

THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

MAY - JUNE 2020



Meet the GCSANC Golf Course Dogs

Including Cassi from Bay Club Boulder Ridge



Brian Darrock,
Boulder Ridge Golf Course
Superintendent
and Owner of Cassi.



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Cassi from Bay Club Boulder Ridge

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President's Message

By **PETE BACHMAN**

GCSANC President, Superintendent, The Links at Spanish Bay

Golf is back! It is great to see people out on the course after what seemed to be an eternity. I trust that many of you found the same silver lining in all of this chaos that I did: my course benefited from a break in the constant pounding of play. I continue to hear reports that members are coming back to play in droves, and that public courses are seeing good transient business levels. This is all a good sign, and I hope that it continues as California transitions through the phases of reopening the economy.

Professional golf's return to TV a few weeks ago for the Taylor Made Driving Relief event was also a step in the right direction for the sport. It proved that a socially distant professional golf tournament is completely possible. It's not as electric without the fans, no "Baba Booey" or "mashed potatoes," but it is doable.

As our Board of Directors grapples with the schedule for the remainder of the year, we've decided to postpone our June S&R to the fall timeframe. Even if allowed, we felt the June event wouldn't draw much attendance with everyone so busy re-opening their respective courses. We will have a tentative date and host course hammered out in the next month or so. It's a big event for us, and finances the annual research fund, as well as the scholarships we award annually. On that note, I'm happy to report that the Scholarship Committee awarded six scholarships this year to legacy and industry students. We had a fantastic bunch of applicants, and I am proud that our association can help them reach their life goals. Look for more information on our recipients in the following pages of this issue.

I'd like to remind everyone that the GCSANC website continues to serve as an up-to-date resource on the latest COVID-19 information. We're working closely with GCSAA to provide as much helpful information to our members as possible. If there is anything else we can do, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Stay safe,

Pete Bachman

NORCALENDAR

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Editor's Note

By **MARC CONNERLY**, *GCSANC Executive Director*

Welcome to our June-July issue of Thru The Green. With this issue, we are beginning to enhance the content and appearance of the magazine. We recently began soliciting photographs from our members, and the results of that outreach may be found in the article entitled "Meet the GCSANC Golf Course Dogs." Future issues of Thru The Green will also feature themed photographs from our members and member courses.

Upcoming issues will also feature new content, including article submissions from equipment managers, golf course photographers, and other industry folks, as well as the results of monthly surveys circulated to GCSANC members. We also plan to add more content from "outside the lines," including stories about members' hobbies and interests.

If you have an idea for a story, or something you would like to read in Thru The Green, please email me at mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com.

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Executive Director's Report: Lessons Learned

By **MARC CONNERLY**, *GCSANC Executive Director*

To say that the last three months have been tumultuous would be an understatement of epic proportions. In fact, it is shocking that it has only been three months since our world was turned upside down and inside out. It sure seems like it has been much longer than that!

While it has been challenging, frustrating, and at times downright scary, I'm left to reflect on the lessons learned from the pandemic, economic devastation and civil unrest that has gripped our nation.

The first is not so much a lesson derived from our recent crises as it is a sentiment I had been sensing for quite some time that was magnified while reflecting on the issues underlying so much of what we are struggling to resolve. Specifically, social media and the social media culture have provided a platform for boundless hostility, profanity, name calling, and verbal attacks, often without accountability and with complete impunity.

While the rights to free speech and protest are foundational to our society, the standards for respect, patience, tolerance and understanding in our communications and actions seem to have dissolved almost to the point of nonexistence, and from my perspective those pillars are essential to a meaningful and long-lasting resolution to the issues we face.

I have also learned just how little control we have. If wildfires, earthquakes, mud slides, floods, hurricanes, and terrorist attacks haven't convinced us of that, certainly the pandemic was a brutal slap in the face. Try as we might to work hard, protect ourselves and our families, and do the right thing, there simply are things that are far beyond our control that can irreversibly change the course of our lives and ruin our well-laid plans. The lesson learned is to prepare the best we can for crises and "rainy days" because those who have their affairs in order are best prepared to weather the storm, but at the end of the day flexibility and the ability to roll with the punches are important virtues.

Another lesson was the importance of laughter. I don't know about you, but I sensed that I was laughing and smiling much less while confined to home, burdened by the oppressive shelter in place orders, and exposed to

the barrage of dire news stories about the pandemic. I realized just how important laughter is to our well-being, and found that watching sources of amusement such as YouTube videos, comedic TV shows and podcasts raised my spirits and really improved my overall sense of well-being.

A big lesson was the value of recreation in our lives. Essentially every recreational outlet that could not be enjoyed on a smartphone, computer or TV was stripped from our lives for an extended period. We lost our access to restaurants, professional sporting events, movie theaters, bars, amusement parks, comedy clubs, live theater, beaches and campgrounds, resorts and cruises, and even golf went dark for a period of time. Never have I been more aware of the number of recreational options and outlets at our disposal pre-pandemic, and never have I had a greater appreciation for those activities or for the value they bring to our lives and our mental, emotional and physical health.

Which brings me to what has probably been the biggest realization and lesson out of the crises of the last three months: appreciation! Appreciation for what we have, what we have access to, what our society affords us. With all of our recreational outlets taken away for an extended period of time, and our freedoms severely restricted, it occurred to me that we still have it immeasurably better than any third-world country and the citizens of oppressive governments. There is much for which to be grateful, even in the worst of times.

A commitment to respect and tolerance in all debate and communications, laugh often, do our best and understand that some things are out of our control, enjoy the many activities and recreational outlets at our disposal, and appreciate more...these are the lessons of a trying three months.

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From the Field

By **JEFF JENSEN**, *GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region*

I hope this finds everyone back at the course and prepping for a busy summer of play. GCSAA recently launched a webpage containing reopening resources for golf facilities who were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Back2Golf was specifically designed for courses to work with counties, cities, and state governments to open golf courses that were closed, as well as providing a roadmap to getting golfers back on the course in a safe and efficient manner.

Partnering with allied golf organizations through the We Are Golf Coalition, the documents include an industrywide guideline developed off the plan of the White House and CDC "Guidelines for Opening Up America Again," including a specific, three-phased approach to golf that aligns with the broader plan to reopen the economy, as well as a playbook for operations that provides guidance

to the nation's nearly 15,000 golf courses. The operations playbook covers clubhouse operations, cart operations, practice facility set-up, staffing, signage, payment/cash handling, pool, tennis, and basic guidelines for on-course play.

Additionally, GCSAA prepared its own guidelines focused on the maintenance side of the operation, including BMPs for on-course setup, sanitizing of vehicles and equipment, and safety protocols and social distancing requirements for the workplace.

The remaining GCSAA Back2Golf materials include temperature screening logs, potential exposure questionnaire, employee infection actions flowchart, maintaining a healthy work environment checklist, acknowledgment of preventative measures checklist, termination letter, signage templates and a return to work letter. The templates are Word documents that can be modified for individual facilities.

The GCSAA Back2Work webpage can be viewed at <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/back2golf-resources> and links to additional materials from the CMAA, NGCOA and PGA of America are available at the bottom of the webpage. Check back regularly, as the documents will continue to be updated as the situation evolves.

I hope you and your family are safe during this crisis, and make sure to take some time away from your facilities this summer to recover from both the physical and mental grind that this situation has caused.

If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and make sure to follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW for industry updates.

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Meet The GCSANC Golf Course Dogs

By **BRITTANY CONNERLY**, *Special Projects Assistant, GCSANC*

One thing you can always count on while golfing is taking in the gorgeous scenery. Whether that is water, mountains, or the lush greenery, the views can be incredible. One thing you probably don't count on seeing—a furry dog trotting around the course. However, thanks to golf course superintendents bringing their dogs to work, many golfers can now add a whole mix of breeds to their list of favorite golf course views. Customers are loving the “canine staff,” who bring a whole new level of excitement to coming out to the course.



Enola is a course dog at Poppy Ridge Golf Course, and belongs to Superintendent John Ball. Enola is a mixed breed, but looks prominently Anatolian Shepard. She is an older dog, at around eight years of age, but still has lots of energy. You won't find Enola chasing golf balls or birds on the course, but if she spots a squirrel or a rabbit, her instincts kick in, and she can't help herself from chasing after them! Enola knows proper course etiquette and rarely barks, making her a perfect companion for the golf course. Enola makes the crew at Poppy Ridge just as happy to have her as she is to be there. They love to pet her, and she enjoys all the attention they have to offer.

Brain Darrock, the superintendent at Bay Club Boulder Ridge, is the proud owner of one-and-a-half-year-old Bernadoodle Cassi. Cassi was meant to be a golf course dog, as two of her favorite hobbies are riding along in a golf cart and watching golfers work on their game. Besides spotting her cruising around the course, if you are golfing at Bay Club, you might also find her chasing some

turkeys. Cassi brings joy to more than the staff and golfers at Bay Club. She is also currently going through a training to become a support dog. After she completes her training, the plan is to bring Cassi's love to hospitals, retirement homes, and similar businesses where Cassi can spread her happiness!



Graeme, a 10 ½ year old Border Collie mix, is a long-time course companion to Mark Wilson, Superintendent at The Villages Golf and Country Club. Wilson rescued Graeme at the age of 2 ½, and Graeme immediately found his way as a loyal canine “staff member.” In his early days, golfers appreciated Graeme for not just his cute looks, but also his knack for chasing geese off the course. After moving to San Diego to a course that no longer had geese for him to chase, Graeme found joy in finding sticks and pinecones for staff and golfers to partake in fetch with him. Graeme is now considered semi-retired, but there are some instincts that can't be kicked, as members will still find him occasionally chasing geese or playing fetch with crew members, and



Coco is a six-year-old German Shepard, and pup to Ruby Hill Golf Club Superintendent Steve Agin. Coco has been a golf course dog since she was a puppy, making the course her second home. As a typical Shepard, members of Ruby Hill can spot her chasing geese and squirrels around the course. When she is not busy chasing, Coco makes sure to give her attention to the crew at the course, while



receiving plenty attention in return. She is a well-loved part of the Ruby Hill family, who is known for her sweet nature and willingness to chase any pest away!



one can always count on finding Graeme riding through the course in a cart with Mark. One thing that has remained consistent for Graeme no matter which course he is at, is the members' love for him and his love for the course.

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Superintendent Profile:

King Wayman, Pasadera Country Club

By **BRIAN BOYER**, *Superintendent, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club*

Have you ever noticed all the superintendent Q&A's in Golfdom, and how rarely we get a West Coast Superintendent? As West Coasters, we knowingly live with an east coast media bias and an east coast sports bias, but who'd a thunk there'd be an east coast Superintendent bias. With so many talented Superintendents in California, we may as well spotlight them, albeit on a much smaller scale than Golfdom. I had the opportunity to speak with King Wayman of Pasadera Country Club, and I hope you enjoy getting to know him as much as I did.

BB: Where did you grow up?

KW: I grew up in Redding (CA). I've been in the Bay Area since 2001.

BB: Tell me about your family?

KW: My wife, Nora, whom I met at the Home Depot of all places, and I have been married 14 years. We have a six year-old daughter named Jordan.

BB: Where did you go to school?

KW: I got my BS in marine ecology at CSU Monterey Bay, which is what brought me to the Bay Area.

BB: So, how did you end up in turf?

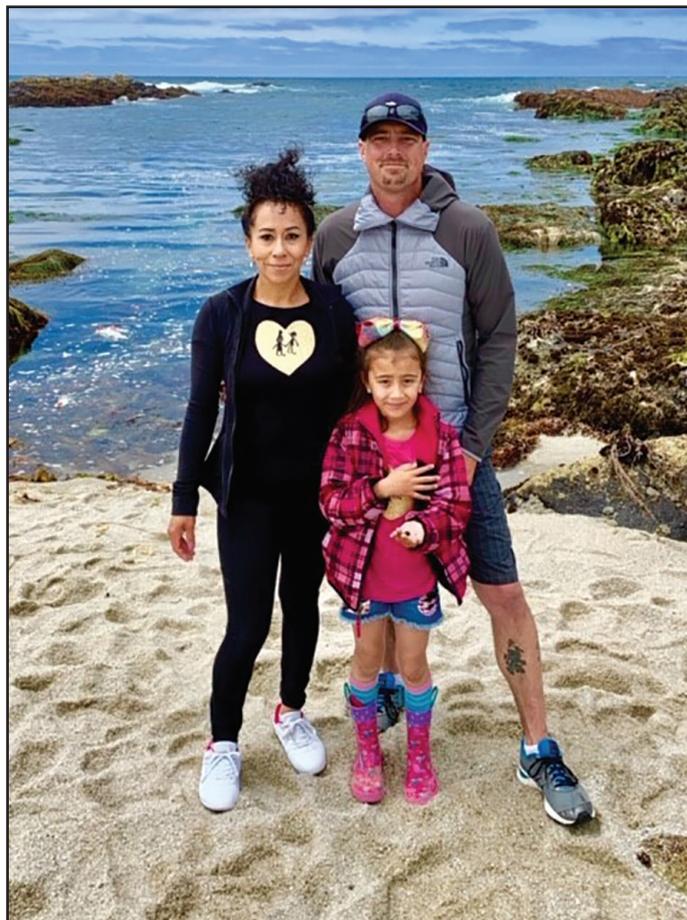
KW: I fell into it, actually. I did a wood working project for Mike Leach, who at the time was the superintendent at Pacific Grove. Mike had asked if I was interested in working on a golf course, and the rest is history, as they say. While working at Pacific Grove, I went through the Penn State online program (all while working full time and raising my daughter!).

BB: How long have you been at Pasadera CC?

KW: I've been here since early 2017.

BB: Having been a Superintendent for three years now, what defines a good salesperson to you?

KW: Somebody that understands what's in my best interest and who is knowledgeable about their product line.



BB: With the same preface, what defines a good assistant?

KW: Self-motivated and high energy, leader and learner. I also want them to speak up and not be afraid to step in with ideas. Mistakes will be made, and we can learn from them.

BB: What is your favorite piece of equipment or tool to use on the golf course?

KW: It's a toss-up between the Toro ProCore 648 or the TDR 350.

BB: We're right in the heart of the pandemic at the time of this interview, and there's a lot of doom and gloom. Have you experienced anything positive through these difficult times?

KW: The best part about the shelter in place is the lack of traffic (said with a laugh). In all seriousness, this time

Continued from page 12

has helped me put things in perspective. We are our harshest critics. There is only so much we can do with limited staff, and there's no sense in beating yourself up over it. That's something that will serve me well after the pandemic is over.

BB: What do you do in your spare time?

KW: We are an outdoor family. We like to go camping and fishing. Bass Lake and Lake San Antonio are a couple of favorites. I enjoy golfing when I can.

BB: Is there anything about you that most may not know that you care to share?

KW: I was in the Marine Corps for 6 years.

BB: Who do you consider a mentor (s)?

KW: Jon Scott was the lead agronomist for the Nicholas Group and has been a huge resource for me. Also, the Monterey superintendents are a tight knit group and I lean on those guys when I need to.

BB: If I ask you the best or worst day on the golf course, what story comes to mind first?

KW: I want to keep it positive. The best day is any day I have my daughter on the course with me. There is one story, though, that happened during the 2019 US Open. The new investors had Jack Nicholas come out to tour the golf course with select committee members. It was suggested that I start the tour with Jack in my cart. I wasn't going to give up the seat unless someone asked for it, and I ended up in the cart with Jack for two hours! There was a special event with the members and Jim Nantz at the clubhouse that someone reminded Jack about. Jack said they could wait while we finished the course tour.

BB: If you didn't end up in golf, what would you be doing?

KW: I was doing seafloor mapping when I got into golf, and I'd probably still be doing environmental research.

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Meet Our 2020 Scholarship Winners

By **BRITTANY CONNERLY**, *Special Projects Assistant, GCSANC*

This year, GCSANC granted six scholarships to students enrolled in a variety of academic programs. Applicants included those enrolled in community college, undergraduate programs, and graduate programs, and as usual we had scholars representing two categories: Industry and Legacy. Industry scholars received \$2,000 each, and Legacy scholars received \$1,500 each, with a total of \$10,500 awarded to this year's scholars.

A total of 13 scholarship applications were submitted this year, which exceeded the annual scholarship budget. The Scholarship committee was forced to make the tough decision to reject previous winners, and only grant scholarships to first time applicants. Below you can learn more about this year's group of outstanding recipients.

LEGACY SCHOLARS

Andrew Bevan

Andrew Bevan attended Dowling Catholic High school, located in Des Moines, Iowa, where he graduated with honor roll recognition. Throughout all four years in high school, Andrew was on the men's golf team, and a part of the Habitat for Humanity Club. This fall, he will be attending St Louis University, where he plans to study Aviation. After graduating from college, Andrew's goal is to become a certified flight instructor, helping students learn how to fly and achieve the same goals he has.

Sean Fernald

Sean Fernald attended Leigh High School in San Jose, California. Sean graduated with honors and was a member of National Honors Society. While attending Leigh High School, Sean played football, and was the captain of the baseball team. He also worked maintenance at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club. This fall, Sean will attend Tiffin University, where he plans to study Sports

Management with a minor in marketing. He also hopes to play baseball while studying at Tiffin University. After graduating from college, Sean aspires to land a job at a sports agency, where eventually he hopes to be one of the top sports agents in the industry.

Quinlan Muller

Quinlan Muller finished this past May at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS. While attending Johnson County Community College, Muller made both the President's List and the Dean's List. Quinlan currently volunteers at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, volunteers at a local homeless shelter, and has provided food to college students in need. He has also been a member of the Lion Dance Club, and ran cross country in school. This fall, Quinlan will continue his undergraduate studies while pursuing a major in clinical lab studies. In five years, Quinlan wants to have earned a degree at The University of Kansas, and then move on to work at Lawrence Memorial Hospital as a lab technician. From there, Quinlan plans to apply to medical school to complete his degree in pathology.

INDUSTRY SCHOLARS

Cade Cutchen

Cade Cutchen is currently attending Florida Gateway College in Lake City, Florida. Cade is expected to graduate this upcoming December. While studying at Florida Gateway, Cade is a part of the college two-year advanced Horticulture program. He plans on double majoring in advanced horticulture and agribusiness. Along with studies, Cade is involved in the GCSAA community. He was the first person to complete the GCSAA Assistant Superintendent Certification Series in California. Cade also is a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador to California's 12th Congressional District, and has been the 2nd Assistant

Superintendent at The Olympic Club for the last year. Over the next five years, Cade hopes to continue moving up in The Olympic Club organization, while also gaining more experience.

Patrick Tuttle

Patrick Tuttle is a graduate of the University of California Santa Barbara. This fall, Patrick will continue his studies at the Penn State Masters of Professional Studies program, where he is planning on concentrating on Turfgrass Management. While studying at UC Santa Barbara, Patrick was a part of the Leadership Education Action Program. He also was a member of the American Marketing Association. For the past year and a half, Patrick has worked at Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club. In June of last year, he earned the Employee of the Month award at the club. Within the next five years, Patrick hopes to gain more experience at Palo Alto Golf and Country Club. With this experience, he hopes to land an assistant superintendent position at a resort or a country club, and eventually become a superintendent.

Brandon Wagner

Brandon Wagner is currently attending Pennsylvania State University, where he is studying Turfgrass Management. Over the past year, Brandon has gained golf course experience by working as the Assistant Superintendent at The Club of Pasadena. Brandon enjoys his position, as it is preparing him for his future career by providing him hands on learning opportunities that will later help him post-graduation. In five years, Brandon wants to have graduated and be working at a country club in the Bay Area. He hopes to use that time to gain more experience, and then he hopes to become a superintendent in the Oregon area.



A Few Words From Our Scholars

Dear Mr. Connerly,

Thank you so much for your note this evening. I am extremely thankful and honored that you have selected me as a recipient of this award. I hope to attend the S & R Tournament when it has been rescheduled. I hope that you and your family are safe and healthy.

~ Andrew Bevan

Wow, this is great news, thank you! I would love to be at the Research and Scholarship. Thank you for notifying me. I look forward to being a positive contributor to GCSANC.

~ Patrick Tuttle

This is wonderful news. Thank you so much. This scholarship is a tremendous honor and will be a great help in the upcoming school year. The GCSANC is a great organization and even better community, which makes this award all the more special. Whenever you have the dates finalized for the S & R Tournament, let me know, and I will be sure to be there.

~ Cade Cutchen

Thank you very much for choosing my application; this helps out a lot!

~ Brandon Wagner

Marc,

Thanks so much for the scholarship you and the association awarded Sean. This is awesome.

~ Greg Fernald (father of Sean Fernald)

Assistant Superintendent Profile: Michael Knoll, Assistant Superintendent, The Links at Spanish Bay

By **ERIC GREEN**, *Assistant Superintendent, Poppy Hills Golf Course*

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 Michael Knoll, Assistant Superintendent at The Links at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, CA.



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

MK: I originally had my own lawn and landscape service back home in Louisiana. I started mowing a neighbor's yard at the age of 12, and sold the business after I graduated college. It afforded me to be able to pay my own way through college, and make many lasting relationships over the years. I loved it, but felt I needed to give it up to chase a career in Finance or Economics.

I went on to start a career in San Francisco in the corporate world, which lasted for 9 years. I wasn't happy for those 9 years. I found myself constantly peering out of my corner office window staring at Lake Merced Golf Club, just dreaming of being on the course instead of the office. One day in mid-August of 2013, it was a Thursday, I went to work and quit. I knew I didn't want that life, but wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I took a break for a few months and attended lots of San Francisco Giants games, which is where I realized what I wanted to do for my next career. Mrs. Victoria, another season ticket holder in our section, knew my situation

and was just picking my brain. She asked me a simple question, "What would your dream job be? What would you do for free if you had all the money in the world?" Without hesitation, I answered, "Take care of this place or a golf course!" The decision was made right there, and I went on a journey to figure out how to make it happen.

EG: What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?

MK: My proudest moment was the 2019 U.S. Open! After only getting into the industry in the winter of 2013, with the help and support of so many people, I was able to work the U.S. Open taking care of the front nine greens.

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

MK: There is not just one person, but I can say that without Tim Sedgley I'm not sure I would be in this industry. He took a chance on me in the beginning, giving me my first job. He also mentored me to go back to school, get a turf certificate from University of Rutgers, and helped me land a position on the Pebble Beach Golf Links staff.

EG: Where did you grow up?

MK: I grew up in New Orleans, La.

EG: Your best Nicknames?

MK: There's a few, but I think the funniest is 'Sexy Boots,' which one of the veteran crew members, Hector at Pebble Beach, tagged me with.

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

MK: Lingenfelter C7 Z06 Corvette 2006

EG: Curly fries or regular, and why?

MK: Regular, they are just better.

Continued

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

MK: My Dad's best friend, Mr. Kelly, had been baiting my brother about how far he could drive the golf ball. So he bet my brother he could out drive him. My brother was only 16 or 17 at the time, and Mr. Kelly set my brother's ball on the tee. Needless to say, my brother didn't realize it was an exploding golf ball. Henry (my brother) was licking his chops, and swung the perfect swing...BOOM, white powder exploded all over the place. HAHHAHAHA!

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

MK: I have a blanket named Blublu that I've had since birth. It's my most prized possession.

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

MK: 94 at Spanish Bay

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

MK: Rotary mowing rough (walk behind). Rotary mowing brings me back to being a kid; it's almost a form of meditation and relaxation. The best part is that out here on the Monterey Peninsula is it's in the 60's instead of 90's, and the views are not too shabby.

EG: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?

MK: Be myself, create my own story, and don't be afraid to break some rules.

EG: 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?

MK: My wife, my blankie, music, a machete and matches.

EG: Favorite Beer?

MK: I'm closing in on my 7th year of sobriety.

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

MK: Mow rough or fairways 3 days a week, and travel all over the world.

EG: Favorite sports teams?

MK: The Bayou Bengals, Louisiana State University. GEAUX TIGERS!!! Also, the New Orleans Saints and San Francisco Giants.

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

MK: Poa. It's all I know.

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

MK: Fat PawPaw, and we would have lunch while enjoying a baseball game. He taught me the love of the game. I think of him every time I enter a baseball park.

EG: What is your favorite golf maintenance related quote?

MK: "Gonga La Gonga"



UCR Turfgrass Short Clips

By **JIM BAIRD**, Turfgrass Specialist, University of California, Riverside

I hope this update finds everyone safe and healthy during COVID-19. Although our campus remains closed at least until June 19, the UCR Turfgrass Program has managed to plow ahead with new and ongoing research in Riverside, and throughout the state and region. My post-docs and graduate student are working tirelessly, without having any student assistance this year, due to the pandemic and its effects on our budget. I have been and will continue to do most of the travel to remote research locations to minimize risks to my crew. Thanks to all the superintendents and golf courses who have opened their doors to me, even when golfers, and most of their staff were ordered to stay at home. Below is a brief summary of current research in Northern California made possible in part by annual contributions from the GCSANC and Sierra Nevada GCSA to the California Turfgrass & Landscape Foundation (CTLF).

POA CONTROL

Currently, our *Poa* control research in Northern California is located at The Olympic Club, North Ridge CC, and Martis Camp Club. At The Olympic Club, we are nearing the end of a 2-yr putting green study to evaluate spring vs. fall applications of PoaCure, in addition to spring and fall applications of cumyluron, Bensumec, and Trimmit. PoaCure is now registered in most all states except California and while state registration in 2020 is not out of the realm of possibilities, 2021 is a greater likelihood. Overall, the most effective Poa control at Olympic Club has been achieved with PoaCure. In a climate like San Francisco, control has been similar from applications ranging from March-June vs. August-November. However, sometimes it has been too cold in March, or too wet in November, resulting in sudden Poa control and/or bentgrass injury. For climates like San Francisco and Monterey, the ideal time for starting PoaCure applications would be in May. In surrounding warmer climates, applications should be focused in spring



and fall to avoid temperature extremes. Marubeni Corp. is developing cumyluron herbicide for *Poa* control on greens and other areas. U.S. registration is expected in about 2022. While PoaCure is applied in several sequential applications, cumyluron is applied once in spring and again in early fall. Both herbicides have PRE and POST activity. The strength of PoaCure is POST control while cumyluron is PRE. At Olympic Club, initial Poa populations were ca. 10%. Higher rates of cumyluron have resulted in Poa control over time that is statistically similar to PoaCure, but not 100% as often observed with PoaCure.

At North Ridge CC in Sacramento, we are testing cumyluron and PoaCure as PRE treatments on a brand new 'Pure Distinction' green with no *Poa* to fulfill data requirements for registration of cumyluron. In addition,

Continued on page 20



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we are testing herbicides and PGRs for Poa control in the ryegrass collars and surrounds and safety on bentgrass greens. Products include cumyluron, PoaCure, Barricade, Bensumec, Trimmit, Xonerate, and Prograss. To date, it has been so far, so good with turf safety, and too early to tell about Poa control.

At Martis Camp Club in Truckee, we are also testing cumyluron and PoaCure for Poa control on a bentgrass green for cumyluron registration. In addition, we have a similar collar/green surrounds Poa control study on Kentucky bluegrass using the aforementioned herbicides and PGR. Late season applications resulted in turf injury from Prograss, Trimmit, and Xonerate in descending order of severity. It is too early to determine effects on Poa control, but thus far the best results have been observed with cumyluron.



ANGUINA CONTROL

Although we now have two products registered for Pacific shoot-gall nematode control, research is continuing on the practice greens at TPC Harding Park to determine best rates and frequencies of applications for optimal control. In addition, we are testing new products for efficacy against this nematode species.

SPRING DEAD SPOT CONTROL

As more golf courses in Northern California consider switching to bermudagrass to save water, spring dead spot disease can be problematic, especially in combination with colder winters and longer dormancy periods. Last fall, we conducted a fungicide trial at Peach Tree GCC in Marysville. While disease activity was sporadic on the test sites in 2019-20, results were consistent with our previous research at North Ridge CC. Top-performing fungicides include Mirage Stressgard (tebuconazole), Lexicon (pyraclostrobin + fluxapyroxad), Xzemplar (fluxapyroxad), and Posterity (pydiflumetofen).

SNOW MOLD CONTROL

Our annual snow mold trial on a Kentucky bluegrass fairway and rough at Martis Camp Club yielded strong snow mold pressure at snow melt, mostly from



Continued on page 21

Microdochium Patch (pink snow mold). Although all fungicide treatments reduced disease severity compared to the untreated control, the best performers were Interface Stressgard + Mirage Stressgard + Turfcide 400 and Insignia SC Intrinsic + Maxtima + Turfcide 400.

TURFGRASS EVALUATION

We are evaluating bermudagrasses from our breeding program, as well as newer commercial cultivars at Napa GC, The Preserve, and Almaden GCC. In addition, we have a grant from the USGA to evaluate zoysiagrasses from Texas A&M at Meadow Club and Napa GC. Thanks to West Coast Turf and Delta Bluegrass, we established large plots (250 ft²) of 11 bermudagrasses at Napa and Almaden. These include: Santa Ana, Tifway II, TifTuf, Bandera, Tahoma 31, Latitude 36, Celebration, and 4 genotypes from our program. While these studies are more observational than scientific under real world conditions, the top performers (in no particular order) have been UCR 17-8, Santa Ana, Latitude 36, TifTuf, and Tahoma 31. UCR 17-8 has performed at or near the top in terms of color retention and seedhead production (or lack thereof). In addition, it was selected for superior drought tolerance and has performed well in an ongoing deficit irrigation trial in Riverside. As a result, 17-8 should be the first grass released since we resurrected the UCR turfgrass breeding program about 8 years ago. Zoysiagrass, which was plugged last July, has been slow to establish in Napa, and even slower in Fairfax. Once fully established, we will be particularly interested in evaluating their resistance to Large Patch, which has been a common disease of this species in our California climate.

Jim Baird travels to Northern California every two weeks and can be reached at 951-333-9052 or jbaird@ucr.edu if you have questions or need assistance.

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