

The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Northern California Honors Award Winners for Their Contributions to Golf

By Emmy Moore-Minister

Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Northern California (GCSANC) is pleased to announce its newest Award Winners. These individuals were formally recognized at the GCSANC Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on January 24th at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA. More than 150 association members, industry representatives, and special guests were in attendance.



Award recipients from left to right: Dean Gump, Terry Grasso, Gary Carls, Tim Powers and Greg Fernald

The Superintendent of the Year Award was presented to Terry Grasso, a Class "A" Superintendent at Sequoyah Country Club (Oakland, CA). The highest distinction bestowed upon a golf course superintendent, Grasso receives this award for his ongoing contributions to the association and its members. "I am humbled," states Grasso. "Being considered by my peers for this coveted honor is something I will cherish for years to come."

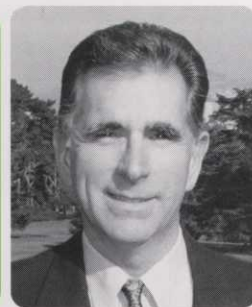
An Oakland native, Grasso just completed his second term on the GCSANC board of directors, a position he took seriously yet enjoyed immensely. In addition, Grasso has served as the GCSANC tournament liaison with the Northern California Golf Association. He supports GCSANC events including scholarship programs for those new to the industry and educational seminars and institutes that benefit the entire membership.

Prior to Sequoyah Country Club, Grasso was the Golf Course & Grounds Superintendent at Burlingame Country Club (Hillsborough, CA), an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at the Olympic Club (San Francisco, CA), Greenskeeper at Claremont Country Club (Oakland, CA) and an Assistant Golf Professional at Claremont Country Club. He attended Merritt Community College and California State University at Hayward.

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TERRY GRASSO Superintendent of the Year

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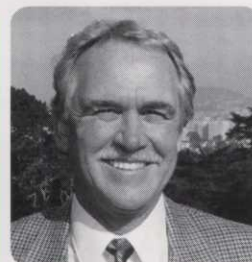
GARY CARLS George Santana Distinguished Service Award

Carls received this honor for his high level of professionalism while also demonstrating a long-standing commitment to the GCSANC and the turf grass industry.



DEAN GUMP Turfgrass Excellence Award, Private Category

Gump's twenty-four year tenure at Pasaatiempo Golf Club has developed superior agronomic skills that translate into healthy agronomic conditions.



TIM POWERS Turfgrass Excellence Award, Public Category

"The improved conditions are a credit to the passion displayed by my staff."



GREG FERNALD Affiliate Merit Award

"I really enjoy working with golf course superintendents" ... "and to receive this award just reminds me of how fortunate I am to be part of the GCSANC, an association that's in the heart of the industry."



(Continued from page 7)

GSANC 2005 Award Winners

"We are pleased with our selection of Terry Grasso as Superintendent of the Year," states GCSANC Awards Chairman Robert Lopic. "He is a stellar individual who continues to give back to others in a genuine and admirable way. Terry is a true steward of the game, and an excellent role model for all of us in the association."

In addition to his GCSANC honor, Grasso will be recognized by the California Golf Writers Association for his contributions to golf. The ceremony is scheduled for February 8th at The Inn at Spanish Bay, in Pebble Beach, CA.

Gary Carls, CGCS, is the recipient of the **GCSANC George Santana Distinguished Service Award**. He received this honor for his high level of professionalism while also demonstrating a long-standing commitment to the GCSANC and the turfgrass industry. Carls, the Golf Operations Supervisor for Sunnyvale Golf Course and Sunken Gardens Golf Course (Sunnyvale, CA) currently serves on the national board of directors for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. This past year he served as Vice-Chair of the GCSAA Membership Committee, chaired the Scholarship Committee and Student Resource Group. He has also served on the Chapter Relations, Environmental Stewardship and Education Committees.

Carls is a past president of both the California Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California. He is a former recipient of the GCSANC Superintendent of the Year Award for contributions to the association and its members. Carls is also a founding member of the California Alliance for Golf, an organization that serves as a liaison to governmental agencies, promoting the economic and positive environmental contributions demonstrated by the California golf industry.

His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University and a Turf Management Certificate from the Michigan State University Institute of Agricultural Technology. He holds a distinction as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS), which recognizes the achievement of high standards of professionalism through education and experience.

The **GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award** has been presented to two individuals exceptional in their professional field. In the *Private Category*, the **Turfgrass Excellence Award** was claimed by **Dean Gump of Pasatiempo Golf Club** (Santa Cruz, CA). This is the second time Gump has received the distinction. During his twenty-four year tenure at Pasatiempo Golf Club he has developed superior agronomic skills that translate into healthy agronomic conditions, thus enhancing the playing experience for club members and guests.

Prior to Pasatiempo, Gump was an Assistant Superinten-

dent at Singing Hills Country Club (El, Cajon, CA) training under Golf Course Superintendent Dave Fleming. An alumnus of Cal Poly Pomona, Gump continues to attend educational seminars that expand his knowledge on subjects relating to course maintenance. Under his supervision, last year fairway drainage and cart path improvements were made to the course, tee complexes were improved and tee landscape areas were enhanced. In '04, Gump oversaw all course preparation for the USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship, a premier tournament held at his club.

This year Gump will restore the No. 11 green and No. 12 tee complexes. He'll work closely with designer Tom Doak and Renaissance Golf on bunker restoration for holes No. 2 through No. 9. The project will include restoring greens back to their original shapes.

"I am honored and pleasantly surprised to receive the Turfgrass Excellence Award this year," states recipient Dean Gump. "I will share this award with my long-time staff and members who help make it happen on a daily basis."

Pasatiempo Golf Club, an Alister MacKenzie designed course built in 1929, continues to receive national recognition. It has earned top rankings from Golf Digest on America's 100 Greatest Public Courses, Golf Magazine's Top 100 Courses in the U.S. and on the list of Golfweek's America's Best Classic Courses. In addition, Pasatiempo Golf Club is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Site.

The recipient for the **GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award** in the *Public Category* is **Tim Powers**, CGCS, at **Crystal Springs Golf Course** (Burlingame, CA). Powers consistently provides high levels of professional maintenance and conditioning to the course, which in turn helps attract new and returning golfers to the facility.

According to Powers, the course is located within a 32,000 acre wildlife refuge owned by the San Francisco Water Department. An environmentally sensitive site, Powers takes great pride in meeting all standards and guidelines set for the course. Managed by CourseCo, Crystal Springs Golf Course has been certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and Wildlife Council since 1998. Recognition is nothing new for Powers and Crystal Spring's GC; they've garnered four Environmental Leader in Golf Awards from GCSAA and Golf Digest. In addition, Powers holds the respected initials CGCS, behind his name as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent.

At Crystal Springs Golf Course, improvements include

(Continued on Page

(Continued from page 11)

GCSANC 2005 AWARD WINNERS

the installation of 10,000 feet of new drainage, and with an effective topdressing program, playing conditions have improved immensely. Powers credits his staff for the success at Crystal Springs. "The improved conditions are a credit to the passion displayed by my staff," states Powers. "I focus on explaining what good conditions are all about, and when it's all said and done, we appreciate the positive feedback we receive from the players."

Some of Powers' success comes from his hands-on experience as a superintendent. He insists on still personally mowing the greens and loves to coach and inspire his staff as they tend to the course. Every Friday Powers blocks out time to huddle with peers to discuss what's going on in the business. "As for work, my to-do list hasn't gotten any shorter," admits Powers, "but I like the folks I work with and I still love going to the course every day, and I guess that's what counts!"

Prior to his tenure at Crystal Springs Golf Course, Powers worked in course construction in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, as well as in Kentucky. Winding back the clock to 1979, Powers got his jump-start in the business as a summer employee at Shorehaven Golf Club (Norwalk, CT), where Powers credits his passion for the business to an early mentor and boss, Bob Phipps.

Greg Fernald with Target Specialty Products has been selected as the recipient of the Affiliate Merit Award for his contributions to the betterment of the GCSANC and its

members. Fernald, a resident of Gilroy, CA, has volunteered his time on behalf of the GCSANC, and has just completed a two-year term as an Affiliate Board Member. He has supported chapter events, including scholarship programs, educational seminars and industry conferences. "When our association is looking for help on a special assignment or project we can always count on Greg with Target Specialty Products to step up and help out," states Barbara Mikel, GCSANC Association Manager. "To him, we are forever grateful."

As Golf Business Manager for his company's Golf Market Segment, Fernald takes great pride in servicing his clients at courses and clubs throughout Northern California. "I really enjoy working with golf course superintendents," explains Fernald, "and to receive this award just reminds me of how fortunate I am to be a part of the GCSANC, an association that's in the heart of the industry."

Fernald has worked eleven years for Target Specialty Products, a wholesale distributor of specialty agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, application equipment, and education, servicing the landscape, golf, pest management, nursery, and vegetation management markets. He began his career as an Account Representative, worked outside field sales, gained title as Target's Turf Specialist and later advanced upward to Turf Business Manager. He now holds a corporate leadership position as Golf Business Manager. Fernald is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University with a degree in Agribusiness.

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