



# GCSANC AWARD WINNERS

## Golf Course Superintendent of the Year



### STEVE BYRNE

Mira Vista Golf & Country Club • El Cerrito

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** In addition to Steve's current position as golf course superintendent at Mira Vista G&CC, his professional experience spans assignments at Diablo Country Club, the Wykagyl Club (NY), and the Sandwich Club (CT). **CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT:** He has served two years on

the board of directors and is currently secretary/treasurer. This year (while faced with the challenge of mandatory water rationing) Steve managed to volunteer time on the Education & Institute, Programs & Golf committees. Last year he served on the Scholarship committee and hosted a chapter Christmas gathering for his peers. While trying to wrap up a major fairway drainage project on his course just recently, Steve still found time to launch a GCSANC book donation project for Children's Hospital in Oakland, CA. **PREVIOUS HONORS:** Former Bert Graves Memorial Tournament Winner. **EDUCATION:** Steve is a graduate from the Professional Golf Turf Management Program at Rutgers University. Steve's thoughts on receiving Golf Course Superintendent Award: "I was blown away when I received the news from Awards Chairman Brian Bagley... to the point of stuttering. During a year when water rationing and dry conditions were overwhelming at times, my course and crew continued to be my main priority while also trying to help our chapter whenever I could. To be awarded this honor this year is both humbling and inspiring. I continue to learn that our profession is more than growing grass. Reaching out to other superintendents, charitable organizations and serving our membership has been more rewarding than ever imagined."

## George Santana Distinguished Service Award



### DAVID SEXTON, CGCS

The Meadow Club • Fairfax

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** David has spent 27 years at the MacKenzie-designed Meadow Club following his seven-year tenure at Ojai Valley Inn. His career was launched while still in his senior year at college, with a one-year stint at Paso Robles Golf Club. **CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT:** David's

contribution runs deep. He's served on GCSANC board of directors and held office as secretary/treasurer, followed by multiple years of service on the annual audit committee. He's hosted GCSANC events, one of his favorites was the 2007 Superintendent/Pro Tournament. This past summer his course hosted The Langley event raising money for growth of the game initiatives with Arnold Palmer serving as the dignitary for the day. David has hosted numerous other events including the last six MacKenzie Collegiate Invitational Tournaments, and the Pac Ten Championship this past Spring. David enjoys sharing his knowledge with others, serving as a speaker at GCSANC educational seminars and most recently as a panelist at the 2008 Institute. **EDUCATION:** David holds an AA degree from Merced Community College and a BS Degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and is now celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> year as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. **PREVIOUS HONORS:** The Marin Municipal Water District Award for Excellence in Water Conservation (1988) and the GCSANC Excellence in Turfgrass Management Award (1992). In 1994 David won the CGCSA Annual Golf Tournament (net division). **INTERESTING PASTIME:** David describes himself as a birder, spending his free moments hiking the hills and coast with binoculars in-hand in search of birds. No wonder David is a member of five local and national bird and wildlife organizations. Through his efforts, the Meadow Club has been recognized as an Audubon International Certified Wildlife Sanctuary. **ON COURSE:** When it comes to the course he prefers a natural look, as if it evolved from its native surroundings. Under the direction of Architect Mike DeVries, David has completed a six-year restoration, returning the course closely to its original Alister MacKenzie design.

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# GCSANC AWARD WINNERS

## Turfgrass Excellence—Public Category



### BRIAN BOYER

Cinnabar Hills Golf Club • San Jose

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** Prior to his current position as golf course superintendent at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, Brian worked as an assistant course superintendent at San Francisco Golf Club for over three years and at Cattails Golf Club (MI) the four years prior. **BRIAN'S COURSE MAINTENANCE**

**PHILOSOPHY:** "I like to keep a course hard, fast, and as consistent as possible (on a daily basis) while being environmentally and economically minded." **BRIAN'S MANAGEMENT STYLE:** "I manage according to two quotes or mantras. The first: *It is not those who know how that succeed, but those who know why.* I feel that the employees will be better off working for me and/or the next person if they know why we-are-doing-the-things-we-are-doing. Another favorite slogan: *The only mistake is a mistake made and nothing is learned from it.* I've always thought that too many people are worried about making mistakes and that ultimately causes more mistakes." **HONORS:** Brian shares honors with the rest of the Cinnabar team, as the facility has been recognized Best Public Course in Silicon Valley (5 times) and CGCOA Golf Course of the Year (2 times) and received ranking on Golf World's Readers Choice (Top 45 in USA). **EDUCATION:** BS in Turfgrass Maintenance from Michigan State University. **WATER MAN TOO:** Besides his responsibility overseeing maintenance for a busy 27-hole facility, Brian is responsible for the production and delivery of drinking water to all on-site consumers. "We had a well but with foresight from our owners, an ultrafiltration membrane treatment plant was installed in 2000 to supplement the well. In 2000 I received special licensing to run the plant and distribute water. The overall experience has been quite challenging, has expanded my knowledge immensely and has definitely helped strengthen my time management skills!" **HISTORICAL NOTE:** Cinnabar Hills GC may have opened its doors in 1998, but it's rich in history. According to Brian, when you enter Cinnabar's clubhouse you'll find the Brandenburg Historical Golf Museum, packed with golf memorabilia. The most recent addition to the museum includes trophies (the exact replicas) of those presented at the four major championships.

## Turfgrass Excellence—Private Category



### SCOTT LEWIS, CGCS

Menlo Country Club • Woodside

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** Scott is approaching his 25<sup>th</sup> year of dedicated service at Menlo Country Club. He served prior as assistant golf course superintendent at Calusa Country Club in Miami, FL. His early career work experience includes a stint as a LPGA Tour caddie and a broadcast assistant for CBS Sports during the Doral Eastern Open in 1983 & 1984.

**COMMUNITY & INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT:** Member of the USGA and NCGA. Former National Technical Advisory Committee Member for Seed Research of Oregon.

**SCOTT'S COURSE MAINTENANCE PHILOSOPHY:** "It's about the greens, stupid! The important thing is to keep the important thing, the most important thing. Nearly half of the game is played on the greens and you can have everything else perfect but if the greens aren't good, the rest really doesn't seem to matter." **SCOTT'S MANAGEMENT STYLE:** "It's about getting the right person to do the right job at the right time. It's a cliché and very simple, but if you want respect you have to give it. I'm always asking my staff what they think needs to be done. It's important to me that they remain part of the process...investing of themselves and their ideas in the final product, which often helps ensure better quality of work too." **EDUCATION:** BS in Education, Parks & Recreation Administration from Florida International University (Miami, FL) where Scott was also a member of the Men's Golf Team. He holds a degree in Horticulture & Turf Management (with Honors) from North Iowa CC. Scott also holds the distinction as a certified golf course superintendent.

**PASSION FOR THE GAME:** Scott has a passion for the game on a variety of levels. Besides his superior agronomic skills, he has an appreciation for golf course architecture evidenced by the unique books and renderings you'll find in his office. When his schedule permits, Scott enjoys teeing it up on some the world's most noted courses.

## MEMBERS TO BE RECOGNIZED

Two fifty-year members and six twenty-five-year members will be recognized at the Presidio Golf Course.

In 1959, Howard Fisher, Jr. and Ed Stocke joined the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California. Both members are now enjoying retirement! We are looking forward to presenting each one a gold pin acknowledging their dedication to the association.

We will also be making presentations of gold-filled twenty-five year pins to six members who joined in 1984.

## MAKE IT COLOR!

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# GCSANC AWARD WINNERS

## Bert Graves Memorial Affiliate Award



### PETE BOWMAN, CGCS

Target Specialty Products  
Northern California Territory

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** Pete is a territory manager for Target Specialty Products, following a similar position with UAP Professional Products (2005-08) and an eight-year tenure as sales rep with Sierra Pacific Turf Supply (1997-2005). Part of

Pete's success as a supplier is derived from earlier experience as course superintendent at Diablo Grande Resort and Merced Hills Golf Club in the early to mid '90s. **CHAPTER & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Pete has dedicated his time on a variety of committees including Education, Scholarship & Research Program and the Pro-Superintendent Seminar & Tournament. He serves as an affiliate director for the GCSANC and is past president of the Sierra Nevada and California State chapters. Pete has served on the GCSAA Education, Conference & Show committees. He has coached youth athletic programs for many years and is a supporter of The First Tee. **PREVIOUS HONORS:** Affiliate of the Year Award, Volunteer of the Year—City of Stockton Parks & Recreation Department, Certificate of Appreciation from San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and California State Assembly. **EDUCATION:** A graduate of California Polytechnic University-San Luis Obispo with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture, Pete is also a certified golf course superintendent for the past 15 years. **PETE'S THOUGHTS:** "I feel fortunate to be the first recipient of this recently re-named award in tribute to Bert Graves, a true legend in our industry. I am honored to see my name along side all the other individuals who've received this award prior...many who are still very active, giving of their time and resources for the betterment of our association. Yes, it's always nice to be recognized by your peers, too."



▲ Award winner Scott Lewis, CGCS (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) stands proudly with his crew at Menlo Country Club.



▲ Director of Golf, Adam Schiro with award-winning superintendent Brian Boyer at Cinnabar Hills Golf Course.



▲ Award winner David Sexton, CGCS with Jim Tunney and Jason Green.

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