



Turfgrass Excellence—Public Category

James “Jim” Ferrin, CGCS *Sun City Roseville | Roseville, CA*

Career Highlights: Jim Ferrin, CGCS, is the Golf Course Superintendent and Director of Landscapes for the Sun City Roseville Community Association. In addition to the two golf courses he oversees, Timber Creek GC and Sierra Pines GC, Jim is responsible for all of the association’s common landscape areas. Now, in his ninth year at Sun City Roseville, Jim

continues to do a remarkable job overseeing the 27-hole facility.

Prior Experience: Jim’s career experience includes Superintendent and GM assignments at Whitney Oaks Golf Club and was the grow-in and opening Superintendent at Granite Bay Golf Club.

Education: Jim earned a B.A. degree in History from UC San Diego and a two-year certificate in Ornamental Horticulture from Mesa Community College. He also holds title as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with the GCSAA.

On Course: At Timber Creek and Sierra Pines GC’s the fairways and tees are a combo of perennial rye and Bermuda with bent/poa greens. Recent projects include installing a new pumping plant as well as redoing split rail fencing and protecting open space/native areas. Jim has a staff of 18, which also includes his assistant and equipment manager.

Jim’s Course Management Philosophy: He bases his course management on providing good, playable surfaces. He develops an annual work plan, which also has quarterly and weekly components. Programs are constructed with soil, paste extracts and tissue testing. He encourages sustainability, but admits (after his years of ex-

perience) he must always protect his commodity.

Jim’s Management Style: Jim understands golf and the unique science of course maintenance. He recognizes the primary role of the course superintendent is to provide quality playing surfaces for golfers. When it comes to his staff, he believes in educating, cross-training, delegating and empowering. Staying focused on goals which are supported by open communication is paramount to his success. Jim also believes it is his responsibility to provide opportunities for his staff to grow.

Honors: He is a former recipient of the GCSAA Environmental Award (1988), SNGCSA Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award (2011), and the CGCSA Writer’s Award.

ADA Consultant: Jim became passionate about ADA (along with colleague Sam Samuelson, CGCS) when he repeatedly observed the positive impacts golf has on individuals with disabilities (from stroke or otherwise). After much in-depth research, planning, and application, Jim and his business partner Sam, now provide ADA consulting services for golf facilities. Both gentlemen are considered experts in the field and speak regularly on the topic of ADA.

Chapter and Industry Involvement: Jim is known for his ongoing efforts in the area of Government Relations and serves on the board of directors for the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), where he is the voice at the table for California golf course superintendents. Because of his keen agronomic knowledge, Jim was recently featured in a RISE video that focused on debugging the myth about pesticides.

Dream Foursome: If all dreams came true, Jim would be joined in a round of golf by Golf Greats Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Lee Trevino.

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Turfgrass Excellence—Private Category

Jason Goss Sonoma Golf Club | Sonoma, CA

Career Highlights: Jason Goss is now in his seventh year at Sonoma Golf Club where he originally served as a 1st assistant, and in the summer of 2007 was promoted to head golf course superintendent. Prior, he was employed at Santa Rosa G&CC, and even had a stint helping construct a par-3 course in Sonoma County.

Education: Jason earned an AS degree in Turfgrass Management from Michigan State University.

On Course: The fairways and tees at Sonoma Golf club consist of poa annua/chewings fescue/rye, and poa annua greens. There haven't been any major on-course renovation projects in the past few years, however, there's been great success interseeding fairways with chewings fescue for five consecutive seasons, improving playability as well as reducing water and fertilizer/chemical usage.

Special Projects: Jason's turf care background also includes preparing the course for the Charles Schwab Cup Championships (Champions Tour event), three during his tenure as golf course superintendent.

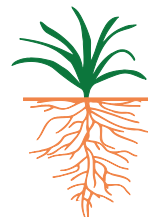
Jason's Course Management Philosophy: "We manage the soil not the grass. If the soil is right, the grass will be right," states Jason. The color green and managing for aesthetics is not necessarily number one on the priority list at SGC. It's about playability first, then aesthetics. To keep this championship-level course in good

shape it takes a staff of 21 full-time and two part-time employees.

Jason's Management Style: "I like to manage the way I like to learn, mostly through osmosis and also by example. I've worked on golf courses for more than 22 years and have done nearly every job imaginable. My staff members get a chance to see me jump in and do the work whenever necessary and that helps when I have to, on occasion, give corrective instruction. They know I've performed the tasks before and I am still willing to do it when needed."

Dream Foursome: If Jason could choose, he'd be teeing it up with his Dad, plus golf legends Fred Couples and Arnold Palmer.

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