## THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

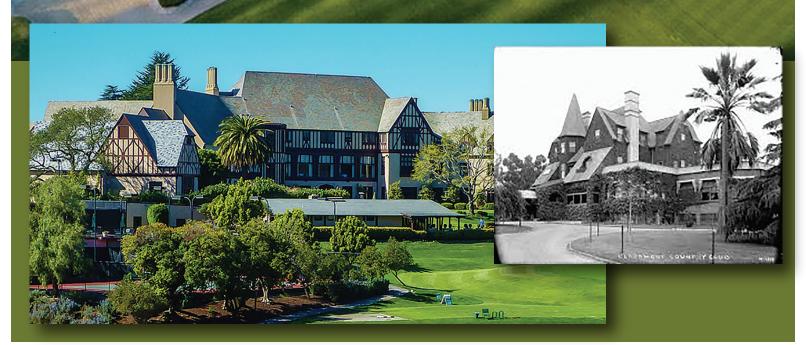
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Photos by Pete Galea, CGCS

#### **INSIDE**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Brian Boyer
EDITOR'S NOTES
by Stacy Wallace
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
by Marc Connerly
FROM THE FIELD
by Jeff Jensen
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE
by Conner Galea

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## President's Message

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

Since our last GCSANC board meeting, the 2019 calendar is starting to come together nicely. We most recently booked Green Hills Country Club with host Superintendent Walt Barret for the Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research event on July 22nd. It's been some time since the association has been there and I'm looking forward to enjoying all the hard work Walt has put into Green Hills over his long career there.

The Board and I have also officially switched the dates between the annual meeting and Institute/Boot Camp. The annual meeting will now be November 12th at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, and the Institute will be on January 13th, followed by the Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp on January 14th and 15th. The main reason for the switch is to try and increase the attendance at what should be our biggest education event of the year. We've already lined up Dr. Doug Soldat from the University of Wisconsin for Institute/Boot Camp week, and the full lineup should be solidified by the end of quarter 3.

Speaking of booked speakers, we just secured Karl Meltzer as our keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. Karl is an ultrarunner from Utah who currently holds the record for the most 100-mile wins (35) over his career. In 2016, Karl set a then world record for traversing the 2,190-mile Appalachian Trail in 45 days, 22hrs and 38 minutes.

So, what does he have to do with golf? Well, he loves golf and in 2016 he set a world record for the most holes played in 12 hours, with 230 holes played! He's got a great story to tell and I think you'll find at the end of it is that endurance sports and being a superintendent share a lot of similar characteristics.

The last event we're looking to book officially is our Field Day. We hope to have that booked and announced in the near future.

If you're interested in hosting an event with GCSANC, we would be glad to hear from you. Setting the calendar is the most stressful part of being on the Board, and having interested takers would be a big help.

Brian Boyer

#### **NORCALENDAR**

Monday, July 22, 2019
Myrtle Wagoner
Scholarship & Research
Tournament
Green Hills Country 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 mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.

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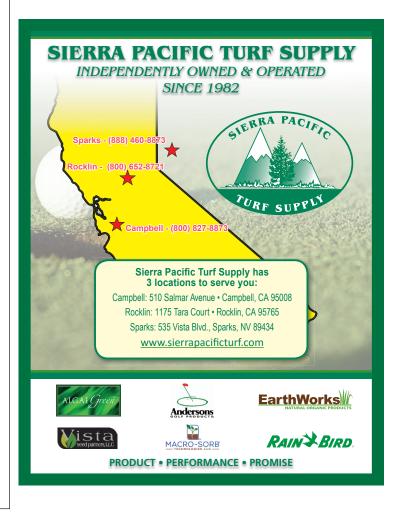


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### **Editor's Note**

By STACY WALLACE, GCSANC Past Presidentm, Sonoma Golf Club

As you read this, we will be in full swing of our 2019 golfing season. Fortunately, Mother Nature has given us some May showers, which is always welcome.

Our Rounds 4 Research campaign has ended, and we would like to thank all the facilities that donated. This program will be a tremendous help in our research donations, so the continued growth will have a positive impact for our industry. Hopefully we get more clubs involved next year. Now is the time to start promoting!

Our S & R event is also a good time to help not only our scholarship program, but our research program as well. The S & R is an integral part of our research programs. Please start thinking about donations for the auction and promoting the importance to our partners in the industry.

The Board is working on some exciting research projects, which were helped by your participation in the survey sent out to the membership.

I would like to welcome article ideas from our membership, which could include projects your facility is implementing that you believe would be of interest to our entire membership. You can send them to SWallace@sonomagolfclub.com.

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## **Executive Director's Report**

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

GCSANC continues to chug along quite nicely, despite the occasional obstacles that are thrown in the association's path.

The "obstacles" I refer to are the scheduling challenges we faced when attempting to finalize a date and location for this year's Scholarship & Research Tournament. You may have noticed that the late July date is a full month or more after the typical date for the S&R. That is because the Mondays in June conflicted with the tournament dates of other associations in the area, as well as the courses we considered for the tournament having limited to no availability on the other Mondays. Throw the 4th of July holiday week into the mix, and you can understand the challenge.

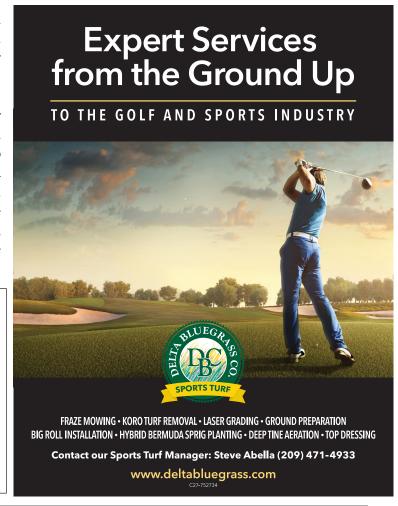
Fortunately, we are very happy to have secured Green Hills Country Club, and we look forward to an exceptional event, an excellent turnout, and a nice contribution to our scholarship and research programs.

The second half of the year promises to have a number of exciting and interesting events (probably more than typical), as we look to secure a Field Day date at Diablo Country Club in August, hope to have an event at Corica Park in September or October, will have the Annual Meeting at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club in November (see more details in President Boyer's message), and, of course, our annual Holiday Meeting in December. With the

Institute and Boot Camp scheduled for January, that makes several consecutive months with association activity, and plenty of opportunities for networking, information and education.

The Board is also actively working on a revamped sponsorship program aimed at providing more value and convenience to our Affiliate and Sponsor members, and we continue to pursue funding through the state that will create opportunities to cultivate more Assistant Superintendents.

We hope you're enjoying the summer, and we look forward to seeing you at one of the many GCSANC events in the coming months.





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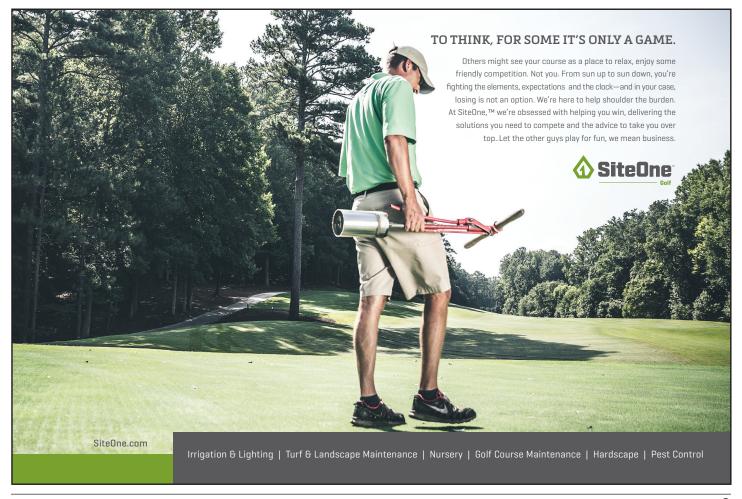
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## From the Field



By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

I hope this finds your spring golf season off to a busy start after a long and wet winter. While it continues to provide challenges to courses throughout Central and Northern California, the rain and snowpack was much needed.

On the advocacy front, the arrival of spring signals the approach of National Golf Day. This year's event is scheduled for April 29-May 1 in Washington, D.C. We Are Golf, a coalition of the game's leading associations and industry partners including GCSAA, hosts the annual event. National Golf Day celebrates the game's \$84 billion economy, nearly \$4 billion annual charitable impact and many environmental and fitness benefits. Industry leaders meet with Members of Congress, the Executive Branch and federal agencies to discuss golf's 15,000-plus diverse

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businesses, 2 million jobs impacted, tax revenue creation and tourism value.

In addition to the lobbying day on May 1, National Golf Day features a community service project on April 30 that will focus on turf and irrigation restoration projects between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

Key issues for this year's National Golf Day include Waters of the United States (WOTUS), H-2B Visa legislation, the ongoing legal battle over glyphosate and promotion of the country's municipal golf sector.

At the time of this column, GCSAA already has over 100 members who will be representing the industry on Capitol Hill. For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit the website at https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/national-golf-day/.

Over the past year, one of my areas of focus has been moving superintendents from Class B to Class A. Class A status is obtained through a combination of formal education, experience as a golf course superintendent, continuing education and providing proof of a valid pesticide license. The sliding scale for Class A eligibility can be viewed at https://www.gcsaa.org/docs/default-source/membership-documents/class-a-sliding-scale-for-eligibility-org.pdf?sfvrsn=5bb5173e\_0.

Once you obtain Class A status you are required to maintain it by earning 5 points (minimum 3 education) over a five-year cycle. In addition to enhancing your resume, all Class A members receive admittance to The Masters each year. If you have interest in obtaining your Class A, please contact me and I will go through your transcripts to determine what you are missing.

Thank you for your support of GCSAA and if you have any questions or I can assist you, please email me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter @GCSAA\_SW for daily industry updates.

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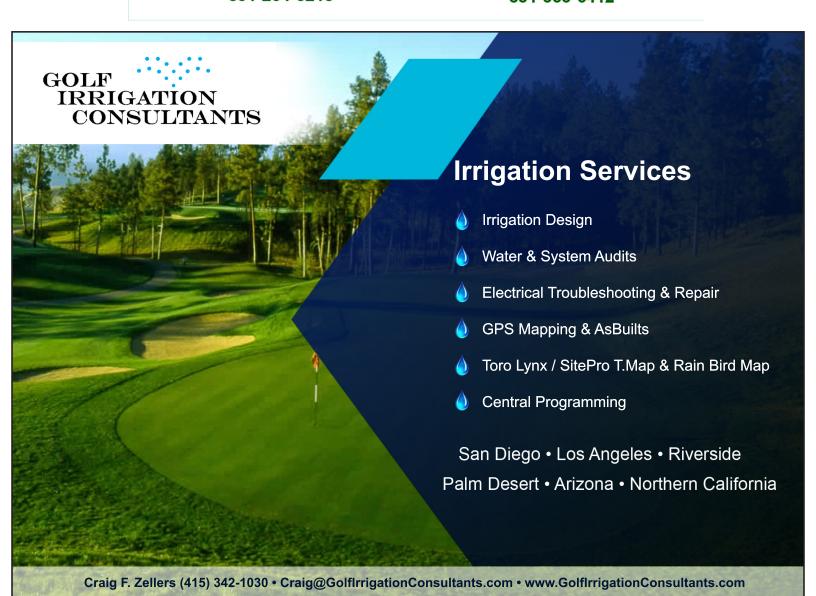
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## Assistant Superintendent Profile: Jordan Block, The Olympic Club

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 Jordan Block from The Olympic Club in San Francisco.

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

JB: I love golf and being outdoors. I grew up watching golf with my grandfather and always wanted to play on the PGA tour. So, I looked into the PGA school at UNLV and found out that you had to be good at golf to play on the tour. Then I switched ideas and headed into the Turf Management program at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

CG: What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry? JB: Getting a job straight out of college at The Olympic Club, and working my way up the ladder to Assistant Superintendent Lake Course.

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

**JB:** Dean Graves, CGCS (Chevy Chase Club) and Troy Flanagan (The Olympic Club).

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

JB: The heart of Las Vegas, Nevada – one mile from downtown.

CG: Your best Nicknames?

JB: JB, Big Daddy.

CG: If you could drive any vehicle, what would it be? JB: My 2004 Honda Accord until the wheels fall off.

CG: Do you have any pets?

JB: Yes, a black and white tuxedo cat named Kismet.

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

JB: During aeration last spring, one of our operators was aerating fairways and hit three irrigation heads all on the same pass. So when I pulled up, there were three geysers shooting 30 feet into the air and all you could do was laugh. The not so funny part was that I had to fix all three irrigation heads.

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

**JB:** I have been to 32 of the 50 states and 3 of the 7 continents.

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

JB: 84 at Bears Best Golf Club in Las Vegas.

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

**JB:** Course prep hand watering setting the course up for a tournament. To make it as tough as possible on the golfers.

CG: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?

JB: Work hard, play harder.

**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?

**JB:** Fishing pole, BBQ grill, bottles of bourbon, hammock, and a surfboard.

**CG:** Favorite Beer?

JB: Deshutes Fresh Squeezed IPA.

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

JB: Travel the world and play golf every day.

**CG:** Favorite sports teams?

**JB:** Los Angeles Dodgers, San Francisco Forty-Niners, Boston Celtics, and Vegas Golden Knights.

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

**JB:** Bentgrass because it's all I have ever worked on. It sure is a challenge keeping Poa out, though, that's for sure.

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

JB: Jack Nicklaus.

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

**JB:** Traveling with my wife, watching my two year-old daughter grow up, and going to the beach to catch waves and sun rays.





