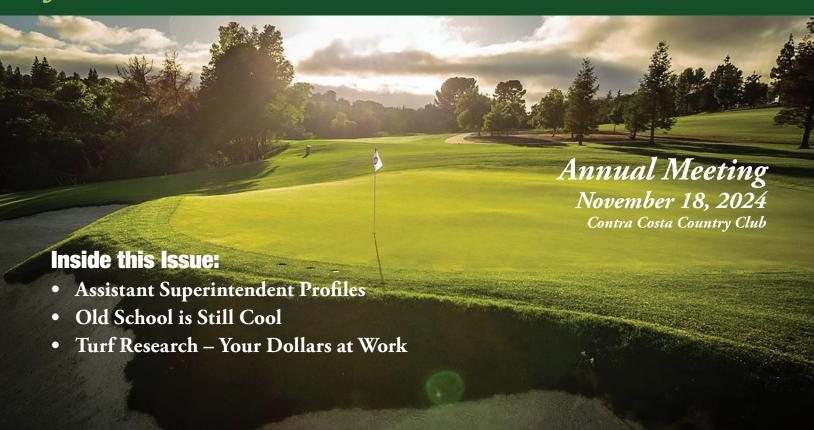
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COVER PHOTO:Dublin Heritage Park



COVER PHOTO:Contra Costa Country Club

NORCALENDAR

Thursday, October 17 Electric Equipment Expo Dublin Heritage Park

Monday, November 18 Annual Meeting Contra Costa Country Club

Friday, December 6 Holiday Meeting Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa

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President's Message

By STEVEN SPATAFORE, Golf Course Superntendent, Contra Costa Country Club

Fall aerification events are in full swing through the Northern California region. I hope that these practices go smoothly for you and your teams. As we transition into the fall and winter season, there are numerous GCSANC events ahead. I would like to thank our Executive Director, Marc Connerly, and the entire board for working hard to fill out the calendar the rest of the year with exceptional events.

We are excited to announce the return of our annual Holiday Party to Monterey. This year we will be hosting at the Monterey Plaza Hotel and Spa on Cannery Row on the evening of Friday, December 6th. Registration and hotel room block information was very recently circulated to the GCSANC membership, so please see Marc Connerly's Executive Director Report for those links. It will be a great event, and we hope to see you and your families there!

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Electric Equipment Expo Thursday, October 17th, Dublin Heritage Park in Dublin
- Annual Meeting Monday, November 18th, Contra Costa Country Club in Pleasant Hill
- Holiday Party Friday, December 6th, Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa
- 2025 California Room at GCSAA Conference presented by the California GCSA
 -- Wednesday, February 5th at Petco Park in San Diego
- 2025 Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp Monday February 24th and Tuesday February 25th (Tentative Dates), at Bayonet and Black Horse in Seaside. (Registration opens in October).

Ahead of the annual meeting, we are searching for members interested in running for open Director and Affiliate Director positions. If you are interested in running, please contact me, Marc Connerly, or any other current board member.

Sincerely,

Steve A. Spatafore

Steven A. Spatafore Contra Costa Country Club



Executive Directors Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC

The first three quarters of 2024 have seen GCSANC host:

- A very successful Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp attended by close to 70 assistant superintendents
- A USGA meeting at Olympic Club featuring presentations by USGA and a walkthrough of the Best Management Practices (BMP) template by GCSAA's Jeff Jensen
- The 17th Annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament at the beautifully maintained Peninsula Golf & Country Club, raising nearly \$40,000 for GCSANC's scholarship, research and intern housing assistance programs
- A Field Day at Pasatiempo Golf Club, with more than 70 people in attendance

Additionally, the association set a new GCSANC high by raising nearly \$10,000 through Rounds4Research, and issued checks totaling \$35,500 to scholarship recipients and interns in Northern California.

By just about any measure, the association is performing at a high level and has enjoyed a very active and successful start to the year, and we still have multiple fun events on the horizon for the remaining three months.

As Steven's President's Message indicates, for the second year in a row we will co-host an Electric Equipment Expo with the California Golf Course Owners Association (CGCOA) and the Northern California Sports Field Management Association (NCSFMA). This year's Expo will take place on Thursday, October 17, at Dublin

Heritage Park. See full details and register or sponsor online at https://membership-gcsanc.wildapricot.org/event-5849658.

Steven also referenced the GCSANC Annual Meeting, taking place on November 18 at Contra Costa Country Club. That event will feature our annual awards presentation, keynote speaker and installation of the 2025 Board. Registration will open very soon.

Finally, this year's Holiday Meeting recently opened for registration. We will be at the beautiful Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa on Friday, December 6. Registration and sponsorship opportunities for that event are now open at

https://membership-gcsanc.wildapricot.org/event-5887395. Additionally, we have a limited hotel room block at a discounted group rate. That special is only available through November 6, and may be accessed online at https://book.passkey.com/event/50894481/ owner/4479/home.

If you are interested in hosting an event in 2025, please email me at mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com. Additionally, if you have ideas for presentation topics (inperson or via webinar) or other benefits or programs you would like the GCSANC Board to consider offering to members, please email me and I will be happy to share your ideas with the GCSANC Board.

I look forward to seeing you at a GCSANC event in the coming months.

Marc Connerly

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September 12, 2024

Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California Mr. Marc Connerly, Executive Director 2235 Park Towne Cir. Fl. 2 Sacramento, CA 95825-0401

Dear Mr. Connerly,

Oregon State University stands as a beacon of innovation and purpose – fueled by people who truly shape our university.

Our exceptional students, fueled by their belief in a brighter tomorrow, engage in groundbreaking research and community partnerships. Meanwhile, our innovative faculty members create solutions that impact lives far beyond our campuses. And amidst all this, it's our alumni and friends who truly make the difference.

Your thoughtful generosity in support of the Turf Research Fund - Horticulture on 8/13/2024 has a profound impact. OSU students and programs thrive because of you. They explore solutions, tackle the toughest challenges, and ignite hope for the future. Your contribution empowers them to reach new heights.

On behalf of our entire community, I extend heartfelt gratitude. Your commitment and investment to Oregon State University is awe-inspiring. Together, we achieve the unbelievable.

Thank you – and go Beavs!

Tyrell Warren-Garnet

Tyrell Warren-Burnett

Senior Director II, Annual Giving Programs





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To the Board of Directors of the GCSANC,

On behalf of the California Turfgrass & Landscape Foundation, I want to thank you for your recent donation of \$15,000.00 (check #1011 dated 9-18-24). This money will be transferred to the UC Riverside Turfgrass Research Program to support the ongoing research pertaining to California turfgrass issues.

Your donation to CTLF ensures that 100% of the money granted goes directly to support turfgrass research. As stated in our by-laws, universities cannot use CTLF grants to fund overhead or administrative costs.

A summary UCR research reports and activity can be found at: https://turfgrass.ucr.edu

Thanks again for your support.

Satur & Gun

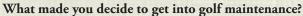
Sincerely,

Pat Gross

Executive Director, CTLF

Assistant Superintendent Profiles: Kevin Steinfeld,

Fountaingrove Golf Club



My first job was as cart boy at Mesa Verde CC in Orange County & I continued on that side of the industry for 10 years. I found golf course maintenance by happy accident after raking bunkers on a Monday afternoon for a high school match at The Fountaingrove Club for a buddy that worked in the Proshop.

What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?

Going from a bunker raker to Assistant Superintendent in less than 3 years

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

The man, the myth, the legend - Andy Lindloff

Where did you grow up? Huntington Beach, CA

Your best Nicknames? Key or Steiner

If you could drive any vehicle, what would it be? 1996 Ford F250 Super Cab fully restored

Curly fries or regular, and why?

Curly fries, that batter just adds a certain flavor profile and crisp that has me coming back everytime.

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

Okay hold onto your seat for this one. I'm standing on the 8th hole Costa Mesa's Mesa Linda golf course. It's like 115 yards over water, there was a gentleman plum bobbing his put on the front of the green. He started to walk backwards and in slow motion I watched this guy take one too many steps backwards and he dropped about 5 feet into the pond. (No one was hurt and everyone had a good laugh about it.)

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

Most people don't know that I want to enter the Iditarod with a team of rescue huskies at some point in my life.

What was your lowest score playing golf, and where?

-10 after 3 rounds in the 2017 Long Beach City 72 El Dorado, 66 Big Rec, 68 Skylinks to end up winning by 2 strokes. Or -10 on Mesa Linda Costa Mesa County Club

What is your favorite manual labor job on the golf courseand why?



I truly love all work on the course however if I had to pick one it would be laying sod and managing its grow in.

Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you? Just show up!

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?

A surf board, snorkeling equipment, a guitar, a rake to make cool designs in the sand, & my husky London.

Favorite Beer?

50 Year Storm from Old Caz Brewery

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

Play golf at a Country Club and be my superintendents' favorite easiest going board member.

Favorite sports teams?

The Anaheim Angels not to be confused with The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

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

I've only had the pleasure of managing Poa annua so I'll have to say Poa final answer!

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

Mike Love who is an incredibly talented reggae artist. He overflows with positivity, skepticism, & community. Everytime I've seen him perform live I feel as if I have a new lease on life and I could only imagine the positive power of the conversations that could flow over lunch.

What is your favorite golf maintenance related quote? "Details, details, details" -Kevin Steinfeld
Or "Everyday is the Super Bowl" -Andy Lindloff



Field Day at Pasatiempo Golf Club









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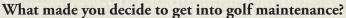








Assistant Superintendent Profiles: Jeremy Nicholas, Richmond Golf Club



I have always felt a passion for the game of golf, and I wanted to be more closely involved with the sport I love. Also it's tough to make it pro with an 18 handicap.

What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?

The opportunity to work at the highest level events spanning from the east coast to the west has helped create fond memories with more to come in the future that I'll always hold dear.

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

It's hard to narrow it down to one person, but I would say my first superintendent Scott Blough influenced me the most in preparation for this industry.

Where did you grow up?

Central City, PA (southwestern)

Your best Nicknames? El Borro

If you could drive any vehicle, what would it be?
I would drive my 1965 Chevelle SS down the PCH.

Curly fries or regular, and why? Curly fires. IYKYK



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

The exit tradition at Pebble Beach.

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

I can play guitar hero on expert level both left and right handed.

What was your lowest score playing golf, and where? 77 @ Northwinds Golf Course in Indian Lake, PA

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

I love to roll greens. There is something cathartic about that job as long as it' not raining and wet out.

Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you? Always ask questions, don't make assumptions.



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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?

- 1. Sunscreen
- 2. A large tarp
- 3. Shovel / Axe hybrid
- 4. Flint
- 5. Golf clubs

Favorite Beer?

Hazy Little Thing

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

Consult in Turf

Favorite sports teams? Pittsburgh Steelers

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

I would have to say creeping bentgrass. Overall, the fine texture, dense growth habit, tolerance to low mowing heights, drought resistance, and rapid recovery make creeping bentgrass a solid cultivar to manage in my region of CA.

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

Robin Williams. I feel like we would have a thought-provoking conversation about all facets of life.

What is your favorite golf maintenance related quote? "Everyone seems to have the money to do it right the second time around."



Autonomous Mowing Technology

By BRIAN WHITLARK, USGA Regional Director; CORY ISOM, USGA Senior Consulting Agronomist

Back in March of 2022, I wrote an article for the Green Section Record on autonomous mowers. At that time, few courses in North America were testing or using autonomous mowing technology. Now, over two and a half years later, robot mowers are still not widespread – but there are definitely more courses trying them out. The most common setup that I see during course consulting visits is one or two small mowers working around the clubhouse grounds or practice areas. While these mowers are small, they can be fairly productive.

If courses are able to have these small autonomous mowers working during play, they can be cutting grass for 12-16 hours per day depending on charge time. This can translate into acres of additional turf mowed with very little staff time required to manage the mowers, and the quality of cut seems acceptable to superintendents if the blades are regularly replaced. Some common feedback is that the machines can get stuck or have faults pop up, but a simple reset is usually all it takes to get them back up and running again. Widespread adoption of mowers like these may never happen, but courses that are using them are generally happy with the

results. However, bigger units like autonomous fairway mowers have been much slower to arrive on the scene ... until now.

A few weeks ago, I was pleasantly surprised to see two FireFly Automatix AMP autonomous fairway mowers in action. The Northern California course I was visiting had recently purchased two of these machines. The all-electric, 100-inch, 5-gang reel mowers can mow over 20 acres of turf on a single charge. Recharging time is estimated at two and a half hours, so multiple mowing sessions can happen in a single day. The units rely on a cellular-based GPS navigation system and a proprietary app. Along with the purchase price, there is an annual fee that supports the GPS services.

I have to admit, it was fun to watch these machines work. Their mowing lines are laser straight and cleanup passes were very accurate. I didn't think I would see the day when a robot could mow fairways accurately and safely, but I just did. Kudos to FireFly and the many other companies like them that are pushing the boundaries of technology in the golf course maintenance world.







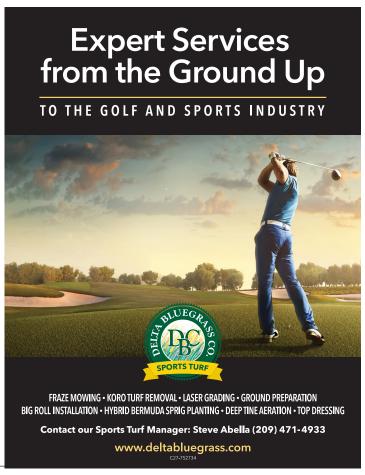




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Old School is Still Cool

By BRIAN WHITLARK, USGA Regional Director; CORY ISOM, USGA Senior Consulting Agronomist

There is beauty in the simplicity of this aeration machine.

Aeration, slicing, and linear decompaction are commonly used practices to improve the ability of fairways, roughs and green surrounds to accept water. There are powerful aeration tools in the marketplace that do a phenomenal job; however, these tools are expensive and require high-horsepower tractors operate. Traveling throughout the Southwest for many years, the most highly compacted, rocky soils I see are in southern Arizona. It is common to

see PTO-driven aeration equipment beat to the point of failure in these soils, hampering productivity. These soils are where aeration equipment comes to die! But there is a resurgence in courses turning back the clock and using some of the "old-school" tow-behind slicing and aeration units. The simplicity of these tools is their true advantage.

The use of ground-driven slicers and aerators is regaining popularity, especially at courses with hard, compacted and rocky soils. These tow-type decompaction tools may come with a hydraulic lift option and can have independent, rotating heads to improve surface coverage. Many can be equipped with weights, slicing tines, hollow tines or solid tines. These machines can typically be run at 8 to 10 miles per hour, which is considerably faster than a PTO-driven aerator. This is a real advantage for courses with high play volume where maintenance needs to stay ahead of golf in the morning. On a recent USGA Course Consulting Service visit I learned that the maintenance



team was able to slice nine holes of fairways and roughs in one morning with two 78-inch units.

One disadvantage of tow-type aerators is that they do not offer the deep aeration or soil fracturing that can be achieved with some of the larger PTO-driven machines. However, experience has shown that the benefits of aeration of any type typically only last four to six weeks. With the tow-behind units, some type of hole or slice can be made frequently without disrupting golf to any great extent. Furthermore, the tow-behind units are a fraction of the cost of the PTO-driven machines and are often more reliable.

For superintendents looking to conduct fairway, rough and green surround aeration on a routine basis, look to these "old-school" machines to use exclusively or supplement your aeration program. If you would like to discuss aeration methods in greater detail, reach out to your regional USGA agronomist.



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