

## GCSANC Turfgrass Award

The GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award is presented to an individual for their high level of achievement as they uphold quality standards in turfgrass maintenance. Award criteria take into consideration: overall course condition, conservation and environmental factors, course activity, and maintenance budget.

### GCSANC Excellence in Turfgrass Management at a Public Facility



**Abelardo "LaLo" Pacheco**  
*Rancho Solano Golf Course*  
*Fairfield*

Prior to his current assignment as golf course superintendent at Rancho Solano Golf Course, Abelardo "Lalo" Pacheco gained plenty of experience during his 14-year tenure at Franklin Canyon Golf Course, first as an assistant and later advancing to golf course superintendent.

Today, he oversees the Baird-designed Rancho Solano Golf Course in Fairfield, CA, which is well known for its manicured fairways and large, tiered greens. This par-72 course, which spans 6,705 yards from the longest tees, receives accolades from golfers about its fine condition and meticulously maintained greens.

Lalo's work philosophy is simple: maintain the course as if it were your own. He insists his staff takes great pride in its work. He also

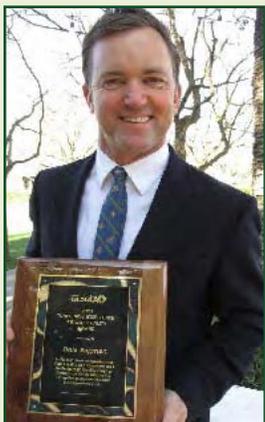
encourages them to play golf and is convinced that crew members who play the game have a better understanding of customer needs.

According to Lalo, Rancho Solano and neighboring Paradise Valley Golf Course (which he also oversees) are both committed to environmental excellence and are participants in Kemper Sports "Green to a Tee" initiative. This program focuses on best practices in recycling, water and energy conservation, habitat management plus staff education and training.

Growing the game in an affordable way and reaching out to the community are important at Rancho Solano, a facility touted as the best-valued course in the region which also serves as the home course for two local high school golf teams.

Lalo accepted the Turfgrass Excellence award at the Course at Wente Vineyards with two of his brothers proudly in attendance. They, as with Lalo, are dedicated GCSANC members.

### GCSANC Excellence in Turfgrass Management at a Private Facility



**Dale Engman**  
*Mayacama Golf Club*  
*Santa Rosa*

Dale's professional experience in turfgrass started prior to his tenure at Mayacama Golf Club. His career kicked off right out of college, at the Meadow Club where he started as a project manager and then assistant superintendent. Dale admits working for David Sexton at Meadow Club taught him plenty about project implementation and the details of irrigation management, knowledge he still utilizes today as golf course superintendent at Mayacama Golf Club.

2012 marks Dale's 11th year at the award-winning Mayacama, a club which finds itself ranked amongst the best by GolfWeek and Golf Digest. A graduate from Cal Poly -San Luis Obispo (with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture), Dale started at the Jack Nicklaus-designed course in the summer of 2000 as assistant superintendent and held that position for a year during construction and grow-in. He was asked to "take full reins" just a month prior to the club's grand opening in 2001. Dale well-remembers the opening day event attended by Golf Hall of Famer Mr. Jack Nicklaus.

When you ask Dale about his management style he is the first to admit he's definitely a "hands on" manager. He wants to know how to conquer every job-out-there, and takes pride in mastering those tasks, so he can serve as a positive example for his staff.

At this par-72 course (with 6,759 yards from the longest tees), Dale and his team continue to improve on what they have. Through Fall of 2011 they rebuilt a handful of tee complexes and will continue with the project through this Spring while also keeping the stands of ryegrass pure. Add to that, the ongoing effort to control Poa.

Mayacama, (a walking-only course) sits on a natural site with several waterways running through the property. According to Dale, he continues to monitor the waterways and maintains them to preserve their native state. In 2009, Mayacama was certified by Audubon International as a member of their Cooperative Sanctuary Program. According to Dale, it was a rewarding process which involved both club and community members.

When it comes to community Mayacama gives back by hosting the Schultz Celebrity Classic, an annual event which has raised more than \$2.5 million for Sonoma County charities benefiting youth.

## George Santana Distinguished Service Award

The George Santana Distinguished Service Award is presented to a chapter member for their long-standing commitment to the GCSANC and the turf care industry.



**Jason Green**  
San Jose Country Club  
San Jose

It wasn't a problem finding a worthy recipient for the distinguished service award, the minute the name Jason Green came to surface. A dedicated Class "A" Superintendent, Jason also serves as general manager and chief operating officer at San Jose Country Club. He started in the business in 1986, had a 5-year stint at Los Altos CC and 10 years at San Jose CC before heading off to Cal Poly-San Luis

Obispo where he earned a BS degree in Ornamental Horticulture with a concentration in Turfgrass Management. In 2003, he returned to San Jose CC as superintendent and was promoted to general manager in 2010.

Jason has been committed to the Nor Cal Chapter and overall profession in a variety of ways. He has served on the GCSANC board of directors, advanced through the chairs ultimately serving as

president. He has served on various chapter committees and always with immense dedication and spirit. In addition to worthy GCSANC programs like scholarship and turfgrass research, Jason and his club support NCGA Youth on Course program, Lance Armstrong Tour de Cure, plus the American Diabetes Association.

Jason is currently a delegate to the California Chapter of the GCSAA, serving as an effective liaison between the Nor Cal and State Chapters.

Due to Jason's keen knowledge and natural ability to connect with others he is an excellent mentor for members of his staff and other up-and-coming turf care professionals. To this day, he credits three mentors for his success: his father, former boss Mike Simpson, CGCS, at Los Altos G&CC, and PGA Life Member Gary Plato.

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## Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award

*The Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award is presented to an individual who has contributed in extraordinary ways to the association and its members.*



**James "Jim" Sherman**  
*VP of Sales, Turf & Industrial  
Equipment Company  
Santa Clara*

Award winner Jim Sherman is a successful vice president in outside sales with Turf & Industrial Equipment Company, one of the most respected suppliers in the Nor Cal region. A college graduate, with a business degree from the University of Arizona, Jim lends great credit for his success from having "grown up" with Turf & Industrial Equipment Company, a business started by his family in 1968, where he was well-mentored by his father, Jim Sr. In recent years the company was sold to Mr. John Matheny, yet it still possesses that "family business spirit" coupled with exceptional customer service standards.

Directors, Jim co-chairs the Sponsor Relations Committee, seeking support year-round for important chapter programs and initiatives. When it comes to contributing to a cause, you can always count on Jim and the Turf & Industrial Equipment to step to the plate. The success of the GCSANC Scholarship and Turfgrass Research fundraiser and Equipment Field Day event are due in great part to his efforts and others whose support he's kindly garnered.

In addition to the GCSANC, Jim and his company lend support to the Sports Turf Association, California Winegrowers Association, and the California Landscape Contractors Association.

2012 is a pivotal year for Jim, as it marks his 25th year in the industry. An affiliate representative on the GCSANC Board of



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## Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award

The Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award is presented to a GCSANC Member who has made contributions for the betterment of the association, its members and the overall profession. This is the highest distinction bestowed upon a golf course superintendent.



**Patrick "Pat" Finlen, CGCS**  
*The Olympic Club*  
*San Francisco*

The GCSANC is proud to announce Patrick "Pat" Finlen is the recipient of the 2011 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award, an honor so well deserved.

As Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations at the Olympic Club, Pat keeps exceptionally busy these days as he prepares for the 2012 U.S. Open Championship set for June 14-17. Prior to the Olympic Club, Pat served as director of golf course maintenance at Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses (Seaside, CA), golf course & grounds manager at Quivira Lake & Country Club (Lake Quivira, KS), and superintendent at Cypress Point Country Club (Virginia Beach, VA). He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Rockhurst College in Kansas City, MO.

A certified golf course superintendent, Pat receives the Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award for his ongoing contributions to the betterment of the association and its members, as well as the golf

community. He has served on the GCSANC board of directors and currently is secretary/treasurer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) where he is instrumental in improving programs and services for fellow golf course superintendents and affiliate members.

He is a trustee and officer for the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), a not-for-profit organization committed to strengthening the compatibility of the game of golf with the natural environment. Additionally, Pat is a supporter of the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), a statewide trade organization whose primary goal is to protect valuable resources for those of us in the business of golf and turf care.

Pat has been a dedicated member of the GCSAA for 26 years. He is past president of three GCSAA chapters: Northern California, Heart of America, and the California State Chapter. And, because of his exemplary service with the GCSANC, this is the second time he has earned this prestigious award; first time was in 2003.

Pat also gives back to the community by lending support to various turf related organizations, plus industry initiatives including Golf 20/20 and its We Are Golf initiative, the Save Sharp Park Golf Course campaign, Play Golf America, and Doctors Orders: Play Golf, a health education initiative through golf.



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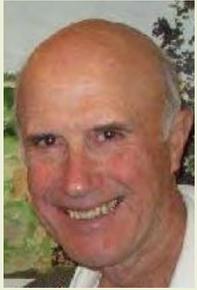
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## GCSANC Presidents Award

*The GCSANC Presidents Award is a special honor bestowed upon an individuals who have exemplified excellence in a designated area and serve as role models for others within the golf industry. It is not an annual award, but one bestowed on rare occasion at the discretion of the association's President.*



**Harris**



**Links**

### **Mr. Richard Harris, Esq. and Mr. Robert “Bo” Links, Esq.** *San Francisco Public Golf Alliance*

The GCSANC Presidents Award has been given to Mr. Richard H. Harris and Mr. Robert D. “Bo” Links for their exceptional volunteerism and contributions to the game of golf, well-evidenced through their grassroots effort to help Save Sharp Park, an Alister MacKenzie-designed public golf course, open to citizens of all ages and ethnicities.

Harris and Links have worked tirelessly in support of golf as they fully demonstrate the type of effort it takes to preserve public golf especially in these challenging economic times where politics may often come into play.

Both men have deep roots in Northern California golf. Harris is a member at Gleneagles GC, Sharp Park GC and Stanford University GC. He was introduced to the game at a young age by his father and later played Varsity Golf at Stanford where he was captain of the golf team in 1968.

After graduation Harris served in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division and 25th Infantry Division, South Vietnam (1969-1971). He graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley in 1977, and has been practicing law in San Francisco ever since. He is with the firm of Erskine and Tulley where his legal practice focuses on business, insurance, and real estate litigation.

Harris was instrumental in the Save Stanford Golf Course campaign in 2000. He is co-founder of the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance (SFPGA), an organization committed to preserving affordable

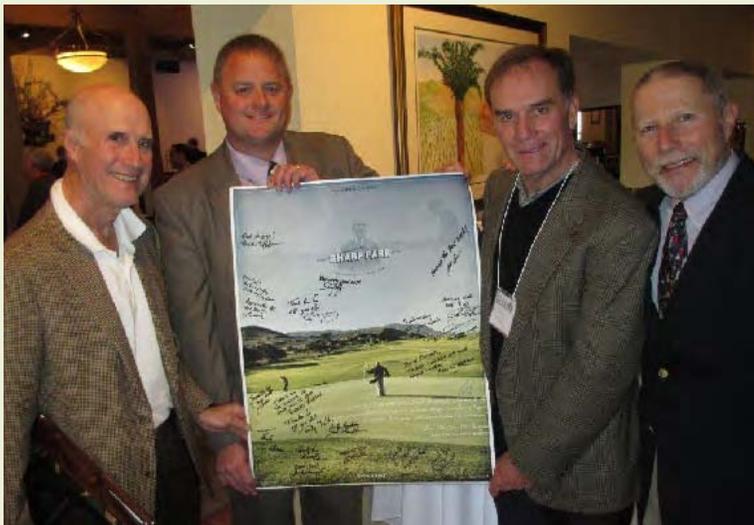
eco-friendly golf, with focus on San Francisco's historic Sharp Park and Lincoln Park courses.

Co-honoree, Robert D. “Bo” Links is a lifelong resident of the City & County of San Francisco. A graduate of UC Berkeley and UCLA Law School, Links has practiced law in San Francisco since 1974, and is currently with Slote & Links where he maintains an active general litigation and legal counseling practice.

Links, an avid golfer and a dedicated golf historian, he serves as the volunteer historian for the city's golf courses. He was active in the project to renovate and restore Harding Park GC. Additionally, he has served on the USGA Green Section Committee for nearly two decades and is a pro bono speaker for the association on legal issues affecting the game of golf. In his spare time, he's authored *Follow the Wind* plus *Riverbank Tweed & Roadmap Jenkins: Tales From the Caddie Yard*.

A past president of Lake Merced Golf Club (2003-04), Links was successful in leading the effort to rebuild the club's infrastructure (new clubhouse, recycled water facilities, maintenance building). In 2007 and 2008, Links was honored by the Alister MacKenzie Society, which awarded him first prize in the international Lido Design Contest. He is the only two-time winner of that award.

Links' greatest golf endeavor is his leadership role in co-founding the SFPGA. He and Harris continue to help secure necessary funding for an environmentally sensitive restoration of the cherished MacKenzie-designed Sharp Park. Additionally, both men continue to keep others well-informed about the serious issues surrounding Sharp Park, demonstrated through their ongoing volunteerism advocacy work.



**LEFT: GCSANC VP Jon Christenson and Affiliate Member, Doug Nichols (center) present a “Save Sharp Park” poster bearing notes of appreciation to honorees Richard Harris (left) and Bo Links (far right). RIGHT: Tim Powers, CGCS, shares rare images of Sharp Park GC with Award Honoree Bo Links and Affiliate Member Matt Moore.**