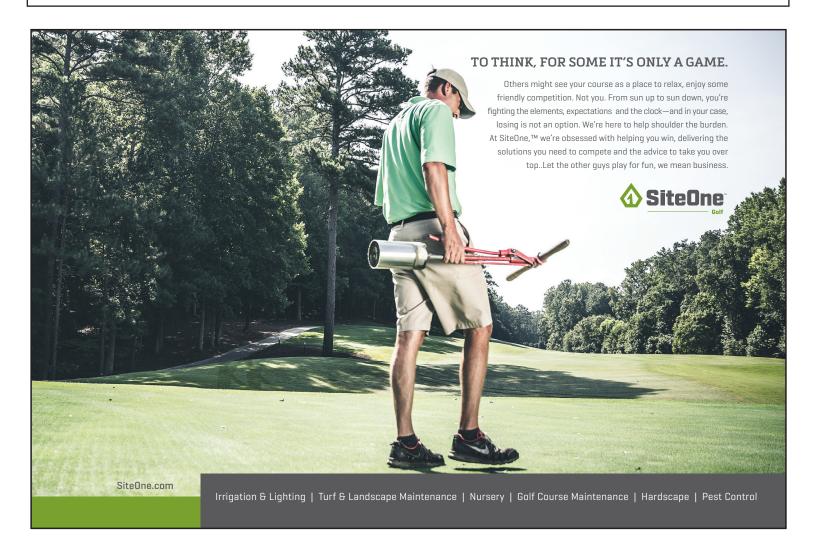
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## From the Field



By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

As I'm writing this column, the California golf industry is addressing numerous advocacy related issues facing many different sectors of the game. Whether it's carving out a narrow exemption for PGA teaching professionals to remain independent contractors in Assembly Bill 5, advocating in opposition of AB 916, which would prohibit a city, county, charter city, city and county, or a special district from using any pesticide that contains the active ingredient glyphosate, or working to keep the doors open at municipal facilities through the Park Preservation Act, our industry is working diligently to counter efforts that will put a strain on our industry both short-term and years down the road.

The California Alliance for Golf (CAG) Legislative Committee meets every Friday during the legislative session to discuss bills that have potential to harm or in some cases benefit our industry. Headed by Southern California Director of Government Relations Craig Kessler and our state lobbyist Tony Rice, the committee has a strong presence from the maintenance industry, including of GCSANC Executive Director Marc Connerly, California GCSA President Jim Ferrin, and myself.

While the maintenance industry is well represented, we are always looking for additional help on the advocacy front. If working to protect your industry is something you're keen on, consider becoming a Grassroots Ambassador with GCSAA, or with the soon to launch ambassador program through the California Golf Course Owners Association. Or better yet, do both.

The GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Program pairs up a Class A, B or C member with their respective member of the United States Congress to serve as a liaison between the golf industry and Congress member/staff. It's a minimal time commitment (2 hours monthly), training is provided, and it's a great chance to see what goes on behind the scenes of GCSAA's government relations efforts.

GCSAA Government Relations Manager Michael Lee recently put together a training session for Grassroots Ambassadors in Northern California, hosted by Superintendent Jay Neunsinger at Boundary Oak Golf Course.

Additionally, Marc is working on a similar program that will pair golf industry professionals (Superintendents, PGA Professionals, Club Managers, etc.) with their respective members of the California State Legislature. The program will focus on state level initiatives as opposed to federal. It's going to be a terrific program that will have synergy with GCSAA's.

I urge you to explore both programs and make a difference for the industry both on the federal and state level. For more information on the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador program, visit the website at HYPERLINK "https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/ambassadors" https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/ambassadors.

Thank you again for your support of GCSAA, and if you have any questions, please contact me at HYPERLINK "mailto:jjensen@gcsaa.org" jjensen@gcsaa.org and please visit my regional webpage at HYPERLINK "https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/southwest" https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/southwest.





## Assistant Superintendent Profile: Doug Wiggers, Sonoma 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 Doug Wiggers from Sonoma Golf Club.

CG: What made you decide to get into golf maintenance? DW: My wife and I moved to California in 2013 and I didn't have a job. Many, many years ago I worked part-time at a course in Michigan and enjoyed it so I thought that I would find something out here like that to help pay the bills until I found my "real job." Ha! Now golf maintenance IS my real job and I love it.

CG: What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry? DW: Discovering that working on a golf course was more than just a job to pay bills. Becoming an Assistant in the second "career" of my life is great and all - but believing that something as mundane as raking fairway bunkers on up to helping a new employee learn something new has purpose and meaning for me makes me, and make me more proud.

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

**DW:** John Majchrzak. He was the Superintendent at Sonoma Golf Club and I was a laborer. We began to have conversations about me going to school for Turf Management. He opened the door to where I am today and I am very grateful.

CG: Where did you grow up? DW: South Haven, Michigan.

CG: Your best Nicknames?

DW: None.

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

**DW**: I just bought a new Toyota Camry, so if I say anything other than that I might feel buyer's remorse.

**CG:** Do you have any pets?

DW: Yes, a cat.

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

**DW:** My previous career was as a church music pastor. I directed children's choirs, adult choirs, handbell choirs, played piano and pipe organ. Managing a maintenance staff on the golf course is easy-peasy compared to leading over 75 VOLUNTEERS for a

Christmas concert. I loved that job but the stress was not good for my health.

CG: What was your lowest score playing golf, and where? DW: I don't recall my lowest score, but I do recall when I came within two strokes of beating my dad; South Haven Country Club.

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

**DW:** Anything that requires me to jump around the course to cause the least amount of disruption to the membership. I take great pride in finding those gaps between foursomes to hand water greens. Don't let them see you!

CG: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you? DW: Believe in yourself.

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?

**DW:** A solar panel, my camera, piano, sand wedge and sleeve of golf balls.

CG: Favorite Beer?

**DW:** Not a beer drinker, but a nice glass of Pinot to go along with my wife's homemade lasagna wins every time.

CG: If you had your choice, what would you do in retirement? DW: Take my camera and travel in an RV to photograph all of our National Parks.

**CG:** Favorite sports teams?

DW: Indianapolis Colts and Detroit Tigers.

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

**DW:** Poa. Each day's environment and agronomic practices has the opportunity to affect the health of the plant for good or bad.

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

DW: Last month we had the funeral for my last remaining grandparent. I'd like to share a meal with all four of them together.

CG: What do you enjoy outside of work?

DW: Landscape photography

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## Affiliate Profile: Thor Larson, Farmload Distributors

By GAVIN DICKSON, Superintendent, Tehama Golf Club

Northern California has some of the richest history in golf, with great courses and hardworking crews that keep them in exceptional condition. Superintendents have a lot of challenges that we face daily. Thanks to our vendors, who can help with support, advice, and knowledge, it makes it a little easier. For this issue, we interviewed Thor Larson with Farmload Distributors.

#### GD: What brought you to this industry?

**Thor:** In tenth grade, I got a job picking up range balls after school. I continued to work at golf courses throughout college and eventually decided to make it a career. I loved working outside with all the really cool equipment and of course free golf.

#### GD: How long have you been in your current role?

**Thor:** When I started, I thought it may only be a temporary position that would allow me to pursue some other interests, but here I am now 13 years later and going strong.

#### GD: How many courses do you see in your area?

**Thor:** My main territory is the San Jose/Monterey Bay area. It's pretty small geographically but packed with great courses. I drive a lot, but don't have to stay away from home overnight or pull a trailer around, so that makes it much easier.

## GD: What are some of the challenges you face when approaching a new superintendent?

**Thor:** Just getting some face time to get to know and understand their situation. I want them to feel like I am there to help them, not just sell them something.

## GD: What common issues do you see that superintendents have to deal with daily?

**Thor:** A dwindling labor pool. Expectations that don't match budgets and infrastructure. I also see more superintendents struggle to balance their work life with life outside of work.

## GD: What advice have you given to a struggling superintendent?

**Thor:** Slow down and develop a plan of attack. Put it to paper. Take the weekend off. The course will be there when you get back and you will have a fresh set of eyes.

#### GD: What is the greatest part of your job?

**Thor:** I would have to say the freedom. I don't have a set schedule of where I have to be and how many hours I have to work. I'm an independent contractor, not an employee. That being said, you have to be very self-motivated to be successful.

## GD: Outside of work, what activities do you enjoy?

**Thor:** Music festivals, camping, gardening, home renovation, Warriors, Vikings, and Badgers. Being a husband and stepdad.

## GD: Who is your favorite college football team? What will their record be this year? If they make it to a bowl game, which will it be?

**Thor:** Wisconsin Badgers all the way! Off to a good start.

#### **GD:** What is your beverage of choice?

**Thor:** I have jumped on the craft IPA bandwagon. I love it, but the calories don't love me back.

## GD: Where is one place in the world you would love to visit?

**Thor:** My ultimate vacation is driving the Vanagon across the country with the family. But that may be awhile because it doesn't pass smog and the engine is in a thousand pieces.

#### GD: Who is your favorite artist/band?

**Thor:** That changes quite a bit year to year. Right now, I'm into the CaliRoots scene. Some of the bands that I have seen are Rebulution, Stick Figure, and Tribal Seeds.

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# Congratulations to Our 2019 Scholarship Winners

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

This year, GCSANC awarded scholarships to a total of seven worthy recipients, including six legacy scholarship recipients and one turf scholarship recipient. The total value of awarded scholarships was \$11,000.

Our 2019 turf scholarship winner was Blake Hertzog, who is currently employed at Monterey Pines Golf Course. Blake is pursuing his Master of Business Administration at The Masters University after receiving his Bachelor's at Penn State. In addition to his proficiency as a golfer, Blake was NEAC 1st Team in tennis at Penn State, where he played for three years.

Our legacy scholarship winners included second time recipient Natalie Kinney, who continues her pursuit of a degree in Agriculture Business at Chico State University. Just finished with her sophomore year, she continues to excel academically, landing on the Dean's List in each of her first four semesters, and she remains active, serving on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

Another second time recipient of the legacy scholarship, Erin Flanagan, just completed her freshman year at UC Santa Barbara. Anticipating a June 2022 graduation, Erin is enthusiastically pursuing a degree in physical geography, stemming from her fascination with weather-related events, and her desire to pursue work limiting the damage from natural disasters.

Legacy scholarship winner Stephanie Dalhamer just completed her senior year of high school in Pebble Beach, graduating in May of this year, and is off to attend San Diego State. Stephanie is pursuing a degree in Psychology, following her high school career that concluded with an excellent 3.65 GPA and two semesters on the honor roll.

Marisa Sorbello was a legacy scholarship winner, and is pursuing a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Mississippi. Marisa plans to graduate in 2020, with a career path in nursing. She shadowed a nurse in Antioch, CA this summer, and plans to work at a hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), as a result of her fondness for babies.

Ethan Battistini, our fifth legacy scholarship winner, is a student at College of Marin, studying Sociology. He made the honor list in the fall, and is on the men's basketball team. Ethan has a love of art and intends to pursue a career in commercial design for retail brands. He anticipates a Spring 2020 graduation.

Legacy scholarship winner Seth Gonzalez graduated from John Swett High School in Crockett, CA in June of this year, and is now attending San Jose State University, pursuing a Biomedical Engineering degree. Seth graduated with a 3.73 GPA, and was a multi-semester honor roll member, as well as President of the high school Engineering Club.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients for these well-deserved awards.

