



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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