



## Inaugural Assistant's Meeting at DeLaveaga

DeLaveaga GC and Don Paul, CGCS will host the first annual GCSANC Assistant Superintendent meeting Monday July 9th. Superintendents are encouraged to send their member and nonmember assistants. The meeting will address topics and issues relating to the Assistant Superintendent. Superintendent and Affiliates are also encouraged to attend the meeting and play golf.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 am and feature the

Olympic Club superintendent John Fleming and USGA Green Section Agronomist Patrick Gross. Lunch is scheduled for 11:30 and golf shotgun at 1:00 pm.

For further information, contact Jason Green at (408) 254-2795.



*Jay Walkinshaw, Joel Ahern, John Pina, John Maltabano at Palo Alto Hills*



## The Evolving Role of the Assistant Superintendent

By Gary K. Carls CGCS

As GCSANC prepares for its first Assistant Meeting, I thought I would take a look at the evolving role of the Assistant Superintendent. This role has changed and grown over the years to where we are in the present day. It is fairly safe to say that almost all of us who are currently superintendents, were at some point in our careers, Assistants.

In the early years of our profession, the assistant was probably more often than not, just a crewmember who showed a little more eagerness than the others to learn. Although there were a lot of different tasks to learn on the course, the superintendent in most cases was responsible for the more critical tasks such as fertilization, irrigation or chemical applications. The assistant in most cases was more of a foreman who was there to assure that the rest of the crew accomplished

their daily tasks. Although they may have possessed more formal education than the rest of the staff, they usually did not attend college. By fulfilling the role as an assistant, the opportunity was there to later advance to the position of superintendent through hard work and a willingness to learn.

The role of the modern assistant is in many ways the same, although the degree of sophistication has greatly advanced. In many cases the goal of the assistant is still to advance to the superintendent position through hard work and learning. Today the role of the assistant has evolved to include many responsibilities that in the past were those of the golf course superintendent. Ever expanding administrative tasks have taken the superintendent off the golf course and into the office or meetings. The assistant has more responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the golf

course than he has ever had.

The increased use of computer-controlled irrigation has required more computer skills to operate the course on a daily basis. In many cases this responsibility has fallen to the assistant. The assistant has also assumed responsibility for fertilizer and chemical applications at many courses. With the increasing demand for technical skills to operate the golf course, there has been increasing demand for college-educated assistants. There is still the situation that allows for someone to make their way through the ranks, but the increasing demands placed upon us by our players and employers have made that a tougher road than it may have been in the past. In most cases we have responsibility for the largest budget at our facility and are responsible for the greatest asset, the golf course.

Next time you are away at a

meeting or on vacation, consider the vital role your assistant plays in your absence. Also remember the mentors who have helped you advance in your career. I feel like I learned a lot from each superintendent I worked for or with. I was fortunate to work with several superintendents who really encouraged my career advancement. We all work in a profession that requires a lot of hard work and often requires sacrifice on the part of our families because of the time demands placed upon us. Show your assistant that you really appreciate their ability to make your job just a little more enjoyable. Please encourage your assistant to attend the upcoming meeting at DeLaveaga G.C. and meet some of his peers. It will be a great opportunity to become involved with GCSANC and get some great career insight from Mr. John Fleming of the Olympic Club and Mr. Pat Gross of the U.S.G.A. Hope every assistant gets the chance to attend.