

## GCSAA'S CEO MARK WOODWARD, KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT NOR CAL ANNUAL MEETING



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony is set for January 11 at Spring Valley Golf Course. Members will gather to discuss chapter business and recognize five golf course superintendents for their outstanding contributions within the turf care industry.

Keynote speaker for the event will be **Mark Woodward, CGCS**, chief executive officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). According to Christopher Mains, GCSANC president and meeting host, more than 100 association members, allied representatives and industry leaders are expected to attend this ceremonial event.

Woodward accepted the assignment as CEO of the GCSAA after a successful tenure as golf operations manager for the City of San Diego, where he also served as host for the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course. He is the first golf course superintendent to serve as the “permanent” CEO for the GCSAA and its philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf. He is keenly aware of the organization’s needs, having served as the 68th president of the association. He is well-respected in golf circles, as evidenced by his appearances in Golf Inc. Magazine’s annual “Most Powerful People in Golf” lists.

Woodward’s presentation will focus on the health of the association and about GCSAA’s upcoming environmental initiative. “We are really looking forward to have our association’s leader with us at the annual meeting,” shared President Mains. “As a chapter delegate

I’ve had the chance to meet Mark, and listen closely to his vision for our organization. Now, my colleagues will also have that same opportunity.” Mains is hopeful that Woodward will also provide a brief behind-the-scenes-look at what it was like to host the highly successful ’08 U.S. Open.

This meeting will also serve as a venue for addressing Nor Cal chapter business (i.e. committee reports, Year-in-Review, election of new directors/officers). An event highlight will be the awards presentation where GCSANC members/superintendents will be recognized for their superior service and accomplishments within the profession. The Awards Committee led by David Sexton, CGCS, has carefully reviewed all award nominations, determined the winners, and is prepared to introduce and congratulate them in the presence of their peers.

The **Superintendent of the Year Award** will be presented to **Gary Ingram, CGCS**, from **Metropolitan Golf Links**, a busy facility owned by the City of Oakland. In addition to his responsibilities as golf course superintendent at this CourseCo-managed facility, Ingram actively serves on the board of directors for the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative (OTEI), a program that introduces inner-city youth to career paths in sports turf and golf course management, environmental sciences, and the green industry. Throughout his career Ingram has helped expand education opportunities not just for youth but for his peers too. In addition, he has assisted with community outreach programs such as the chapter’s ball mark repair education initiative (in conjunction with Play Golf America) and The First Tee (Oakland Chapter).

In support of the GCSANC honor, Ingram will be recognized at the



51<sup>st</sup> annual California Golf Writers Association (CGWA) awards banquet slated for February 9, 2010 at The Inn at Spanish Bay (Pebble Beach, CA), held in conjunction with the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

The **GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award** is presented to two individuals for their high level of achievement as they uphold quality standards in turf grass management. (Award criteria includes: overall course condition, environmental factors, course activity and maintenance budget). The recipient of the **Turfgrass Excellence Award** in the Public Category is former GCSANC President **Brian Netz, CGCS**, who receives this honor for his dedicated efforts in all aspects of course maintenance at the **Presidio Golf Course** (San Francisco, CA). In the Private Category, the **Turfgrass Excellence Award** will be presented to golf course superintendent **Michael Simpson, CGCS**, at **Los Altos Golf & Country Club** (Los Altos, CA) where he carefully oversees the day-to-day maintenance at this well-established course. Both Netz and Simpson are certified golf course superintendents, a revered designation, recognizing high standards of professionalism through education, testing and work experience.

**Robert "Bob" Costa, CGCS**, will receive the **George Santana Distinguished Service Award** for his long-standing commitment to the association. Costa is vice president and director of golf course management overseeing Laguna Seca Golf Course (Monterey, CA) and Rancho Canada Golf Club-East & West Courses (Carmel, CA), and is founder of Pacific Water Management, a consulting firm which services the landscape and golf course industry. He is certified as a golf course superintendent, landscape irrigation auditor and golf irrigation auditor. Costa has given back to the association in numerous ways over the years: through his service on the board of directors, as chair of the GCSAA Water Use Task Force, and as an advocate for GCSANC media relations and education. For many years he taught a Turfgrass Management class at the nearby Monterey Peninsula Community College.

**Don Naumann**, Founder and CEO of Sierra Pacific Turf Supply Inc. is the worthy recipient of the **Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award**, an honor presented to an individual who has contributed in an extraordinary way to the GCSANC and its members. This will be a "trifecta" year for Naumann, since he's already claimed this coveted honor in 1979 and 1990. His ongoing support to the GCSANC spans education, scholarship & research programs, tournaments and community outreach efforts. Naumann has served as an affiliate director for both the GCSANC and the California GCSA. Besides his responsibilities as president of Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, a growing company with three locations and 35 employees, Naumann is the golf course superintendent at Blackberry Farms Golf Course, a 9-hole public facility owned by the City of Cupertino.

After the Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony guests will enjoy a luncheon buffet in the grille followed by golf on the Spring Valley Golf Course, an enjoyable tract located in the eastern foothills above Silicon Valley. We hope you'll join us and we encourage you to sign up now by visiting [www.GCSANC.com](http://www.GCSANC.com). If you have any questions regarding the annual meeting or golf component, please call the GCSANC Chapter Headquarters at (877) 942-7262.



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