

# GCSANC Announces Award Winners

By Emmy Moore-Minister

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California is pleased to announce its 2004 Award Winners. These individuals were recently honored for their contributions and accomplishments at the GCSANC Annual Meeting held at Orinda Country Club. Over 110 association members and industry representatives were in attendance at the awards ceremony.

**The Superintendent of the Year Award** was presented to Patrick "Pat" Finlen, CGCS, of the Olympic Club. Finlen's contributions include service on the GCSANC Board of Directors, where he is currently serving as President. In addition, he currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer on the board of directors for the California Golf Course Superintendents Association. He has also been involved at the national level on committees dealing with education, certification and chapter relations.

Prior to his current position overseeing three courses at the famed Olympic Club, Finlen was the Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Bayonet and Blackhorse Golf Courses on the Monterey Peninsula. "Pat's professionalism and drive for excellence has paid off," states fellow superintendent, Tom Bevan of Bayonet Golf Course. "I've learned a lot from Pat over the years, and I am sure his Olympic Club staff is gaining from his knowledge and leadership too."

Finlen adds this Superintendent of the Year distinction to others he has received, which include the 1996 Superintendent of the Year Award from the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Seed Research Superintendent of the Year honor bestowed in 2002. "Pat's contributions to the game of golf and to our association are endless," states GCSANC Honorary President Bob Lopic. "He is the consummate superintendent and a role model for many of us. This is the highest honor bestowed on a golf course superintendent, and Pat truly deserves it!"

**The George Santana Distinguished Service Award** was given to GCSANC Member Brian Bagley of The Villages Golf and Country Club for his ongoing commitment and service to the Association. Bagley, a past president of the GCSANC, has also served on the audit committee for the association. He has been involved with organizing

educational programs for fellow members and has participated in forums focusing on golf and the environment.

Giving back to others through his profession comes naturally for Bagley, for he has been an active member of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Landscape Committee and has also served on the PGA Golf Course Construction Guidelines Committee.

Prior to arriving at the 27-hole Villages Golf and Country Club in 1990, Bagley worked at Saratoga Country Club (Saratoga, CA) and Hillcrest Country Club (Los Angeles, CA). When Bagley received the George Santana Service Award he immediately dedicated it to his former boss and mentor, GCSAA Member Dave Mastroleo, who taught him the importance of setting high standards and how to instill that quality in others. Once Mastroleo heard of Bagley's recent distinction he pleasingly responded, "I am really proud of Brian and this special recognition for his good work. When Brian worked for me he was always eager to listen and learn, and I knew great accomplishments would follow for him. I am almost sure there will be many more awards for Brian over the years to come."

**The GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award** was presented to two individuals exceptional in their field. In the **Private Category** the Turfgrass Excellence Award was bestowed upon Nick Checklenis of Silver Creek Valley Country Club. During his tenure at SCVCC, he has established a premier venue that has added to the positive golf experience for club members and their guests. Checklenis credits his success to his staff at Silver Creek Valley Country Club. "You are only as good as those who work for you," states Checklenis. "Luckily I have a staff that possesses longevity and commitment, and because of that, we have been successful."

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**GCSANC Superintendent of The Year**

**Pat Finlen**  
CGCS, Olympic Club



**George Santana Distinguished Service Award**

**Brian Bagley**  
Villages Golf & C.C.



**GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award (Private Category)**

**Nick Checklenis**  
Silver Creek Valley C.C.



**GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award (Public Category)**

**Tom Bevan**  
Bayonet Golf Course



**GCSANC Affiliate Merit Award**

**Brian Gaunce**  
DBD Structures  
President

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I am honored and very appreciative of this special award."

Checklenis was deeply involved with a major redesign and reconstruction of Silver Creek Valley, working closely with nationally recognized course designer Michael Strantz. The finished product boasts several sets of tees with a variety of new angles, creating an increased risk and reward strategy for players, while still lending sensitivity to the surrounding native environment. Checklenis has also installed a sophisticated computerized system that increases irrigation efficiency while enhancing course conditions.

Checklenis will add this Turfgrass Excellence Award to other previous honors he's received including the National Environmental Steward Award from the GCSAA and the Merit Award for "Best Greens in the USA" by Seed Research. He is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and his course is one of only nineteen certified Audubon Sanctuary sites within the State of California. A graduate of De Anza Community College, Checklenis is Certified in Horticulture with an emphasis on Turf Grass Management from Foothill College. Prior to his tenure at Silver Creek Valley

Country Club Checklenis was involved with course layout and construction at Cheju Golf Club on Cheju Island, South Korea. Earlier in his career he served as Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Los Altos Country Club in Los Altos, CA.

Receiving the **Turfgrass Excellence Award** in the **Public Category** is Tom Bevan, Golf Course Superintendent at Bayonet Golf Course. Bevan has consistently maintained his course to the highest standards for daily play as well as tournament competition. Bevan's proud of the 4 ½ star rating his course holds from Golf Digest Magazine, and is committed to upholding that standard.

"When I got the call about receiving the Turfgrass Excellence Award, I was taken back," states Bevan. "When it comes to work, I do my job, and I try to always give my very best. This award is a surprise and an honor, and I will cherish it forever." Bevan's experience spans beyond Bayonet. He has worked at public, private, and resort courses including Carmel Valley Ranch Resort, Glen Oaks Country Club, (West Des Moines, Iowa), and Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Bevan holds a B.S. Degree in Horticulture-Turf Grass Management from Iowa State University, and besides membership in the GCSANC and GCSAA, he is member of the NCGA and USGA.

The **GCSANC Affiliate Merit Award** was proudly bestowed upon Brian Gaunce of DBD Structures of San Francisco, CA. Gaunce is President of DBD Structures, a company that is committed to providing exceptional service in the areas of design, construction and development. Gaunce received the Affiliate Merit Award for his numerous contributions to the GCSANC. He and his dedicated staff continue to lend support to the associations Scholarship & Research Program, the yearly GCSANC Institute, as well as other key chapter events. Upon accepting the award from the GCSANC, Gaunce expressed, "I am privileged to be a part of such a fine organization that's filled with folks who are passionate about their work and truly enjoy what they are doing for a living."

Gaunce, who holds a degree a B.S. in Civil/Structural Engineering from Queen's University, also possesses over twenty years of construction and design experience. He and his team at DBD Structures have developed a strong reputation as leaders in the construction of course maintenance care facilities. Recently they have expanded their services to include the construction of state-of-the-art water distribution centers, successfully housing both fresh and reclaimed water for increased water use efficiency.

## Assistant Golf Course Superintendent Posting

### The Golf Club at Quail Lodge

Semi-Private-Resort 18 hole course, 45,000 rounds, Poa Greens, Rye tees, Mixed Fairways

**Duties Include:** All areas of course maintenance, fertilizer / pesticide application, purchasing, landscaping, Irrigation, record keeping, payroll, and department management.

**Requirements:** Related field education, CA. QAC, experience as an assistant or 2nd assistant at championship-level course, Plays the game of golf, Toro irrigation experience, ability to lead and manage people and equipment. Field working position, must have knowledge and skill to perform all aspects of advanced golf course maintenance. Bi-lingual Spanish preferred.

**Salary/Benefits:** Basic salary range \$45,000 to \$50,000. Health insurance, vacation, 401K plan, golf privileges, meals, clothing expense, continuing education expenses, and advancement possibilities.

**Resumes to:** Denis Kerr GCS, Golf Club at Quail Lodge, 8000 Valley Greens Drive, Carmel Ca. 93923  
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