The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

September 2021



Pasatiempo Golf Club

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NORCALENDAR

Monday, November 15 Annual Meeting Pebble Beach Resort

December 10 Holiday Meeting TopGolf, San Jose



COVER PHOTO: Pasatiempo Golf Club, Santa Cruz, California

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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. To pay by check, send payment and contact information to GCSANC, 2235 Park Towne Cir., 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95825.

Photo Coming Soon



Executive Director's Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

Despite ongoing coronavirus concerns that have caused many organizations to cancel or significantly alter their event plans, GCSANC has managed to execute a fairly typical event schedule in 2021, including several very successful events in the last few months.

The annual Scholarship & Research Tournament was held on June 28 at Blackhawk Country Club, resulting in a profit of more than \$22,000. This year, your association awarded \$13,000 in scholarships, in addition to \$10,000 each to California Turfgrass & Landscape Foundation (CTLF) and Oregon State University for ongoing turf research projects. The CTLF donation is for turf research taking place at UC Riverside.

On August 23, we held our annual GCSANC USGA Regional Conference at Meadow Club. The well-attended event featured presentations by Brian Whitlark and Cory Isom from USGA, as well as Meadow Club's Sean Tully and Greensight's Kevin Hauschel, and was sponsored by Delta Bluegrass, Performance Resource Management and West Coast Turf.

Our most recent event was a joint event between GCSANC, the California Golf Course Owners Association (CGCOA) and the Northern California PGA (NCPGA) on September 13 at Baylands Golf Links. Focusing on topics relevant to the various constituencies in attendance, the presenters included a panel of superintendents focused on water, golf Pros from TPC Harding Park and the Pebble Beach Company, and the Senior VP and General Counsel from the San Francisco Giants. The water panel was moderated by Brian Boyer, and included Matt Dachowski, Josh Lewis, Ryan Nicholson, and Sean Tully.

A number of upcoming events are already finalized as well, including much of the 2022 event calendar. The GCSANC Affiliates Breakfast, which is free for Affiliate members and Preferred Partners, is set for Wednesday, October 13, at Lake Merced Golf Club.

Our annual Holiday Meeting will be held on Friday, December 10, and for the first time the event will take place at TopGolf in San Jose. The evening's festivities will include TopGolf competition, a trivia game, pasta buffet, drinks, and prizes. Watch for registration details coming soon.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5 Executive Director's Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

2022 will kick off with the GCSANC Institute on Monday, January 10, at Seascape Golf Club, followed by the Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp on January 11 and 12, also at Seascape. Registration is open now for both events on the GCSANC website (www.gcsanc.com).

The date and location for the 2022 GCSANC USGA Regional Conference has also been set. The event will take place at Green Valley Country Club on Monday, March 21.

GCSANC will also host the 2022 Tri-Chapter event. La Rinconada Country Club has agreed to host the event, but a date has not yet been finalized. We hope you will put these events and dates on your calendar, and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like to host an event, or have ideas for presentation topics or presenters, please forward your ideas to me at mconnerly@ connerlyandassociates.com or (916) 214-6495.

Also, if you have questions, concerns or thoughts about the association, always know that you can reach me at the email address or phone number above.

Marc Connerly

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> Brandon Williams Director of Agronomy St. Mark Golf Club (CA-50)



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Ambassador Justin Mandon with Rep. Jimmy Pannetta



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Ambassador Mike Williams, GCSAA Southwest Region Representative Jensen with Rep. Pete Aguilar staffer

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To learn more, visit gcsaa.org/ambassadors



From the Field



By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

At GCSAA, our goal is to make your membership experience more efficient allowing you to access information when and where you need it.

GCSAA recently launched its revised app "GCSAA Now" in the Apple Store as well as on Google Play. GCSAA Now gives you GCSAA news and information in the palm of your hands. Download documents, interact with fellow members, update your membership info, and more. Some of the new features include:

- Login once, and you are in. Simple and easy to access!
- Relevant, up to date GCSAA news and content. Includes an RSS Feed to GCSAA news and a direct link to GCSAA's Twitter account. Stay up to date on government relations and public policy, GCSAA programs, special events, and much more.

- Interact with other members through the discussions and private messaging features.
- Find other members in your geographic proximity with the Near Me feature.
- Keep track of national and local GCSAA happenings with the Events feature. Includes an up-to-date calendar of chapter events and functions. The My Schedule feature allows you to add GCSAA related functions you want to attend to your app scheduler or phone calendar.
- Have easy access to membership documents and other information in the resources section. COVID-19 assistance, First Green, education, certification and disaster resources are all available on the app. Even submit your GCSAA points!



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Continued from page 8 From the Field

By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

To make the most of your experience, if you previously used the GCSAA Mobile app, delete that before downloading the new version. Once you have downloaded the app, just use your current GCSAA login and password to access it. The apps are available free of charge.

If you need assistance with your login and password credentials, simply call our Members Services Department at 800-472-7878 and they can assist you on the spot.

I hope that you enjoy the new app and find it a useful tool for improving your membership experience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and make sure to visit my regional webpage at https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regionalresources/southwest for update information from around the Southwest.

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UCR Field Day Turfgrass and Landscape Research

On Thursday, September 16th, Dr. Jim Baird and the UC Riverside turf program presented their research at the Turfgrass and Landscape Research Field Day. It was a surprisingly pleasant weather day on campus and the following research was presented.

- Warm-Season Turfgrass Breeding Evaluation of Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass, Seashore Paspalum, and St. Augustinegrass Lines Under Salinity Stress
- Evaluation of Products for Water Conservation on Bermudagrass Turf Using a Linear Gradient Irrigation System
- Management of Pacific Shoot-Gall Disease in California Putting Greens
- Evaluation of Fungicides for Control of Anthracnose and Dollar Spot Diseases; UCR 6-3 Bermudagrass Overview
- Postemergence Control of Crabgrass in Bermudagrass Turf
- Evaluation of Fungicides for Control of Rapid Blight and Summer Patch Diseases
- USGA/NTEP Warm-Season Water Use Trial
- Curative Effects of Soil Surfactantas for Localized Dry Spots on Putting Greens
- Preemergence and Postemergence Control of Spotted Spurge and Common Purslane

Attendees evaluating bermuda grass dry down study.



In addition to the research at UC Riverside Ag Ops facility, Dr. Baird is conducting local research at the Meadow Club (bermuda grass trials), Olympic Club (Poa annua prevention/ eradication), Sharon Heights (gray leaf spot), Harding Park (nematodes) and Martis Camp (pink snow mold).

If you're interested in donating to the program, you can reach out to the GCSANC offices or visit the California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation website for details. If you prefer more of an active return on your donation, you can join us for the Clifford and Myrtle Scholarship and Research Tournament.



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Pasatiempo Golf Club

Clenches Recycled Water

Water is a staple to any golf course. For California courses, water is something special that is quickly learned to not be taken for granted in a state that is overwhelmed with annual droughts. Pasatiempo Golf Club Superintendent, Justin Mandon pioneered his course as leaders in



water conservation efforts and put an end to a lengthy challenge to bring recycled water to Pasatiempo Golf Club.

The wait to bring recycled water to Pasatiempo was a long one that spans back several decades and came to a head in 2014 when Santa Cruz, where the course is located, moved to a stage three drought. For Pasatiempo, this meant an initial 70% cut in water usage before comprising with the water department on a 50% reduction, "They considered us a park. We told them we are not a park. We are a business. We are a business who has been around for almost 90 years and employs over one hundred people in Santa Cruz." While saving 20% relived a portion of stress, Mandon still called a 50% cut, "Doomsday."

Mandon and General Manager Scott Hoyt refused to let Pasatiempo or its grass fall to doomsday. Instead, the pair amped up pressure to try and fulfill the goal Mandon was given day one on the job: Get water on the property from the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The process involved years of communication with Scotts Valley including thirteen iterations of the contract and hiring a water attorney to handle the negotiations. In the end, Mandon helped to fulfill the one goal placed upon him on his first day: he brought recycled water to Pasatiempo.

Bringing recycled water to the course was vital, but getting it to Title 22 irrigation standards was also required as Scotts Valley only treated to secondary standards and tertiary treatment is required. This type of treatment system and operation put Pasatiempo into a gray area with Regional Water. To meet compliance, Pasatiempo had to contract with a Chief Waste Water Treatment operator and also bring on a full-time waste water treatment level 2 operator.

Finding a place to put the tertiary water was another conversation. Unlike a lot of courses, Pasatiempo was not equipped with water storage. There were no lakes, no tanks, and no pump station. Instead, the course is pressurized by the city. The cost to build a tank and install a pumpstation with treatment plant were significant; however, this was somewhat offset by not having to build a pipeline. Despite the offset, the project still cost nine million dollars and was funded by a 15-year construction loan. Most courses would implement an assessment, but Pasatiempo is unique in that its bylaws don't allow for member assessments. "Construction was the easiest part of the process. Although we did it during that 70-inch winter we had," Mandon laughed, "Securing a 30-year agreement for the rights to the water from Scotts Valley was the difficult part and took probably two years of really intense negotiating."

Operationally, there are water quality challenges like any golf course irrigating with recycled water. Poa annua dominates the landscape at Pasatiempo and is sensitive

to salts. Mandon manages the salts by taking daily EC readings, performing monthly flushes and pace extract testing. Mandon feels fortunate that the courses water source is the Santa Cruz mountains, "If you start with cleaner water, you're going to end with cleaner water."

Water conservation and sustainability doesn't end with the contract or with the 30-year agreement. Mandon feels they only have one real secure source of water, and they continue to look for long term sustainability. Pasatiempo has recently begun testing Bermuda grass on property to determine if it will be suitable for the property. The deal struck between Pasatiempo and Scott's Valley is a win for both parties, but equally a win for the golf industry and a major step in the right direction with climate conditions being a constant hot topic.







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