



The Course At Wente Vineyards To Host Annual Meeting

By Jeff Shafer

It is a pleasure to host the Annual Meeting and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday the 13th. In doing so, I'd like to reflect upon some of the people and things that have helped me out along the way.

At Wente, the key to success starts at the top. For us, the customer is always on top, serviced by a dedicated staff striving to uphold values expressed in our mission statement, "EXCEED EXPECTATIONS." The following three individuals are the rudders that steer the ship for the Golf Course Maintenance Department. I would like to introduce them to you:

John Cunningham – Service Manager

Started May 1997 at Wente

First hire of golf course

- Was here during all of construction and grow-in Manages assistant mechanic and cart mechanic
- Joined the Merchant Marines in 1980, served until 1990
- Traveled the world performing maintenance on their largest ships
- Worked in engineering and prides himself on the fact that there is no Napa Auto parts in the middle of the ocean. Preventative maintenance is the key! Adapted this principle to daily course maintenance
- Worked for West Star from 1995 - 1997 where he set up new equipment and performed repairs as needed

Hobbies: Has two lovely grand daughters and one Harley Davidson

Comments: Would make a great assistant supt., if he wasn't such a good mechanic

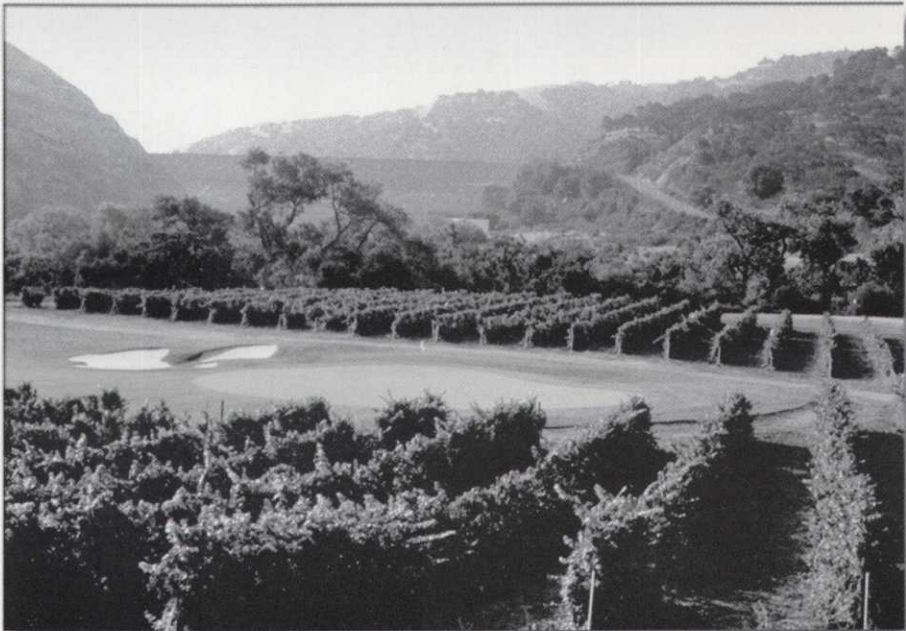
Mike Souza – Assistant Superintendent

Started at Wente Jan 1999

Graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 1998 Started in the horticultural business in 1996 in a local retail nursery

- During college worked at golf courses of Black Lake, Nipomo and at Arrow Creek in Reno during the construction and grow in, and at Lotus Land (botanical garden)

Hobbies include: working on cars (Mustangs), snow skiing



Designed for the novice and professional, Wente is situated in the Wente family estate Vineyards in Livermore, California.

- Has a passion for studying golf course architecture. Every time I leave on vacation, I'm not sure if some sort of gorse is to be planted or new sod wall bunker is going to be built.
- Has been a very important part of the golf course maintenance at Wente. Has tremendous dedication and commitment. Is incredible at detail quality maintenance. Took over the management of the restaurant grounds and organic herb garden and took those to higher levels.

Comments: He is going to make a great superintendent and will serve the GCSANC well.

Tim Roche – Assistant Superintendent

Started at Wente in 2002

Graduated from Penn State last year with a four-year degree.

- Has strong desire to be involved in the agronomic part of the business. Loves to study and work with the plant, soil and other parts that make up the agronomic side of the business.
- Is currently managing our IPM program and looks forward to improving and expanding our programs.

Hobbies include: playing the guitar, loves Jerry Garcia the Grateful Dead, and loves to read identification books of plants and trees.

- After graduating high school, traveled with the Grateful Dead, working several of the Dead shows in lighting and stage set up.
- Originally from Pennsylvania Worked for PG&E in Tree Pruning and Line Maintenance
- Loves natural habitat and has worked in the restoration of natural areas in Oregon.

Comments: Generally loves the outdoors and sees his career possibly going into the consulting side of the business.

There are some other people I feel I must thank, the maintenance staff that work so hard throughout the year, our Director of Golf, Devin Meheen, who works endless hours not only for Wente, but has also given many hours assisting in the Economic Impact Study being done by the CGCSA. Devin has also been the key person involved in hosting a number of our GCSANC events. I must also thank Terri Baron, our Golf Course Controller. She has been a great asset to our company as well as supporting me during my tenure on the Board. Finally, I thank my children, Sean and Taylor, and my wife Seana for supporting my career. I couldn't have done it without you.

We at Wente are looking forward to hosting the GCSANC Annual Meeting on January 13th. Hope everyone had a great holiday season and I wish you all the best in 2003.

