

THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

May / June / July 2026

Northern California Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Inside This Issue

- Turf Research Update
- GCSANC USGA Conference and S&R Meeting Recaps
- GCSANC Intern Housing Assistance Program

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ON THE COVER

La Rinconada Country Club
Photo by Premier Aerials 2003

NORCALENDAR

July 27 (Monday)

2026 GCSANC Field Day

La Rinconada Country Club - Los Gatos, CA

August 31 (Monday)

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President's Message

By **TIM POWERS**, *Poplar Creek Golf Course*



Greetings from Poplar Creek Golf Course. The golf season is in full swing. I am sure most of us have finished up with the "necessary evil" known as aerification, and things are healing nicely. We knock out our greens in less than 18 hours, start to finish, so we really don't bother golfers much. We spray the week before and the week after, so things heal up in less than two weeks.

I make sure to finish the process before I volunteer at the Masters. It was my 15th time being able to join the Greatest Show on Turf, and I headed back to play it the week of May 18th. It is a ginormous perk of being there for eight days. The days are long, as you are scheduled from 5 am until about 8 pm. And they keep inviting me back. It is an excellent networking opportunity, as they have people from 23 states and 10 countries. There is a wealth of knowledge from the superintendents, professors, and USGA staff. We are also finished with spraying the whole course to clean up the weeds. It takes us six weeks to get done due to the amount of play - about 83,000 rounds. It really makes a big difference.



I spent a few days mowing fairways at Sharon Heights in Menlo Park for the LPGA Fortinet Founders Cup event. The golf course played really well for all of the talented players who were there. National Golf Day in Washington, DC, was also a very special event. Attendees get to socialize and meet with members of Congress who make decisions about laws that affect our jobs, the products we get to use, and water issues. They also do projects such as helping out at the Old Soldiers' Home Golf Course, which really appreciates the effort put out by people they don't even know.



Golf course people will always step up to help the community. I worked at the American Century Championship in South Lake Tahoe in July. It is a very different event to work as the players are not professional, but are some of the best in their chosen sport. Brad Wunderlich and his staff have done a fabulous job improving course conditions over the years. It is interesting to see how frustrated the players can get just playing golf.

At the time of this writing, we are in the middle of NBA and NHL playoffs, which is a really exciting time to be a sports fan. We hope Bay Area teams get back into the playoffs soon. The games are very intense, and fans can get really loud.

Thanks to Brett Thornsberry and the staff at CordeValle in San Martin for hosting the Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Meeting on May 12 for the third time. The course is in terrific shape, and the 100 attendees enjoyed catering by Myles and High 5 Pizza. Brian Boyer did a great job handling the raffle/auction. The association really appreciates the help from Luca and the club for welcoming us back.

Sierra Pacific Turf Supply will put on the Naumann Benevolent Fund event on September 22 at Canyon Lakes Golf Course & Brewery to raise funds to help golf staff in our area who are going through some challenging times - another good cause to support.

The Western Golf & Sports Field Summit will be October 26-28 down in Ontario, California. There will be a wide variety of seminars presented so that everyone can learn how to do our jobs better.

We continue to have good success working with the California Bluebird Recovery Program. It is rewarding to see the various bird species lay eggs and grow to live on our courses. They do a great job controlling insects. Don't forget to have your camera ready to get shots of a beautiful sunrise or wildlife enjoying the finely landscaped properties that we provide.

Have a great day. Keep it in the short grass!!

Tim Powers

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Executive Director's Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC

I know how challenging the summer months are for superintendents, so rather than wish you a “happy” or “enjoyable” summer, I will keep my sentiments realistic and hope that you are experiencing a “manageable” start to summer.

GCSANC recently rolled out an exciting new membership benefit. Oregon State University (OSU) offers an online turfgrass management program made up of seven (7) courses, including Introduction to Turfgrass Management, Introduction to Golf Course Management, Pesticide Applicator Education and Safety, Irrigation and Drainage, Cool-Season Turfgrass Diseases and Suppression Using Fungicides, Turfgrass Mathematics, and Turfgrass Insects and Weed Management.

The program is intended for individuals interested in entering the turfgrass management field or looking to advance in the field, and GCSANC has decided to allocate \$15,000 in scholarships for participants in the program. With a program cost of \$2,765 per individual, GCSANC's scholarships will cover the cost of five (5) participants.

On top of those scholarships, OSU has agreed to match the scholarships awarded by GCSANC, effectively increasing the number of scholarships available this year to 10.

We have received three (3) scholarship applications, and the application window will remain open until all 10 scholarships are awarded.

In addition to the OSU program, the Board recently approved a new policy to provide a \$500 Amazon gift card to each event host superintendent. The gesture is intended to thank host superintendents for the hard work that goes into planning and preparing the course for an event, as well as to incentivize members to host an event at their property.

The Board has also discussed increasing legacy and turf scholarship award amounts, as well as creating a benevolence funding program, and they will further explore those ideas when the 2027 association budget is created next January.

In concert with the intern housing assistance program, turf research funding, and current legacy and turf scholarships, GCSANC is expanding its robust giving programs and continues to be an innovative, forward-thinking organization that actively supports members and promotes the superintendent profession.

I look forward to seeing each of you at an event soon, and please feel free to email me with any questions or thoughts at mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com.

Marc Connerly



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From the Field

By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

I hope this message finds everyone doing well and enjoying the summer with family and friends. It was great to see many of you at the GCSANC/USGA Regional Meeting at Cinnabar Hills this spring, and I look forward to catching up with the rest of you at upcoming events.

I would like to thank all participating superintendents and golf facilities that supported this year's Rounds 4 Research Auction. It was a record-breaking year nationally, with the auction raising \$936,298 — an increase of \$182,529 over 2025. GCSANC played a significant role in that success, contributing 47 donated foursomes (total dollars still TBD) for the chapter to support research, education, and advocacy efforts.

A special thank you goes to past GCSANC President Steven Spatafore for spearheading this initiative. It truly takes a village, and we could not do it without the outstanding support of this chapter.

In other news, I wanted to provide an update on the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Small Off-Road Engine (SORE) regulations. As you are aware, CARB implemented a ban — established through California AB 1346 — on the manufacture and sale of gasoline-powered equipment rated at 25 horsepower and under, effective January 1, 2024.

While GCSAA supports the use of zero-emission equipment when practical and available, we also support our members' ability to access the equipment necessary to maintain golf courses to the standards expected by owners, customers, and members. To that end, we continue to

challenge the waiver granted to CARB by the EPA, and the case is now before the Ninth Circuit Court.

Opening briefs were heard on February 3, with the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) leading the effort alongside GCSAA and other stakeholders that rely on this equipment. The argument centers on the EPA's improper data, including retail pricing instead of manufacturer cost data, when estimating regulatory compliance costs, which industry groups believe significantly underestimates the financial impact. Industry estimates suggest compliance costs could exceed \$1 billion.

In addition, OPEI continues to raise concerns about the commercial viability of zero-emission equipment, echoing arguments previously made by GCSAA and the California Alliance for Golf (CAG) during both the AB 1346 legislative process and the CARB rulemaking proceedings.

At the time this article was written, the EPA and Department of Justice were preparing their response to the opening brief. I will continue to share updates as more information becomes available.

Thank you all for your continued support of GCSAA. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org. Have a great summer!

Jeff Jensen



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From the Capitol

By CRAIG KESSLER, Executive Director, California Alliance for Golf (CAG)

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The 2026 legislative session is shaping up to be the best one for the California golf community in a long time. Some of the types of problematic issues we have had to deal with in the recent past – e.g., independent contracting, neonicotinoids, glyphosate, bans on non-organics in the Coastal Zone, and onerous workplace regulations of various kinds – didn’t come across our bows this year. We even saw some movement toward pre-empting local governments’ ability to ban the use of Small Off-Road Engine (SORE); current legislation merely bans its sale.

This article is being penned a few days after the Appropriations processes in both legislative houses have been completed – a process that determines which bills die and which bills move to their respective floors for vote. While there are always a few bills that get to this point and fail to secure the votes required in each house to move to the other house, most that are alive as of this penning are going to meet their required thresholds to keep moving.

As for the three (3) bills CAG has been most interested in, and in each case for a different reason, the news couldn’t be better.

The bill we are sponsoring in this session, AB 1954 (Ward; D-San Diego), a bill that would make it an unlawful business practice to broker municipal tee times without a written agreement from the owner or operator of a publicly-owned golf course (roughly a quarter of those in the state), passed out of Appropriations per a unanimous vote that makes it a

candidate for passing out of the Assembly on consent. Before it either goes on consent or to a floor vote, we have worked with author Chris Ward to make one small amendment.

The bill we viscerally opposed in this session, SB 1197 (Niello; R-Roseville), a bill that would eliminate Daylight Saving Time in favor of permanent Standard Time, is now dead. The same happened last year. Given just how critical this year’s staff analysis of the bill was, we will be curious to see whether the sponsors of the bill make another run in 2027. My guess is yes. While their cause is woefully unpopular and there is as much, if not more, science on the subject that supports a preference for permanent Daylight Saving Time, they are true believers in their cause.

A bill we stayed off of but were viscerally interested in was AB 1603 (Schulz; D-Burbank), a bill that would, commencing 2030, prohibit a person from using a pesticide that contains, and a person or entity from manufacturing, selling, delivering, holding, or offering for sale in commerce any pesticide that contains, any of the specified Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are intentionally added as active or inert ingredients, and, commencing 2035, prohibit those actions for pesticides that contain PFAS that are intentionally added as active or inert ingredients. Violations of AB 1603’s proscriptions would be crimes, not just civil violations. We stayed off the bill because of intelligence that informed us that the bill would be restricted to agriculture, as the

whole PFAS movement is aimed mostly at the way in which these “forever chemicals” end up in the food we consume. That proved to be correct. AB 1603 passed out of Appropriations with a number of amendments, among them this restriction to agriculture. Notwithstanding this restriction, golf will continue to track the whole PFAS saga, as we are only at the dawn of it. Anything called a “forever chemical” is something that is going to continue to be scrutinized in all of its uses, and by the very definition of the problem – a “forever chemical” – the defense users of chemicals have so often successfully invoked to limit their regulation – that “residue does not in and of itself constitute risk” – strains credulity.

All in all, not bad. The bill we sponsored is moving to the floor of its house of origin on consent. The bill we opposed is dead. And the bill we watched in eager anticipation to see whether our judgment about its restrictions not applying to golf was accurate, turned out to be spot on. If the rest of the session yields the same in the Senate for AB 1954 and then Governor Newsom’s signature thereafter, the California golf community will have done something that we don’t think any other state golf alliance has done – sponsor a bill into law and make clear that advocacy is not just about swatting down bad ideas, bills, and regulations; it’s also about proactively using the organs of government to solve problems.

.....

No report about the intersections of golf and public policy would be complete without at least noting that, notwithstanding all the good news wafting out of Sacramento this spring, there still remain plenty of storm clouds on golf’s immediate horizon. Tax issues in Los Angeles that, if not brought under control, promise to blow up in other California cities. A hollowed-out Colorado Basin that is more likely to result in lawsuits among the seven states of the Colorado Compact than a new agreement that equitably divvies up the pain and restores a semblance of stability to the 40 million Southwesterners whose lives and fortunes (including golf courses) are dependent upon it. A continuing onslaught of challenges to golf’s encumbrance of the vast acreage it requires in urban California – an onslaught much more from business communities than environmentalists. And let’s not forget the reality that the costs of doing golf business in California continue to rise much faster than the CPI. When the economy dips, as it always does at some point, golf’s great post-COVID run could come to a screeching halt.

The good news in all this bad news? Surely, if slowly, the game is getting better and better at advocating for its interests in all those places where golf and public policy intersect in California. And keep in mind that’s a lot of places!

Craig

Continued on page 13

Spreading the Word About Golf Course Maintenance as a Profession

April 25th Youth Job Fair in Sacramento region offers glimpse of industry to job seekers

Despite today’s job-seeking and recruitment landscape, in which much of the hiring process is conducted online, job fairs remain a productive way for employers to network, attract qualified candidates, and market their business. For the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC), job fairs are a great opportunity to market specific positions available at member establishments as well as promote golf course maintenance as a viable career path.

GCSANC staff participated in a recent job fair opportunity - the Youth Job Fair hosted on April 25 by California Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen, District 10 – to share a brief presentation highlighting the benefits of the profession, provide handouts, and guide interested individuals on next steps and where to find job opportunities.

During the two-hour event in Elk Grove (Sacramento County), staff provided young adults ages 16–23 with insight into the many career pathways and opportunities available to them. Throughout the event, generally attended by more than 200 participants, there was consistent interest at the GCSANC table, and many attendees were eager to learn more, allowing staff to direct them to additional resources and information online.

“Attendance at job fairs is just one more tool in the toolbox for promoting the golf course maintenance career path. We will continue to seek these opportunities throughout the year and throughout the state to open the minds of prospective employees to this as a viable career.”

Marc Connerly,
Executive Director



“It was truly inspiring to see the enthusiasm and excitement these young adults have for their futures.”

Lizeth Rocha,
GCSANC Membership Assistant



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Quick Tips for Staying Productive This Season

As schedules fill up and priorities compete for attention, staying productive doesn’t have to mean working longer hours—it means working smarter. Here are a few simple strategies you can put into action right away:

1. Start with your top three priorities

Instead of overwhelming yourself with a long to-do list, identify the three most important tasks you want to accomplish each day. Focus on completing those first before moving on to anything else.

2. Block your time

Set aside dedicated chunks of time for specific tasks. Even 30 to 60-minute blocks can help you stay focused and reduce distractions.

3. Take short breaks

Stepping away for a few minutes between tasks can actually boost your energy and improve concentration. A quick walk or stretch goes a long way.
4. Limit distractions

Silence notifications, close unnecessary tabs, and create a workspace that supports focus—even if it’s just for a short period each day.

5. Celebrate small wins

Progress builds momentum. Recognizing what you’ve accomplished—even small tasks—helps keep motivation high.
- By making a few small adjustments, you can create a more productive, balanced workflow that supports both your professional and personal goals.

Tartan Corner

By HUNKI YUN, Executive Director, American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA)



Here is a fact that still amazes me every time I come across it. I've even checked the sources repeatedly to make sure it's not wrong—because it certainly doesn't sound like it could be remotely true.

The fact is this: In total numbers (not as a percentage), there are currently fewer private golf courses in the United States than there were at the start of the Great Depression, 97 years ago. In 1929, there were more than 5,000 private courses in the country. Currently, about 4,000 of the nearly 16,000 courses in the U.S. are private.

Which means that pretty much all the growth in the supply of golf courses over the past 100 years has been among public facilities. Starting in the second half of the 20th century, a plentiful supply of accessible courses with low fees located in population centers provided pathways for millions of golfers who love the game, fueling a growth of the game—the latest wave of which we are enjoying today.

However, there are signs that this model is under threat, as external pressures—overall economy, population growth, housing shortages, environmental factors, access to resources, perception of golf—have contributed to a net decrease of more than 1,000 courses since 2008.

This trend is most acute in densely-populated areas—such as California—where all these factors contribute to the decreasing supply. The end result is that there are fewer opportunities for new golfers to start playing this lifetime game.

While I grew up on the East Coast, my story is not different from a lot of lifelong golfers. As a teenager, my first rounds were at a nine-hole executive muni on Long Island. Looking back, the first hole was an

abysmal design, a double-dogleg par 4 of 260 yards. But I knew nothing about design, nor did I care. All I wanted to do was hit the ball, find it, and hit it again. The course was far from a masterpiece, but it was enough to make me fall in love with golf.

While public courses all over the state and across the country face existential threats, ASGCA members want to work with owners, municipalities and residents to retain courses and spaces that remain accessible and provide enjoyable experiences for all residents who want to play the game. The courses don't need to be of championship caliber or even have 18 holes. They just need to provide a canvas for anyone to hit the ball, find it, and hit it again.

Thankfully, there are examples around the state that demonstrate this simple concept. In Sacramento, Damain Pascuzzo shored up the bank of the American River with the reimagined Campus Commons, which is as fun to play as it is sustainable and a benefit to the local ecosystem.

In San Luis Obispo, Andy Staples transformed water-challenged Dairy Creek from an 18-hole layout into a gathering place for residents with a nine-hole course, Toptracer range and spaces for non-golf programming for residents.

And in Los Angeles, Gil Hanse transformed Maggie Hathaway into an urban oasis where a round costs roughly the same as a fancy coffee beverage.

Hopefully, the success of these stories encourages others to look for creative ways to preserve affordable, accessible golf experiences that will determine the future health of the game. At these courses, you'll find beginning golfers who will be enjoying the game for decades to come. We want to make sure these spaces still exist 50 years from now.

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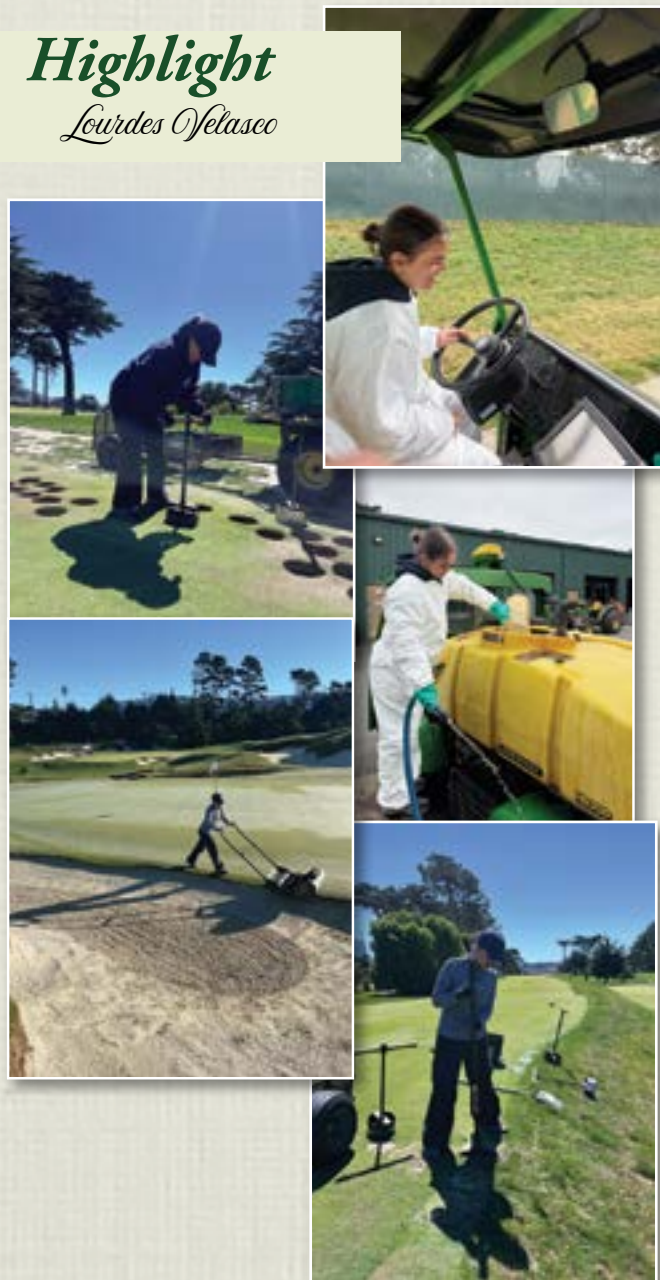


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My Experience as an Intern at Lake Merced Golf Club

On March 31st, I took a flight from Michigan, where I study Turfgrass Management, to San Francisco for the first time in my life. It was also my first time visiting California. Leaving school to head across the country was intimidating, but I knew this challenge would be a great opportunity for me to grow both personally and professionally.

Highlight *Lourdes Velasco*



On April 1st, I officially started my internship at Lake Merced Golf Club. From the very first day, I realized how special this opportunity was going to be. The standards here are set high, which is exactly the kind of environment that motivates me to work harder, stay focused, and keep improving every day. The maintenance crew was incredibly welcoming, and within just a few days I already felt like part of the team.

During my internship, I have been able to apply many of the concepts I learned at school, allowing me to experience the real responsibilities involved in maintaining a high-quality golf course. So far, some of my daily tasks have included changing cups, cutting bunker edges, mowing greens, installing plugs on a tee that needed repair, hand watering, course set up and sprayed. Also, I had the opportunity to attend a GCSAA Northern California meeting at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club in San Jose. It was a great opportunity to meet people in the industry, network, and discuss the latest trends in turf management. Experiences like this help me better understand the professional side of the industry and build connections for my future career.

One of the most valuable parts of being here is working under professionals who are genuinely passionate about what they do. This experience is not only teaching me how to manage and maintain a golf course, but also how to communicate effectively, lead and work with a crew made up of people from different backgrounds and countries, and set a good example.

Living in San Francisco has also been an important personal experience for me. I strongly believe feeling good personally and enjoying your free time are key to perform at your best professionally. The city offers countless opportunities and new experiences, which has made adapting to life here even more enjoyable, it's starting to feel like a home away from home.

Overall, I couldn't have asked for a better internship experience so far. This internship is giving me knowledge and hands-on experience, but also confidence in myself. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and excited to continue learning and developing my career in turfgrass management.

Lourdes Velasco

Continued on page 21



Highlight *Jaime Canal Campos*



My Internship Experience in Northern California

When I decided to come to the United States from Spain, I expected to learn a lot about golf course maintenance. What I did not expect was how welcoming everyone would be. Since arriving in Northern California and working at Cypress Point Club, I have met people who have gone out of their way to help me, teach me, and make me feel at home. The crew I work with has been fantastic. From day one, they treated me as part of the team and have always been willing to explain not only what we do, but also why we do it.

One of the things I enjoy most about this internship is that I have been involved in every part of the operation. Some days, that means doing the routine work that keeps the golf course in great condition, and other days it means taking on projects with much more responsibility. The biggest example of that is a nursery of annual bluegrass plugs and bentgrass seedlings that will eventually be used on the golf course. I am responsible for many of the decisions there, including mowing frequency, rolling, irrigation, and spray applications. It has been a great learning experience and has given me a much better understanding of what it takes to successfully manage a grow-in.

I have also been very fortunate to learn from Brian Palmer, Mike Worsfold, and Kevin Marsh. They all have different backgrounds and experiences, which means there is always something new to learn from each of them. Being able to work alongside people with that level of knowledge has been one of the most valuable parts of my internship.

Another thing that has surprised me is the network of interns in Northern California. There are interns everywhere, and everyone seems willing to help each other. Through meetings, visits, and events, I have met people from all over the country and built friendships that I am sure will last long after this internship ends.

Overall, this experience has confirmed that coming to Northern California was the right decision. I have learned a tremendous amount, met great people, and grown both professionally and personally. I am very grateful to the GCSANC for supporting interns like me and helping make these opportunities possible.

Jaime Canal Campos

What is the GCSANC Intern Housing Assistance Program?

One of the ways that GCSANC helps promote the turf profession and augment the number of qualified candidates in the industry is through the Intern Housing Assistance Program. GCSANC offers rental housing assistance of up to \$1,000 per month for up to four months to interns working at GCSANC member courses (pending fund availability).

As part of their internship, recipients provide: photos of themselves and the work they are doing on the golf course, and

an article about their internship experience for the GCSANC magazine and/or website. If possible, they also attend at least one GCSANC event during the internship period.

This valuable opportunity helps offset internship living expenses while the intern also becomes more connected to the association.

We hope you enjoy hearing how current and past interns have benefitted from the housing assistance and work experience.

Where Are They Now?

Update from a Former GCSANC Intern

Ridge Gerstberger's Internship Experience at Martis Camp

I'm currently working at Pine Canyon Club as an Assistant Superintendent, where I have been for two years now. My current goals include, but aren't limited to, expanding on my experience within the industry. That means gaining more knowledge around managing, planning, and day-to-day operations around the golf course. I've made excellent strides so far and plan on continuing that here or wherever the industry takes me!

Some of the key aspects of my internship at Martis Camp were the staff and the level at which they operated. My superintendent (Jonathan Moulton) would always give me tidbits of advice that really stuck with me, such as "the devil's in the details," suggesting that I shouldn't glance over the small, overlooked details. Throughout my career, I've always tried expanding on that skill.

Another aspect I truly loved was the climate there. Pine Canyon has a similar mountain climate, right around 6000 feet above sea level. The towering pines, the wildlife, and especially the ability to create a quality product for golfers of all skill levels to enjoy.

The rental assistance program assisted me immensely. Some of these internships are in expensive rental markets. This program encouraged and allowed me to afford a place where I could streamline my career. Without it, I would have been more hesitant to make it work.

Ridge Gerstberger



Jonathan Moulton, Golf Course Superintendent at Martis Camp Golf Club, had this to say about Ridge...

"We had a nursery grow-in with Jim Baird, and Ridge was making it look nice. He was in charge of finishing it up. He asked me, 'How often should I mow this... what do I do?' I told him to look into it, try some stuff, and figure it out. Ridge would take a mower and tools out with him during his initial assignment and get it done. He figured out mowing frequency and heights. I was really proud of him."

"Ridge has a great work ethic and is the poster child for the intern housing assistance program. Without the support of the scholarship, he would never have been able to come out to California. He found out you can live here, make a living, and work at some great clubs."

Continued

The Value of Turf Professional Internships

GCSANC sat down with Jon Moulton, Golf Course Superintendent at Martis Camp, to talk about internships and the GCSANC intern housing assistance program.

Martis Camp has employed interns since before Jon began work there in 2010. Due to the time and resource commitment required for hiring and supervising interns, however, internships have been intermittent. But, when the bandwidth is available, internships can be tremendously valuable – providing a more experienced applicant pool for assistant superintendent positions. Jon pointed out that, "What Martis Camp does really well is exposing interns to all aspects of the job. It gives great opportunities for people to find out what they want to do for the next 40 years and where they want to do it."

While interns gain essential skills and knowledge working on a course, one significant possible outcome of an internship is recognizing that golf course maintenance or the specific region is not what the candidate wants. "Sometimes the intern decides from the internship that this field isn't for them or that they don't want to live in California. And that's a good thing."

Reflecting on his own internship, Jon recognized that "geography is important." Originally from Maine, Jon interviewed for a club internship on Long Island; while the job would have been amazing, he realized he wouldn't have been comfortable in that environment. "For people coming to the Bay Area or Monterey, it can be a big culture shock."

The internships, and GCSANC housing assistance that often make the internships possible, "...give the individual a chance to 'dip their toe' into the field and realize what the day-to-day job would be like, and give the golf course a chance to encounter that person on a trial basis, as well as help increase the chances that people entering the field will enjoy the career path and flourish."

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Exploring Newer Options for Annual Bluegrass Control in Perennial Ryegrass Turf

Jim Baird, Professor and Turfgrass Specialist - University of California, Riverside



The University of California, Riverside (UCR) Turfgrass program has devoted a lot of time towards the development of methiozolin (PoaCure) and cumyluron herbicides for selective control of annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) in creeping bentgrass putting greens. Suffice it to say that we’ve conducted more field research (mostly on golf courses) with these herbicides than any other researchers or institutions. While PoaCure is now registered in most U.S. states, including California, federal registration of cumyluron is expected in 2027, and state registration will follow soon thereafter in most states besides California, where registration typically takes longer. Although the major focus of these newer herbicides has been on putting greens, we have also studied their use on taller-cut turf. Both PoaCure and cumyluron are root active herbicides; thus, irrigation after application is very important, and having more foliage and organic matter (i.e., thatch) often presents a more arduous pathway for both active ingredients to reach the underlying roots. For better or worse, currently the best way that we have found to circumvent this issue and achieve desired Poa control is by increasing herbicide application rates.

Recently, we sought to explore the use of PoaCure and cumyluron for annual bluegrass control in bermudagrass turf overseeded with perennial ryegrass, a common scenario for most golf courses in the Coachella Valley and other desert climates, as well as select facilities across the state and region. Although this scenario doesn’t apply to most Northern California golf courses, many courses do manage ryegrass outside of putting greens and, thus, our findings are very pertinent there, especially when it comes to timing of herbicide applications relative to ryegrass

seeding. PoaCure and cumyluron have both pre- (PRE) and postemergence (POST) activity on annual bluegrass, and the same holds true for newly established and mature stands of desirable species like bentgrass and ryegrass. PoaCure has stronger POST relative to PRE activity and vice-versa for cumyluron. Preliminary studies involving ryegrass establishment confirmed these observations in that PoaCure was safer when applied before ryegrass seeding, whereas cumyluron was safer when applied after germination.

THE LATEST RESEARCH

In fall 2025, we initiated a study at UCR to determine the safest application timing of PoaCure and cumyluron herbicides relative to seeding perennial ryegrass. Study parameters and specific treatments are provided in Materials & Methods below. Prior to overseeding on November 17, we applied various herbicides and PGRs to suppress bermudagrass growth and allow better establishment of ryegrass. In addition, mild winter temperatures and a cultivar like UCR 17-8 with improved winter color retention made it more difficult to differentiate between relative ryegrass and bermudagrass cover in plots, so we reapplied Turflon Ester Ultra in January 2026 to suppress (discolor) bermudagrass. Treatments focused on PoaCure applications prior to overseeding and cumyluron applications after overseeding based on previous research. In addition, we included Barricade 4FL as a standard according to label recommendations for use during overseeding ryegrass. [SLIDE 1]

Materials & Methods

Study Info

- UC Riverside, Hanford fine sandy loam
- Hybrid bermudagrass ('Presidio' aka UCR 17-8)
- Mowed 0.5 in. 3 times/week
- 11/7/25: Turflon Ester Ultra 16 fl oz/A + Reward 32 fl oz/A + NIS (0.25%)
- 11/17/25: Sealing: Primo Maxx 0.5 oz /1000 ft²; MatchPlay Tri-Tarum perennial ryegrass blend 800 lb/A
- 0.5 lb N/1000 ft² (12/3/25; 12/16/25; 12/29/25; 1/13/26)
- 1/14/26: Turflon Ester Ultra 32 fl oz/A + NIS (0.25%)

Treatment Application

- CO₂ backpack sprayer, 4-ft boom, TeeJet 8003VS, 2 gal/1000 ft²
- Irrigation 0.1-0.2 inches after application
- Experimental Design
 - Randomized complete block
 - 4 reps, 4 = 6 ft plots
 - Visual ratings: poa cover (0-100%); ryegrass cover (0-5); turf (stand) quality (1-9)

No.	Herbicide	Rate	Timing DBS/DAS
1.	Control		
2.	Barricade 4FL	12 oz/A	42 DBS; 28 DAS
3.	PoaCure	1.2 oz/M	42 DBS
4.	PoaCure	2.4 oz/M	42 DBS
5.	PoaCure	1.2 oz/M	28 DBS
6.	PoaCure	2.4 oz/M	28 DBS
7.	PoaCure	1.2 oz/M	28 DAS
8.	PoaCure	2.4 oz/M	28 DAS
9.	PoaCure	1.2 oz/M	42 DAS
10.	PoaCure	2.4 oz/M	42 DAS
11.	PoaCure	0.6 oz/M	42, 28, 14 DBS
12.	PoaCure	0.6 oz/M	14, 28, 42 DAS
13.	PoaCure	0.6 oz/M	42, 28, 14 DBS; 14, 28, 42 DAS
14.	Cumyluron	3.0 oz/M	0 DAS
15.	Cumyluron	6.0 oz/M	0 DAS
16.	Cumyluron	3.0 oz/M	14 DAS
17.	Cumyluron	6.0 oz/M	14 DAS
18.	Cumyluron	3.0 oz/M	28 DAS
19.	Cumyluron	6.0 oz/M	28 DAS
20.	Cumyluron	3.0 oz/M	0, 14, 28 DAS
21.	Cumyluron	3.0 oz/M	14, 28, 42 DAS

DBS = Days Before Overseeding
DAS = Days After Overseeding

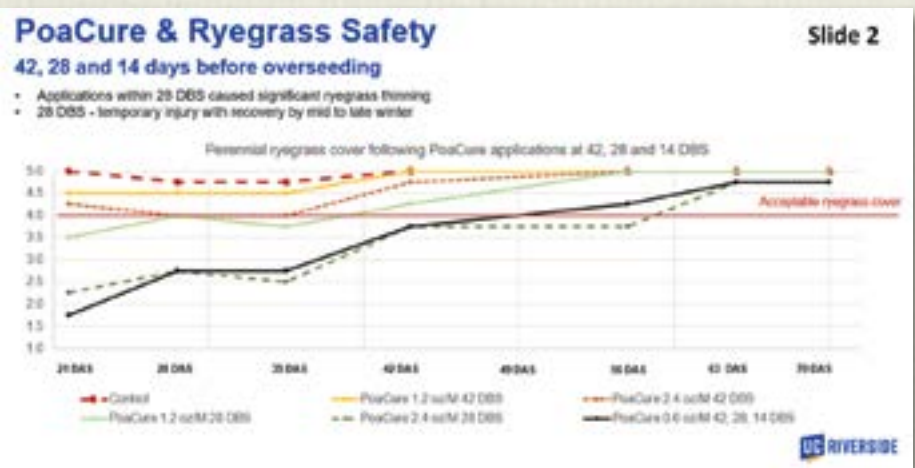
Overseeding November 17

42 DBS = October 5
28 DBS = October 19
14 DBS = November 2
0 DAS = November 16
14 DAS = November 30
28 DAS = December 15
42 DAS = December 29

Continued on page 25

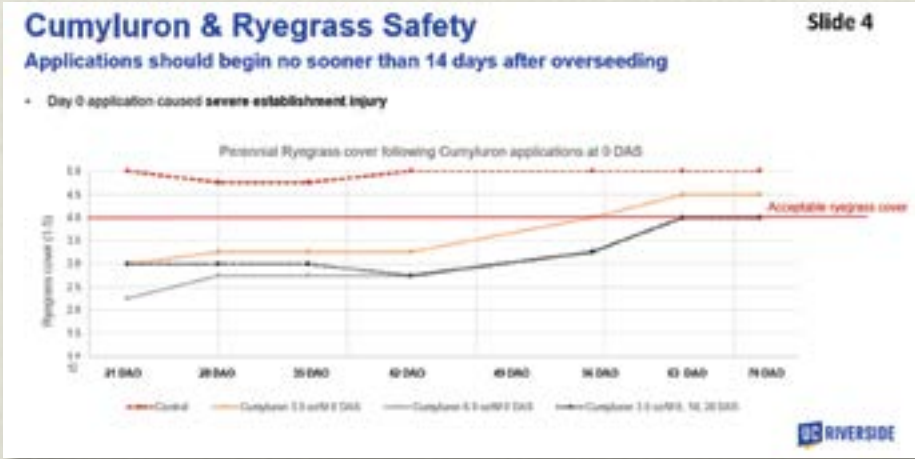
POACURE AND RYEGRASS OVERSEEDING

Our research showed that PoaCure can be used safely 42 days (6 weeks) prior to seeding at herbicide rates of either 1.2 or 2.4 oz/1,000 ft². PoaCure application at 28 days (4 weeks) prior to seeding was safest at the lower rate (1.2 oz/1,000 ft²). Applications made less than 28 days before overseeding and up to 42 days after seeding were very injurious to ryegrass and are not recommended. Previous UCR research showed that you should wait until 84 days (12 weeks) after seeding to safely apply PoaCure on young ryegrass. Other researchers have determined that at least nine weeks are necessary in between ryegrass seeding and PoaCure application, so the decision to apply closer to 9 or 12 weeks should be based on herbicide application rate and ryegrass health (i.e., root vigor). [SLIDES 2-3]



CUMYLURON AND RYEGRASS OVERSEEDING

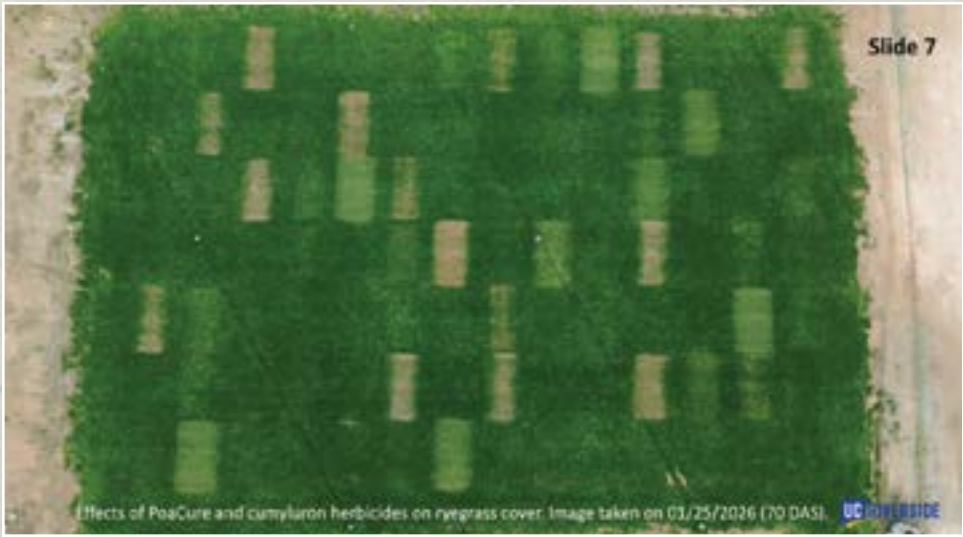
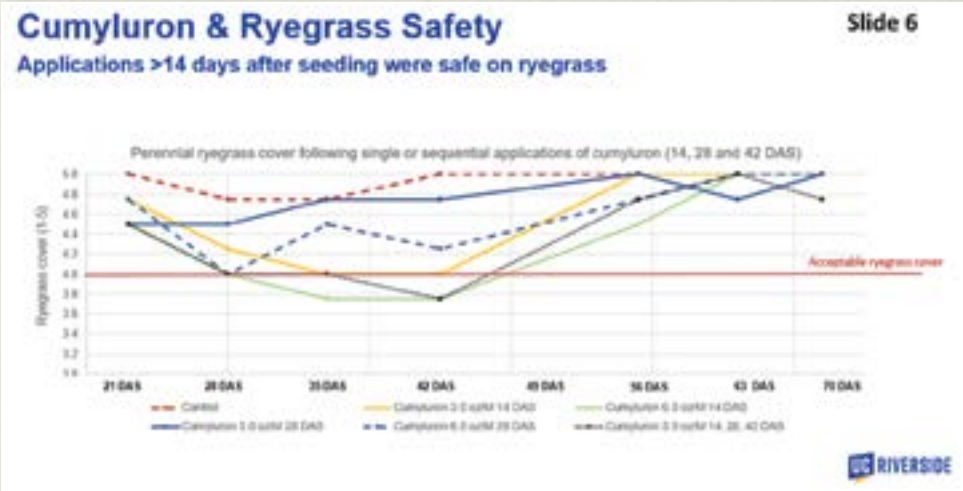
Previous UCR research demonstrated that cumyluron is most injurious to ryegrass when applied before seeding. In this study, application at the same time of seeding was equally injurious and not recommended. However, cumyluron applications made at 14 days (2 weeks) after seeding or later had minimal to no effect on ryegrass cover. [SLIDES 4-6]



Continued on page 26

HERBICIDE EFFECTS ON ANNUAL BLUEGRASS CONTROL

Annual bluegrass was sporadic and not uniform across the study area, so it was difficult to determine efficacy of the various herbicide treatments. In general, one application of PoaCure made four to six weeks prior to seeding was not sufficient to provide desirable Poa control, especially when compared to a single application of Barricade. Sequential POST applications of PoaCure at >9-12 weeks after seeding would likely be needed to achieve desirable control. Likewise, sequential applications of cumyluron >two weeks after seeding would be needed for Poa control success.



CONCLUSIONS

This research identified the safest application windows for PoaCure and cumyluron herbicides in reference to ryegrass seeding. PoaCure should be applied no closer than 4 weeks before or 9-12 weeks after seeding. Cumyluron is best applied at two weeks or later after seeding. Sequential applications and higher herbicide rates will most likely be needed to achieve optimal annual bluegrass control in taller cut turf. [SLIDE 7]

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Photo Recap

At this year's GCSANC USGA Regional Conference, nearly 60 participants enjoyed a morning of research from the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science and University of California, Riverside; a presentation from Pebble Beach Golf Links; and updates from the USGA, followed by lunch and optional golf at the outstanding Cinnabar Hills Golf Club.



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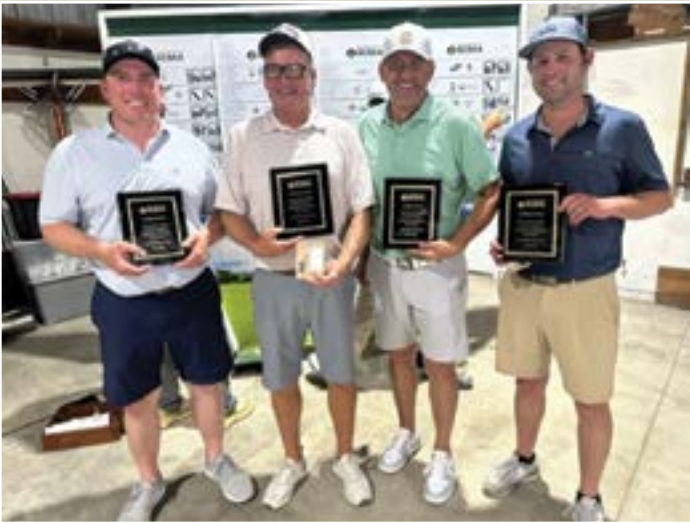
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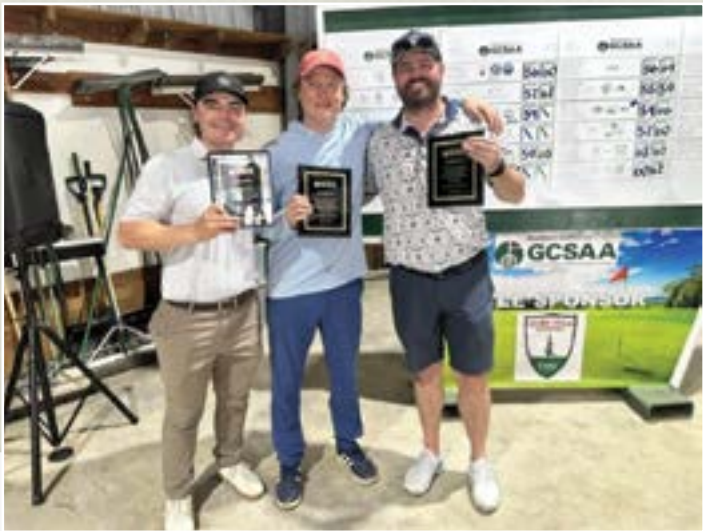
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Naumann's NorCal News

Don Naumann is President of Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, Superintendent of Blackberry Farm Golf Course, and Owner of Canyon Lakes Golf Course and Brewery. We appreciate Don keeping us updated on turf professional staffing changes throughout California.

Chad Twaddle has left *Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club* to become the new Superintendent at *Montecito Club* in the Santa Barbara area.



Montecito Club



Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club

David Walter has left *Silverado Resort* in Napa to go to *Belfair Club* in Bluffton, South Carolina. His replacement has yet to be named.



Silverado Resort

Former GCSAA National President **Rafael Barajas** is serving as interim Superintendent at *Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club* until a new superintendent is hired.

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