

# GCSANC Award Winners



GCSANC Award Winners (L to R) Jeff Markow, CGCS; Rich Lavine, CGCS; Greg Dunn; Terry Stratton; Thomas Bastis, CGCS; Ryan Zuehlsdorf; and Awards Moderator David Sexton, CGCS.



Board Member Tim Powers, CGCS, with 2010 Event Host Superintendent Brian Boyer and Greg Dunn Affiliate Merit Honoree.



Host Superintendents are recognized at Annual Meeting (L to R) Chris Mains, Nick Checklenis and Paul Chojnacky.

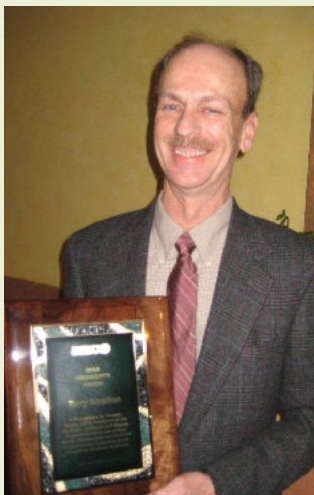


In tribute to recent award winners, there was a full display of photos and memorabilia highlighting the honorees and their many accomplishments.



GCSANC Past President Thomas Bastis stands next to the award winner display.





## Terry Stratton

*Little River Inn Golf & Tennis,  
Little River*

**The Presidents Award:** *This special honor is bestowed upon an individual who has exemplified excellence and serves as a role model for others within the association.*

**About our Honoree:** GCSANC Member Terry Stratton from Little River Inn Golf & Tennis Resort (LRIG&T) is a dedicated golf course superintendent who has demonstrated exceptional performance in the area of environmental

stewardship.

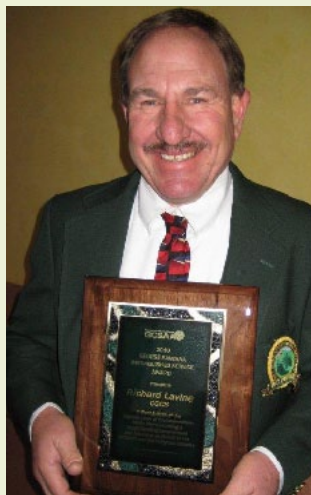
**Career Highlights:** Terry's career includes previous work assignments at bay area facilities including Contra Costa CC, Diablo Creek GC and Tilden Park GC. In 1997, after several years as a landscaper and hydroseeder, he accepted a perfection position as golf course superintendent at LRIG&T.

**Education:** He is a graduate from California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo (1980) earning a degree in Agricultural Business Management.

**A Water and Energy Saver:** Terry has been able to avoid using ground water when irrigating, as the golf course captures winter rains in reservoirs (with siphons and gravity) moving irrigation water between reservoirs, and with no need for electricity. He has also significantly reduced the use of pesticides and is constantly seeking ways to improve habitat for wildlife.

**Committed to the Cause:** Terry has obtained certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary site and encourages his peers to do the same. He participates in the Green Golfer Pledge program too. Terry takes great pride in educating golfers and local residents on the benefits of reusing, reducing and recycling, and does so through a local newsletter, on-site signage, sustainability day tours, and community meetings.

**Environmental Leader:** Terry is a multiple recipient of the GCSAA-Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Award. In 2009 he was selected as the national resort and overall winner of the Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.



## Richard "Rich" Lavine, CGCS

*San Rafael*

**George Santana Distinguished Service Award:**

*This honor is presented to a dedicated chapter member, for their long-standing commitment to the GCSANC and the turf care industry.*

**Career Highlights:** Throughout his 33 years as a respected golf course superintendent, Rich Lavine has overseen golf course maintenance operations at public, private and resort facilities including tenure at Spyglass Hill, Castlewood CC, Marin CC, Meadowood Resort, Peacock Gap G&CC and Foxtail GC. He has hosted four PGA TOUR events, numerous USGA qualifying events and plenty of NCGA tournaments, too. Because of his professional acumen, strong mentoring skills and his overall dedicated service to the association, in 1996 he was named GCSANC Golf Course Superintendent of the Year.

**Education:** Rich has an A.A. degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Fullerton College and a B.S. degree in Park Administration from California State Polytechnic, Pomona.

**Association Involvement:** A certified golf course superintendent, Rich has served on the chapter's board of directors and was elected president in 1995. During his three-plus decades with the GCSANC he has served on various committees and was a chapter delegate to National. He has also served on the CGCSA board of directors where he assisted with annual conferences and member events and provided sage support to the By-Laws committee. Rich has served on national committees too, and was a Subject Matter Expert in the rewriting of the current certification exam. He's also played an integral role on the GCSAA web site committee.

**Industry & Community Involvement:** Rich has served on the board of directors for the Northern California Turfgrass Council and also on the Parks & Recreation Commission for the Marinwood Community Services District.







## Greg Dunn *West Coast Turf, Stevenson*

### **Bert Graves Affiliate Merit**

**Award:** *This award is presented to an affiliate member who has contributed in extraordinary ways to the association and its members.*

**Career Highlights:** Greg is a successful Northern California sales manager with West Coast Turf, a leader in providing quality sod and related services. Greg loves what it does and it shows, as he supplies an array of services and products to his customers; everything from custom grown sod and expert sod installation to hydroseeding and stolon planting.



**Not Just Golf:** In addition to supplying high quality turf to courses throughout the West, Greg also supplies turf to major sports complexes. Seven Super Bowls have relied on product from West Coast Turf.

**You Can Count on Him:** Greg has just completed his term as an affiliate representative on the GCSANC Board of Directors and has served on the Institute Committee. He co-chairs the Sponsor Relations Committee, where he doesn't just "solicit" sponsorships, but personally supports chapter programs and events year after year.

**Community Involvement:** Greg assists at the local community level through his charitable work with the Good Tidings Foundation where he helps renovate playing fields for youth.







## Ryan Zuehlsdorf *Golf Club at Roddy Ranch, Antioch*

**Turfgrass Excellence Award in the Public Category:** *This honor is presented to an individual with the highest quality standards in turfgrass maintenance. Award criteria takes into consideration: overall course condition, conservation and environmental factors, course activity and maintenance budget.*

**Career Highlights:** Besides his tenure at Roddy Ranch, Ryan Zuehlsdorf has worked at a variety of Northern California facilities including Blackhawk G&CC, Moraga CC and Orinda CC.

**Good for the Environment:** From its inception, Roddy Ranch was designed as an environmentally-conscious course. The water used to irrigate the course is supplied from irrigation canals which are pumped directly out of the Delta. Ryan monitors the water use and utilizes a variety of wetting agents to help irrigate at or below evapotranspiration. He reclaims runoff water through multiple drains and reroutes it back to the pumping lake. He minimizes pesticide use by utilizing good cultural practices and through the use of slow release fertilizers.

**Management Style:** Ryan's says his work assignment is like masterly fitting together pieces of an intricate puzzle. First, hire the right people, create a strong team that works well together, and always keep the channels of communication open. When these elements in place, it's much easier to ensure tournament-like conditions, thus, players' needs are met.



**Education:** Ryan has a B.S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

**The Course:** Designed by J. Michael Poellot, Roddy Ranch is a 4 star-rated course surrounded by a 2,000-acre cattle ranch. A western theme is woven throughout this links-like track which measures over 7,000 yards from the tips. Local players are the first to speak up about the course's fine condition and meticulously-maintained greens. While there's always plenty to do at Roddy Ranch, one of Ryan's more interesting projects was a lake renovation which required the lake to be raised and lined. With the assistance of Wadsworth, he finished the project on time, within budget, and with minimal disruption to play.

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## Jeff Markow, CGCS *Cypress Point Club, Pebble Beach*

**Turfgrass Excellence Award in the Private Category:** *This honor is presented to an individual with the highest quality of standards in turfgrass maintenance. Award criteria takes into consideration: overall course condition, conservation and environmental factors, course activity and maintenance budget.*

**Career Highlights:** Prior to his tenure at the world-famed Cypress Point Club (CPC) Jeff Markow worked at other noted courses which include The Vintage Club and PGA West (Nicklaus Course). He started in the turf care

business in 1993 at Minneapolis GC.

**Education:** While working at Minneapolis GC he obtained a B.S. in Biology at the University of Minnesota. Jeff is also a graduate of the illustrious Turfgrass program at Penn State. In 1994, Jeff earned the coveted distinction as a certified golf course superintendent.

**The Course:** This highly regarded private course keeps Jeff and his crew busy. Over the past decade he's overseen ten shoreline protection projects, numerous ongoing drainage projects, tree planting, cart path rerouting and major bunker renovation with reference to archival images. When you ask Jeff what it's like to work at a club such as Cypress Point, he'll quickly admit it's an honor and a privilege. Expectations are always high, yet Jeff has no problem meeting

them (and continues to exceed them), evidenced by CPC's spectacular course conditions. It's a classic course that continually finds itself ranked amongst the best in the world.

**Good for the Environment:** CPC uses 100% reclaimed water. When you ask Jeff about maintaining his course, he'll tell you it's about more brown and less water and fewer nutrients.

**Management Style:** While he considers himself a "hands on" superintendent, Jeff stays away from being a micro manager. He delegates assignments and encourages his assistants to try new things, develop ideas and implement them. Jeff maintains the majestic MacKenzie-designed course with the help of two assistants, a couple mechanics, a team of greenskeepers, and typically one intern. Jeff keeps in close touch with green committee members, always on the pulse of their expectations in regards to playability. He focuses on projects where he can maximize results while best-minimizing expenses.



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## Thomas Bastis, CGCS *California Golf Club of San Francisco*

**The Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award:** *This coveted honor is presented to a GCSANC member who has made contributions for the betterment of the association, its members and the overall profession.*

**Career Highlights:** Prior to the California Golf Club Thomas served as course superintendent at Moraga CC and assistant superintendent at Sharon Heights G&CC. Earlier in his career he apprenticed at the Four Seasons Resort Aviara plus held stints at Spyglass Hill GC and Del Mar CC.

Thomas also holds the respected distinction as a certified golf course superintendent.

**Education:** He is an alumnus of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he earned a B.S. Degree in Ornamental Horticulture. (1995)

**On Course:** It was just a few years ago that Thomas completed an impressive, historically-minded restoration project at the California Golf Club, working closely with Kyle Phillips Golf Course Design. The course continues to receive rave reviews for members and their guests.

**Giving Back:** When he isn't busy overseeing the course maintenance responsibilities at his own club, Thomas manages to donate equipment and volunteer his time at Gleneagles, a public 9-hole course that serves as a breeding ground for new golfers. Thanks in great part to the help of Thomas and his friends, Gleneagles has "found new life" and well-evidenced by all new greens.

When the word hit the street that Sharp Park GC (in Pacifica) was in fear of shutdown by over-zealous environmentalist, Thomas stepped up to offer his support. Today, he still continues to meet with golf leaders from surrounding courses and allied associations in an effort to secure solutions that will protect the future of golf in California.

**Association Involvement:** In addition to his recent leadership role as GCSANC president, Thomas has served on the Scholarship, Research, Web Site, Finance and Strategic Planning Committees. He has also helped lead the force in creating an online platform for superintendents to sell or exchange used equipment and surplus products.

**Going the Distance:** While Thomas is known for taking on amazing competitive quests (which include trail running, biking, kayaking and adventure racing) he applies the same commitment, endurance, and passion towards his profession, too. Regardless of the task, he's always determined to take on a "new challenge" especially if it's for the betterment of his club, the Nor Cal GC-SAA Chapter and/or its members.



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