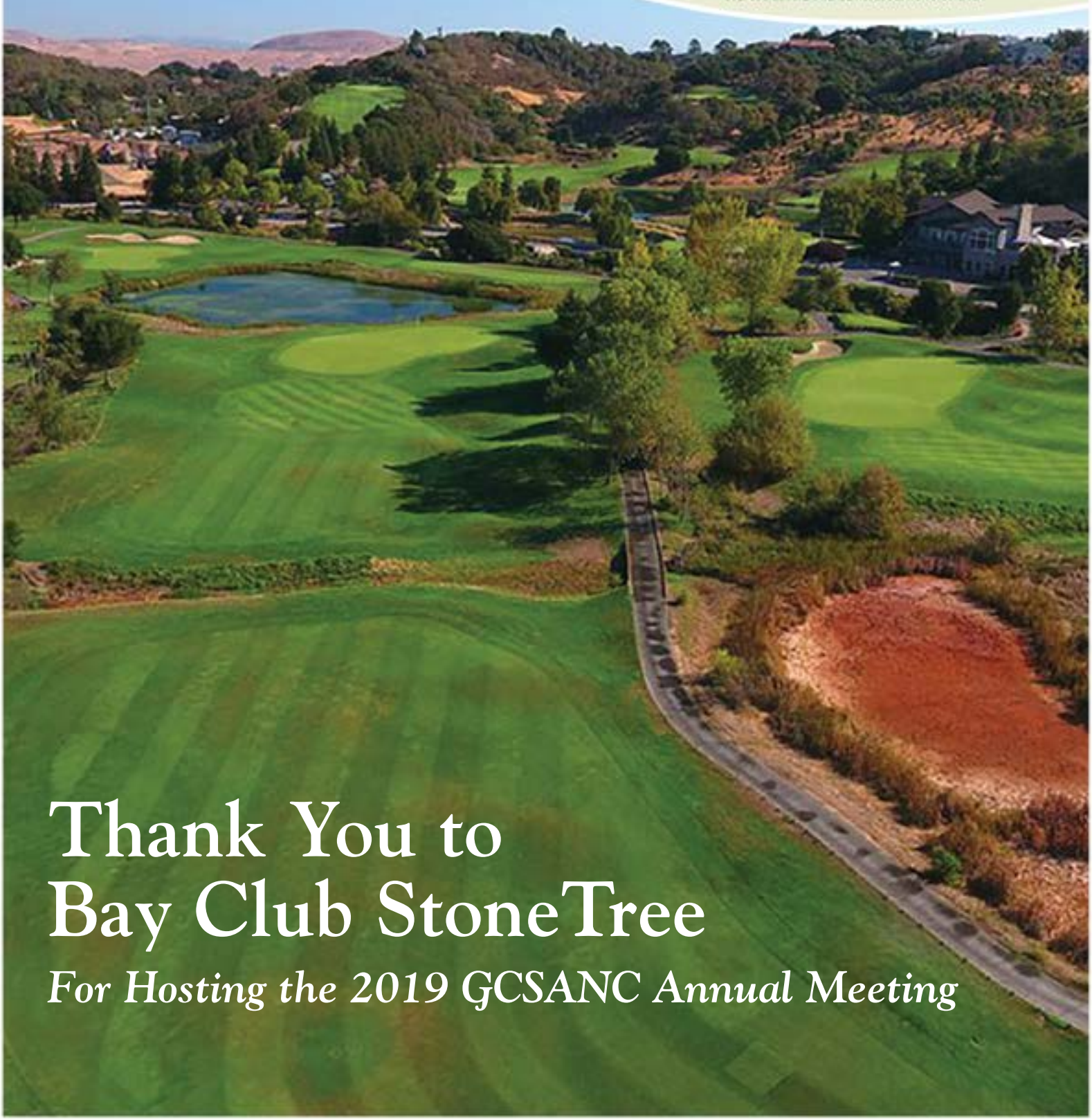
THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

January / February 2019

Northern California Chapter GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Thank You to Bay Club StoneTree

For Hosting the 2019 GCSANC Annual Meeting

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Photos by Pete Galea, CGCS

Bay Club StoneTree host to the 2019 GCSANC Annual Meeting

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Thru The Green published bimonthly by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California.

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President's Message

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

If you blinked, January and February came and went. During that whirl wind, the 2019 Board met for the first time at Tehama Golf Club. We welcomed our newest Board members, Thomas Slevin from Napa Golf Course and Coby Byers with Turfstar; two great additions to what is already a tremendous Board.

From there, it was down to the business of 2019. The direction we go is always guided by the mission, and that is, "The GCSA of Northern California is dedicated to serving its members through promotion and advancement of our profession." The first item discussed was the Employment Training Panel, and the Board gave Connerly and Associates approval to advance the conversation with a consultant who specializes in receiving these types of grants. The thought, if approved, is to use the grant money for an AIT (Assistant In Training) type of program to help develop Assistant Superintendents in the area. It will be interesting to see how it develops.

Another big item for discussion was turf research. In the summer of 2018, the Board sent out a research survey, and those results are what help guide us in our decisions. We continue to support UC Riverside through the California Turf and Landscape Foundation (CTLF), and we will also look at other opportunities that match membership needs. An example of a research project that we help fund is the GreenKeeper App, which was developed by Dr. Kreuser at the University of Nebraska.

This year brings a lot of exciting opportunities with the collection of Superintendents and Affiliate members assembled. As always, we appreciate your membership and we look forward to seeing you at the many events we have planned in 2019. Please watch the GCSANC website (www.gcsanc.com), our Twitter feed and your email for planned event details.

Brian Boyer

GCSANC

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, 2215 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95818.

Editor's Note

By **STACY WALLACE,** *GCSANC Past President, StoneTree Golf Club*

As we begin a new season of Thru The Green, we would like to expand the information it provides to our membership. Beginning with our next issue, we will add an Affiliate profile along with the Assistant profile we are currently doing. I will also be searching for research articles that are relevant to our membership to help them with their programs.

Additionally, I would like to remind everyone interested in helping with our Rounds 4 Research program that now is the time to discuss with your team about donating. The sign up is open and can be completed at https://www.eifg.org/research/rounds-4-research/donate-a-round/online-form. The GCSANC Board can then decide how best to spend the funds in the areas of research, education or advocacy efforts. Our chapter raised nearly $5,000 in 2018, with a goal of doubling that to $10,000 in 2019. 80 percent of the auctioned funds goes to our chapter for use in research. Hopefully you can help us grow this program, and please remember, you can put any restrictions you desire to facilitate the use of your club without interfering with your membership.

I would like to welcome article ideas from our membership, including projects your facility is implementing, or anything else you may believe is newsworthy or of interest to our membership. You can send them to stacy.wallace@bayclubs.com.

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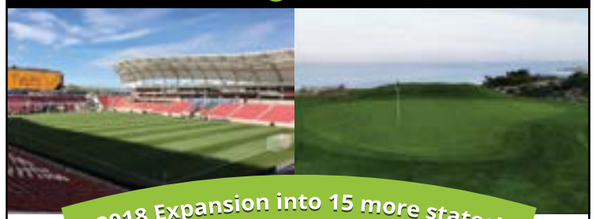

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Executive Director's Report

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

Welcome to the first issue of Thru The Green of 2019. I'd like to give you a preview of what the year has in store for GCSANC and our members.

For starters, the Budget Committee met in January and committed to donate $30,000 to turf research this year. The organization has traditionally donated $10,000, but the Committee looked at the organization's reserves and determined that we could afford to make a more sizeable donation, so the result is the largest research donation in my time with the association, and quite likely the largest annual research commitment in the history of GCSANC.

Next, as President Brian Boyer noted in his President's Message, the Board is committed to cultivating resources to aid in the development of Assistant Superintendents. We have started the process of applying to the state for grant money under the Employment Training Panel (ETP) program, which can be utilized to provide the skills necessary to move up from a lower paying position to that of Assistant Superintendent. The process of applying for and receiving money could take anywhere from six to twelve months, so there is a good possibility that the program will not be formally kicked off until next year, but we are optimistic that this could be the start of something valuable for our members and the industry, which is desperately in need of qualified Assistants.

Members should also expect to see a salary and benefits survey later in the year, and this year's survey will include maintenance and capital expenditures budgets.

Finally, the Board has decided to make a change in the scheduling of annual events. The next Annual Meeting, to be held at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, will be held in November (rather than next January), and our Institute and Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp, the association's premier educational events typically held in the fall, will be moved to January. Exact dates for all of these events are yet to be announced.

The rationale behind the changes is that we want as many people as possible to attend our educational events, and January tends to be a month when more people can break away from their facilities. While the Annual Meeting is important, with the election and awards presentations, it does not offer the content or educational value that the Institute and Boot Camp offer, so we hope that the net result is a positive one for our members.

I hope to see you at an event soon, and please know that the GCSANC staff is always here to help if you have a question or request. Please do not hesitate to email me at mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com or call my cell at (916) 214-6495, and I will make sure that your request is handled promptly.

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1/8 Page: $25 / Issue 1/2 Page: $100 / Issue
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Rounds 4 Research FAQ Sheet

Auction dates: April 29 - May 5, 2019

Presented in partnership with The Toro Company.

The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of GCSAA.

What is the Environmental Institute for Golf and why is it helping GCSAA Chapters raise money?

We know that industries do not survive if resources are not invested to support innovation and react to changes in the climate in which they operate. Where would the golf industry be had it not invested in agronomic research over the years? There is no doubt the playing conditions would not be as enjoyable for golfers, environmental stewardship would suffer and operations would lack the efficiency to ensure facility profitability.

That is why GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf, is excited to continue offering the Rounds 4 Research program as a means for GCSAA Chapters to generate the funds that will help to ensure the golf industry remains strong and viable. Rounds 4 Research is available to not only GCSAA chapters, but also to turfgrass organizations to use as a platform for revenue generation through the online auction of rounds of golf.

Funds raised can be used to further efforts in the areas of research, advocacy, and education. Golfers and golf facilities are the ultimate beneficiaries of funds raised. R4R is a great way to unite our efforts to positively impact efforts at the national level, as well as at the regional and local level for golf facilities and GCSAA members.

What is Rounds 4 Research?

Rounds 4 Research helps you raise funds by auctioning donated rounds of golf through an online bidding forum. The program works in four easy steps:

1. Courses donate rounds* for auction. The course determines the restrictions.
2. The course/GCSAA member designates which chapter/organization they would like to designate the proceeds.
3. GCSAA and its local chapters encourage golfers to bid on the rounds.
4. Proceeds raised from the auction are used to fund turfgrass research, education programs and advocacy efforts as deemed a priority for the organization receiving the funding.

*A round of golf is defined as a tee time with green fee for two or four players. Member-only clubs are encouraged to donate a threesome to play with a current member. Golf facilities that are unable to donate rounds of golf are encouraged to make a financial donation to benefit R4R efforts.

Why should GCSAA Chapters participate in R4R?

The EIFG is committed to your success in R4R and will provide national administrative and communications support, as well as tools and resources to support the efforts of the participating organizations. Highlights of these efforts include:

- Maintaining the Rounds 4 Research website, which will serve as the central source for news and information about the program.
- Working at the national level with allied golf organizations to promote and market the program.
- Implementing a communications and marketing plan to promote the program to members, golfers and the media.
- Providing participating organizations with a communications kit that includes advertisements and materials to support the donation process.
- Providing donating facilities with materials that will help them market their participation to golfers.

The EIFG will also:

- Manage the donated rounds, as well as maintain the auction platform.
- Notify winning bidders, collect revenues, and process the donated items sold, including certificates and thank you letters (including required tax notifications).
- Process the revenues generated from the auction and distribute the funding earmarked for participating organizations.

How does a golf facility donate?

The process to donate a round is simple. All previous donating facilities will automatically receive a letter and pre-populated form to approve and send in their donation. New facilities can simply fill out an online or paper donor form and send to the EIFG. We will take care of the rest. We can even create the winner's certificate for you! The EIFG will keep each participating organization up-to-date on donations that have been received on a monthly basis.

When is the auction and how do bidders participate?

The 2019 R4R auction will be held online from April 29 to May 5 on BiddingforGood.com. All packages donated, along with all relevant restrictions, will be available on this site for the public to view and place bids.

How the proceeds will be distributed?

Each participating organization will receive 80 percent of the proceeds (amount of sale per round, excluding any fees or surcharges) from each donation that has been designated for your organization. The EIFG retains 20 percent, plus any fees and surcharges collected, to offset programmatic costs, including expenses related to the auction platform, advertising and marketing costs, administrative overhead, and other fees associated with managing the program on a national scale.

From the Field

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

The 2019 Rounds 4 Research auction has been set for April 29 – May 5. The auction raises funds for turfgrass research, education and advocacy. Rounds of golf are solicited from local golf facilities for the auction, with 80 percent of the funds raised in the auction going back to the participating chapter. The remaining 20 percent goes to the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) to assist with the costs associated with running a national auction of this size.

GCSANC greatly expanded Rounds 4 Research efforts in 2018, raising nearly $5,000. With a goal of doubling that in 2019, the association is going to need your assistance. Rounds from Northern California facilities can be donated at https://www.eifg.org/research/rounds-4-research/donate-a-round/online-form, and facilities can set restrictions on days and times, as well as the option of setting the opening bid. You can send in your own certificate for the donation or the EIFG will create a certificate for you.

Rounds will be accepted through the end of the auction period on May 5. All donations can be viewed and bid on at https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/auctionhome.action?vhost=rounds4research. It's also a great chance to bid on rounds from some golf courses throughout the country that you might otherwise not have the opportunity to play.

GCSANC has the opportunity to be one of the leading R4R chapters in the country with your help and participation. GCSAA greatly appreciates your consideration in donating rounds to the program.

In other news, GCSAA recently introduced the Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program (TETPC) Level 2 for equipment managers. This certificate is earned by successfully passing one proctored exam that addresses the competency areas of: Administrative Management, Best Management Practices, Cutting Units, Drivetrains, Electrical Systems, Engine Technology, Hydraulic Systems, Metalworking, Spray Systems, and Turfgrass Operations. The Level 2 exam consists of 73 questions, and the cost is $80 for a GCSAA member.

Prerequisites for taking the Level 2 exam include passing all 8 exams of Level 1. Level 1 exams cost $40 per member. Study guides for the exams are available at an additional cost. For more information on the TETPC Program, visit https://www.gcsaa.org/education/certifications-exams/turf-equipment-technician-certificate-program.

Thank you for your continued support, and if I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org, and visit my website at https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/secure/southwest for updates from around the region as well as a calendar of events.

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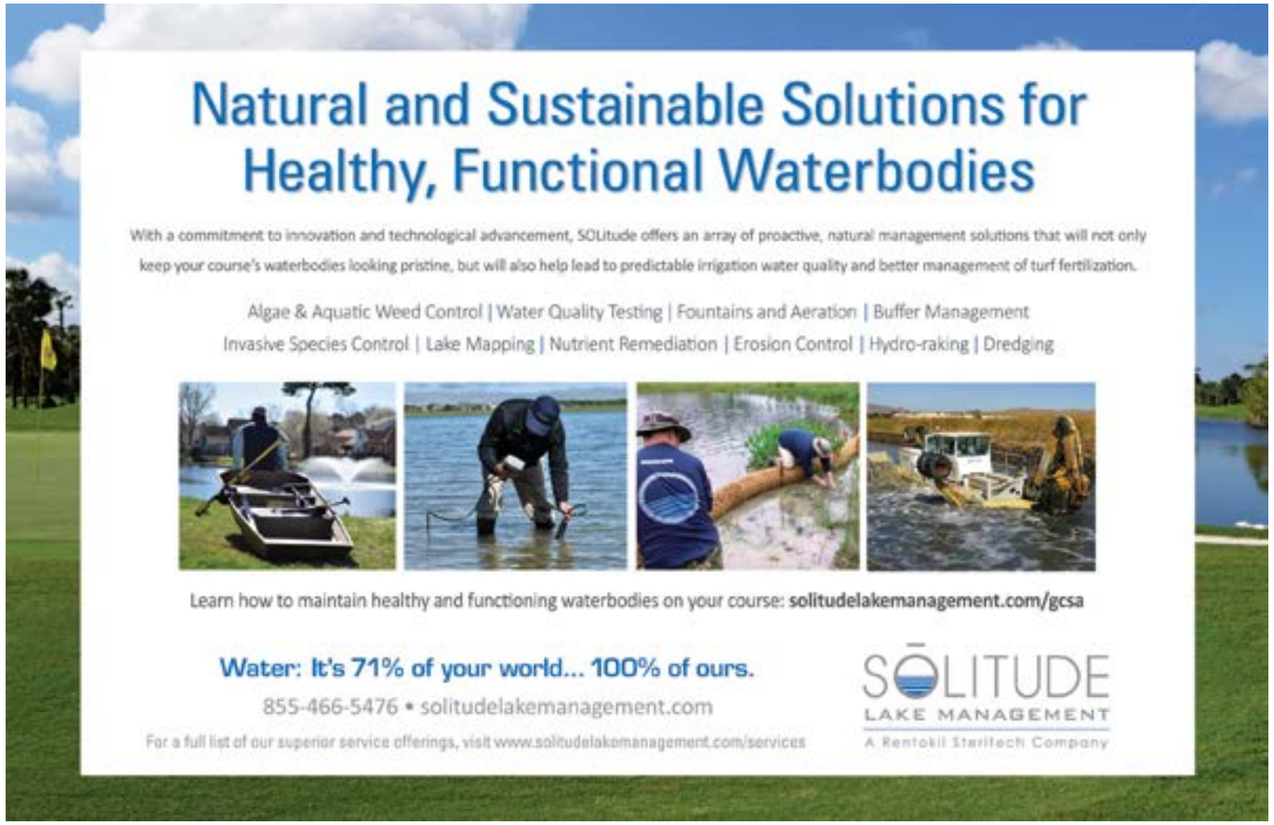


Assistant Superintendent Profile:
Eric Green, Almaden Golf & Country Club

By **CONNER GALEA,** *Assistant Superintendent, San Francisco Golf Club*

It's always great to showcase some of the up and coming talent in our industry. Northern California has some of the richest history in golf, with great courses and hardworking crews that keep them in exceptional condition. For this issue, we interviewed Kenton Brunson from The Links at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach.

CG: What made you decide to get into golf maintenance?
EG: I actually started out my time working on the golf course as a range ball picker. This evolved into working as a starter and eventually into the pro shop from fourteen years old to about eighteen years old. During that time I became pretty good friends with the Superintendent at the course, and he asked me to help in the afternoons hand watering greens and with various other odd jobs out on the course. During that time I began to realize and appreciate much more about what goes into golf course maintenance, and decided to start working mornings and increasing my maintenance hours. Before long I was working full time maintenance. Being at a small course, I was able to get a taste of all aspects of golf course maintenance, which was a great introduction. Once I moved from the Deep Cliff Golf Course to Pasatiempo Golf Club, I got a taste of high-end golf course maintenance and I became hooked. From that point forward I knew that I wanted to pursue a career in golf course maintenance.

CG: What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?
EG: I would have to say completing my bachelor's degree. I have been working in golf course maintenance for over 12 years and finally completed my degree last year. It was a major milestone for me and was obviously a necessary step in my progression to becoming a superintendent.

CG: Who would you consider your most influential mentor in the industry?
EG: Josh Lewis has for many years been a great mentor to me. We met at Pasatiempo while I was still very fresh to the industry and he has since always been available to help me develop both personally and within the industry.

CG: Where did you grow up?
EG: Cupertino, CA

CG: Your best nickname?
EG: El Nino…ha ha! I was only 21 when I started at Pasatiempo and was by far the youngest on the crew.

CG: If you could drive any vehicle what would it be?
EG: "Eleanor". After watching Gone in 60 Seconds I have always wanted that Mustang Fastback.

CG: Do you have any pets?
EG: Yes, two dogs - an all-white German shepard/chow chow mix and an all-black labradoodle.

CG: What is the funniest thing you have ever seen on the golf course?
EG: To be honest, I always get a good laugh out of watching people's push carts get away from them and find their way into a bunker, water feature or some other small catastrophe. I guess it's the little things, but I don't think that will ever get old for me.

CG: What is one thing that most people don't know about you?
EG: I am actually a pretty good cook. I used to take cooking lessons when I was younger, and seriously considered culinary school instead of pursuing a career in golf course maintenance.

CG: What was your lowest score playing golf, and where?
61 at Deep Cliff Golf Course, but it's a par 60 so that is kind of cheating. I did shoot even on the front 9 of Pasatiempo while working there, but didn't have time to play 18.

CG: What is your favorite manual labor job on the golf course and why?
EG: I enjoy changing cups because you can change how the golf course plays day to day and customize the challenge to the skill level of the golfers playing on a given day.

Continued

Assistant Superintendent Profile: Eric Green

Continued from page 13

CG: Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?
EG: One of my professors told me that an unchallenged mind is a wasted mind. I took that to heart because I believe that it's very important to always continue to progress, improve and challenge oneself to be better.

CG: If you had to survive on a deserted island for 1 year, aside from food and water, what 5 items would you bring with you to occupy your time?
EG: Tent, fishing pole, axe, telescope, and a solar powered radio (hopefully there is signal).

CG: Favorite beer?
EG: Currently 21st Amendments Blood Orange IPA, however, it changes often.

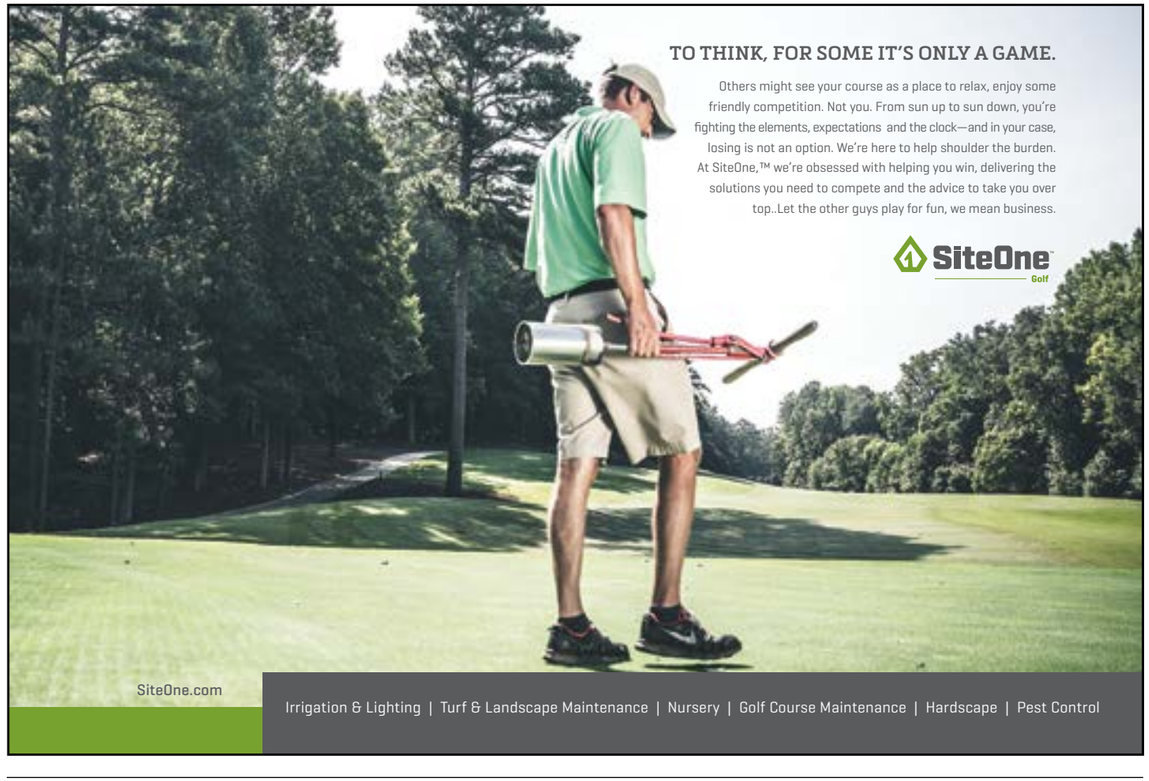
CG: If you had your choice, what would you do in retirement?
EG: Have a house on the beach and relax. That's my goal at least.

CG: Favorite sports teams?
EG: San Jose Sharks and SF Giants.

CG: What's your favorite type of grass to manage as a putting surface and why?
EG: Although I have far more experience with poa greens, I have started to become quite fond of bentgrass putting greens. I recently started working with the grass more closely and have begun to appreciate the ability of bentgrass to survive and compete under conditions of low nitrogen and severe drought.

CG: If you could have lunch with anyone, past or present, who would it be?
EG: I would have lunch with my late grandmother. She passed away unexpectedly a few years ago and I did not get the chance to say goodbye.

CG: What do you enjoy outside of work?
EG: I am a huge fan of snowboarding, biking and cooking; especially on my new Traeger. I am also becoming quite the regular at San Jose Sharks games and always enjoy watching our 6 year old playing and progressing on his Junior Sharks hockey team.



Naumann's Nor Cal News

By **DON NAUMANN,** *Sierra Pacific Turf Supply*

Jeff Steen has left Spanish Bay Golf Links and is now the Superintendent and Director of Grounds at Loch Lloyd CC near Kansas City MO. Jeff has been replaced at Spanish Bay by ***Pete Bachman*** who is the returning to the Pebble Beach Company after spending the last few years as the Super at San Jose CC. Prior to San Jose CC Pete was the assistant at Pebble Beach Golf Links.....Replacing Pete at San Jose CC is ***Brad Coleman***. Brad was the assistant super at Spyglass Hill GC.....***Kevin Iverson*** has left Sharon Heights G & CC in Menlo Park and is now working for the Arthur Cleason Co in Minnesota as the Rainbird Territory Manager there.....***Josh Lewis*** has left Almaden CC and has replaced Kevin at Sharon Heights. Josh's former assistant at Almaden CC, ***Mike Krouse*** has been promoted and is the Superintendent.....I guess it's been a while since I have written this article and I have a few more....***Mike Garvale*** retired from Callippe Preserve Golf Course in Pleasanton after 35+ years as Super at various Courses. The new Super at Callippe is ***Todd Lyijynen***. Todd had been the Super at Diablo CC in Danville before moving on. Replacing Todd at Diablo CC is ***Ryan Nicholson***. Ryan was the Super at Silverado CC in Napa.....Mat Dunmeyer left La Costa CC in Carlsbad is become the Superintendent of Grounds at Silverdo CC.... ***Scott Lewis*** left Menlo CC last year to become the Super at Pauma Valley CC in Southern Calif. The new Super at Menlo CC is ***Chris Eckstrom*** from Wente Vineyards Golf Course in Livermore. Chris has been replaced by his former assistant, ***Cody Price***.....

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