



GCSANC HOST PROFILE

Steve Kimbrough
Superintendent (Lake Course)
The Olympic Club

Employer: The Olympic Club

Position: Superintendent (Lake Course)

Years in the Golf Business: 11

Previous Employment: Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill Golf Course, Pebble Beach CA., Montreux Golf and Country Club, Reno, NV.

Education: B.S. in Horticulture (Oregon State University)

Other Organizations: GCSAA

Family: Wife, Natali

Interests Outside of Golf: Basketball, Mountain Biking and relaxing.

Favorite Vacation: Cancun Mexico

Favorite Course to Play: Spyglass Hill

Course You'd Like to Visit: St. Andrews, Harbour Town

Strangest Thing You've Witnessed On The Golf Course: I once saw a guy run back up the fairway and get into a fistfight with the group behind because they kept hitting into him.

Worst Comment/ Question From a Member: Is it possible to mow everything, everyday and get off the course before anyone tees off?

What You'd Be Doing If You Weren't Involved With Golf: Landscape Architecture, Irrigation

GCSANC 2004 ANNUAL AWARDS

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

TERRY GRASSO, SEQUOYAH COUNTRY CLUB

GEORGE SANTANA

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

GARY K. CARLS, CGCS, SUNNYVALE GOLF COURSE

EXCELLENCE IN TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC COURSE

TIM POWERS, CGCS, CRYSTAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

EXCELLENCE IN TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

PRIVATE COURSE

DEAN GUMP, PASATIEMPO GOLF CLUB

AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

GREG FERNALD

TARGET SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

THE OLYMPIC CLUB



Lake Course



Ocean Course

In The News

GCSAA Recognizes Two For Distinguished Service

William G. Fielder, retired CGCS, and Tommy D. Witt, CGCS at Northmoor Country Club in Highland Park, Ill., have been selected as recipients of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Distinguished Service Award. They will be acknowledged at the Opening Session of the 2005 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Feb. 7-12.

The GCSAA board of directors selects Distinguished Service Award winners from nominations submitted by affiliated chapters and/or association members. First presented in 1932, the award is given to individuals who have made an outstanding, substantive and enduring contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession. The Opening Session is presented in partnership with Bayer Environmental Science.

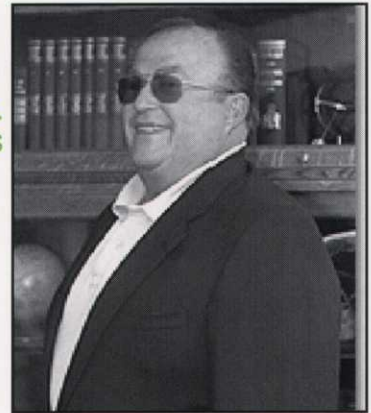
"Billy and Tommy epitomize the kind of long-term, selfless service that the Distinguished Serve Award is supposed to recognize," said GCSAA President Mark J. Woodward, CGCS. It will be a privilege to present them with this well-deserved honor."

Fielder, a member of GCSAA for more than 30 years, has been active at the local level, serving more than 20 years on the boards of various chapters including three terms as president of the Southern Nevada GCSA. He has also been heavily involved in water issues in

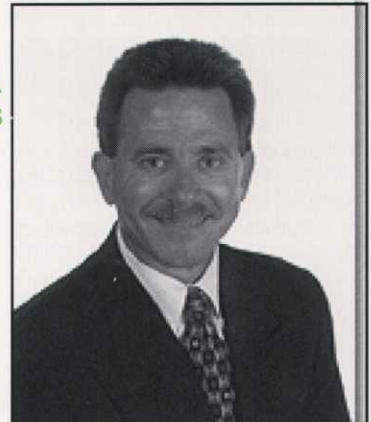
Arizona and Nevada. He is a member of the Cactus and Pine GCSA, and has served on several GCSAA committees and resource groups. He recently retired from Sunrise Vista Golf Club in Las Vegas. As part of his legacy to golf course management, Fielder counts more than 50 former employees who have gone on to become golf course superintendents, architects, consultants and landscape professionals.

Witt was GCSAA's president in 2001, and has served on several chapter boards in his native Texas. He has mentored nearly 40 assistant superintendents and interns who became golf course superintendents. His dedication to improving career opportunities, security and compensation within the golf course management profession has led him to develop and present numerous seminars and presentations on topics related to professional development. His teaching credits include educational programs for the GCSAA, Club Managers Association of America and the PGA of America, during which he promotes the golf course management profession. He also regularly speaks to student audiences about how to prepare for a golf course management career.

William G. Fielder, CGCS



Tommy D. Witt, CGCS



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Marking The Other Golf Course Hazard – Your Trees

By Brian C. Nettz
CGCS, Certified Arborist



On July 15, 2004 William Harrell was out on the golf course enjoying life and the company of a friend while playing at their country club in North Carolina. The wind was strong that day. In fact it was strong enough to have blown over a 35-foot tree onto the golf cart that was occupied by William and his partner. Tragically, a day's enjoyment and William's life were crushed under the weight of the tree, which had severe root-rot underground. This sad story was published as a blurb in the August 6 issue of Golfweek's SuperNEWS. Many would argue that it was an act of God. The reality is that the article probably does not detail a probable investigation into the contributing factors of the root-rot, and whether there was any negligence on the part of the club to remove the hazard.

In addition to the lateral and direct hazards that we mark on the golf course, it is important to remember and look up in order to assess tree hazards. Improper marking of a water hazard will get you a lecture from the Green Committee Chair, the GM, or the irate golfer that just lost his \$ 50 bet. Improper marking or failure to mark a reasonably foreseeable tree hazard will get you subpoenaed and stuck in deposition and litigation purgatory. In today's litigious society, it is the responsibility of the superintendent as his/her employer's fiduciary to mitigate potential lawsuits.

You cannot eliminate tree hazards entirely. In theory every tree could be categorized as a hazard. What you want to accomplish is to take effective measures to reduce the failure potential of a tree. Identification and correction of structural defects significantly reduces the failure potential. Species, growth habit, soil conditions, history and environment are all factors as well.

There are three components in assessing tree hazards. First is the probability of failure. A large tree with an extreme structural defect, such as severe internal rot, could be a hazard. Second is the environment that may contribute to failure. A large tree with this internal rot in a wind corridor could be more hazardous than inside a large grove of trees. Third is a target. A large tree with severe internal rot in a wind corridor over the eighth tee is a severe hazard. If the same tree were off in the distant grove of trees 100 yards off the fairway, it would not be a hazard because there is no target. A hazard, by definition, must have the ability to harm people and/or property.

Evaluating tree hazards begins by developing a systematic process of evaluation and sticking with it. On a golf course, I stick with the areas of highest target value/density. If you have large trees at the end of their life-cycle like we have here, your annual tree hazard budget could run in to the many tens of thousands of dollars. Concentrate on tees, greens, bunkers, parking lots, roads, buildings, and neighbors. Any areas around tees and greens where golf carts park should be included. It is not a highly technical process to do an evaluation, but it does take some time and some effort. The International Society of Arboriculture has a systematic, standardized booklet explaining hazard identification and it also provides sample forms that can be used.

One should begin the process by examining the tree from a distance. Get a look at the tree as a whole. Then you should proceed to check the trunk and crown area of the tree. Lastly you need to examine the canopy of the tree.

Things to look for from a distance primarily are: lean, location/environment, crown dieback, and branches that stick out further than the rest of the crown. Trees with severe lean are better off removed. If a period of saturated soil conditions arrives, its eventual fall-over will occur. Trees may lean due to growth form and environment. They naturally produce reaction wood to offset the different weight distribution associated with natural leaning. But a severe lean, as seen in the picture is cause for concern and action. While you are examining the tree from a distance, you will also notice the environmental factors that act upon the tree. You should note the prevailing wind, location in relation to other trees, distance from roads and buildings, and general vigor.

Closer examination is needed for the trunk and the root collar. At this stage of the game we want to see the taper of the trunk, the amount of internal decay and other important structural features. Also look for codominant stems, or trees with two major trunk portions. Ideally trees that have codominant stems should have the weaker of the two stems cut back, or subordinated, when the tree is juvenile. Codominant stems have included bark where the two stems grow against each other and this is a weak wood formation that will eventually end in failure. The failure potential of codominant stems can be lessened with the use of cables. Cables should be placed $\frac{3}{4}$ the distance from the crotch to the end of the stems and secured with special hardware. Check for internal decay. Signs of decay are: holes, animal shelters, beehives, fruiting bodies and conks. If the decay is greater than 30-35% of the trunk's solid wood, removal is recommended. If there is a cavity in the tree that is greater than 25% of the total amount of wood, remove it. If the tree is leaning, look for signs of soil heaving or cracking where the trunk and soil meet. Trees with heaving soil require immediate removal. Proper trunk taper is also important. Good trunk structure has a nice taper from the root crown to the top. Long, slender trunks with no taper are candidates for blow-over in strong wind. Be especially aware of this if your course has "edge trees". Edge trees were trees once in the middle of a grove and now are on the edge. Because the trees that were on the edge sheltered the ones inside, the inside trees tend to grow long and slender. Exposure to wind creates taper, and trees sheltered from wind have no taper. These trees are weak. They are prime candidates for blowing over. This is typical of courses that were carved out of large tree stands. Winds can be funneled by fairways, and the wind picks up speed as it moves into the open areas.

When you examine the tree scaffold be on the watch for branches that rub other branches. Rubbing will eventually create decay and cause a failure. Check the branches where they attach to the trunk and parent branches (branch collar). Remove any branches that are larger in diameter than the parent stem. Remove any branches that stick out noticeably further from the trunk than the majority. Cut off any branches that are already dead and decaying (crown cleaning). Large branches with cracks along the lateral plane should also be removed before they break and create an exposure route for decay. Be aware that taper on branches is important and tree branches that have poor taper are best removed. Branches that contain galls and cankers should be cut. A good rule of thumb is not to remove more than 25% of the canopy of a healthy tree. Doing so could stress the tree and begin a mortality spiral that may take years to finally kill a tree.

Be mindful of any history associated with your trees. Important things to remember are: irrigation installation around trees, cart path construction, root pruning, large equipment movement, mechanical damage from equipment, chemical damage from runoff or drift, vandalism. It can take years for a stressor to show on a tree. Make sure all pruning cuts are done appropriately, without cutting into the woody collar that surrounds the branch where it attaches to the tree. Trees have a unique ability to compartmentalize decay, but the right conditions will favor the decay over the tree's defense mechanisms.

Another thing to consider is lightning. Trees of prominence or trees that golfers seek refuge under in rains should be considered for a lightning protection system. A set of air terminals and copper conducting wire is installed on the tree and grounded in the soil to transmit the bulk of the voltage into the ground. The air terminals need to be extended as the tree grows, but the system will function normally even as the tree growth surrounds the conducting wire. Lightning protection is expensive, but the cost may be worth installation on the proper tree.

Remember to appreciate the beauty of your trees and the value and character they add to your property. Do not take their health for granted. Take in to account the massive weight of a tree. As a tree or a branch falls, it picks up momentum continually until it hits ground. Even a small branch becomes potentially fatal from 25-30 feet. Keep your eyes peeled for hazardous trees and branches around your tees, greens, and other areas where there are probable targets. The life and or injury you prevent could be your own.

For more information about tree hazard identification go to www.isa-arbor.com, the website of the International Society of Arboriculture. I also recommend [Golf Course Tree Management](#) by Sharon Lilly for further turf/tree interrelationships.

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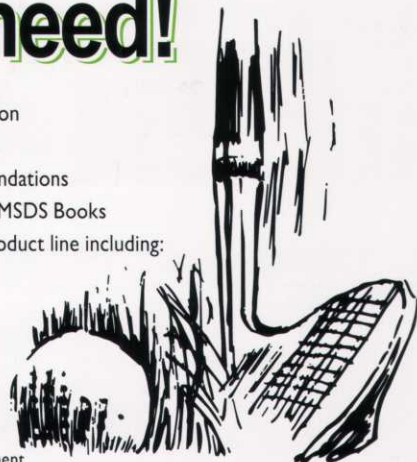
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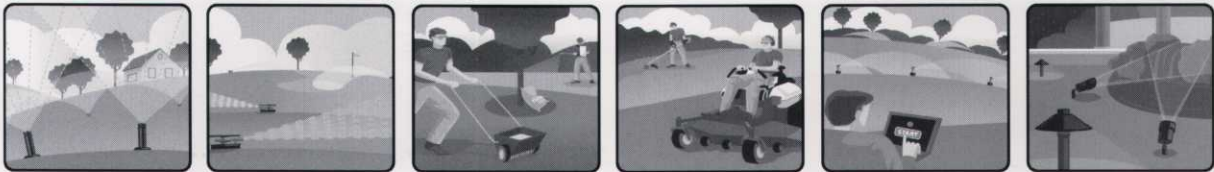
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