

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

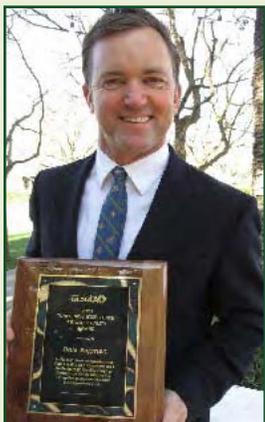
encourages them to play golf and is convinced that crew members who play the game have a better understanding of customer needs.

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.