

Cypress Point Club and Mackenzie's Bunkering

A Little Tidbit from the Field BY AKONI GANIR



One of my favorite things about Cypress Point is the design of Mackenzie's camouflage bunkering. From tee to green his bunkering masterfully shapes the holes and disguises the perception of landing areas. When you look back from green to tee those same bunkers play a disappearing act and blend into the terrain of the golf course. They are so well hidden, that if you're not paying close attention you could easily drive into one when driving from green to tee. Every once in awhile, I'm suddenly forced to do a brake check to keep from accidentally rolling my cart into a bunker.

In fact, the following is a true story that occurred during my first season as Assistant. We had just bought a brand new buffalo blower. The same day it was delivered we had one of our more seasoned crewmembers take it out to blow rough clippings. The only thing I remember is looking over from the next hole and seeing a giant white cloud of dust, or what I thought at the time was smoke. My first thought was, "did something just blow up?" When I arrived at the scene, I found that this crewmember had driven his cart and buffalo blower into a bunker while trying to quickly get out of the way of some golfers. Needless to say the blower tipped over onto its side and was blowing an enormous cloud of white bunker sand/dust into the air. Of course, myself and the golfers near by were concerned about the employee and after making sure he wasn't hurt, one of the caddies that witnessed the whole thing looked at me with a blank stare saying, "Did that really just happen?"

A little about me...

First off let me clarify my name as people are always curious why it's so different. My first name, "Akoni" (Uh-coe-nee) is of Hawaiian origin, which translates to Anthony or Tony in English. My last name, "Ganir" (Gun-ear) is of Filipino origin. So to clarify even further I am half Filipino with a Hawaiian first name. I'm from Portland, Oregon and my background in this industry goes back 20+ years to a small family owned landscaping business. When I left home at the ripe age of 18, I told myself I'd never push a mower for money again. About

6 years later I graduated from Oregon State with a Turf & Landscape degree. When I finished school I went to work at Cypress Point Club as an NCGA Intern. I've been very fortunate to move up since being here and am now entering my fourth season as Assistant Superintendent under the mentoring of one of the finest superintendents: Mr. Jeff Markow, CGCS.

The accompanying pictures are of the 5th hole at Cypress Point. The first picture was taken from the beginning of the fairway looking towards the green. The second picture was taken from behind the green looking back.



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