

Officers & Directors 2012

OFFICERS



PRESIDENT
RODNEY MULLER
Empire Ranch Golf Club
muller_rodney@yahoo.com



SECRETARY TREASURER
TIM POWERS, CGCS
Cordevalle Golf Club
tppowers82@gmail.com



VICE PRESIDENT
JON CHRISTENSON
Oakhurst Country Club
christenson.j.m@gmail.com



PAST PRESIDENT
GLENN MATTHEWS
The Course At Wente Vineyards
glennm@wentegolf.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DIRECTOR
NICK CHECKLENIS, CGCS
Silver Creek Valley C.C.
nick@scvcc.com



DIRECTOR
BRIAN BOYER
Cinnabar Hills Golf Club
bboyer@cinnabarhills.com



DIRECTOR
JAMES ABATE
Harding Park Golf Course
jimabate@pgatourtpc.com



DIRECTOR
GARY INGRAM, CGCS
Metropolitan Golf Links
gingram@playmetro.com



AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
JAMES SHERMAN
Turf and Industrial Equipment
jrs@turfandindustrial.com



AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
DAVE WILBER
Wilber Turf & Soil
davewilbur@yahoo.com



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DIRECTOR
DAVID PROCTER
Ruby Hill Golf Course
dprocter@rubyhill.com



Inside

<i>Office Notes</i>	3
<i>Naumann's Nor Cal News</i>	3
<i>NorCalendar</i>	3
<i>New Members</i>	3
<i>President's Message</i>	4
<i>Sharp Park Update</i>	7
<i>Honorary Member Gratitude</i>	8
<i>Honorary Member Gratitude</i>	10
<i>Holiday Meeting</i>	12
<i>Running Because I Care</i>	14
<i>NorCal Blogs</i>	14
<i>Superintendent Profile, Thomas Bastis</i>	16
<i>From the Field</i>	19

Thru The Green published bimonthly by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California.

EDITOR
Brian Nettz, CGCS
(415) 561-4615
bnettz@palmergolf.com

ASSOCIATION MANAGER
Barbara Mikel
(530) 626-0931
bmikel@gcsanc.com

PUBLISHER
Shaw Kobre
(707) 569-8481
shaw@intheblooppublishing.com

MEDIA CONSULTANT
Emmy Moore Minister
(530) 666-6508
emmypga@aol.com

Office Notes

BY BARBARA MIKEL



The year 2013 marks the 81st anniversary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California. In 1932 the impact of the Great Depression was being felt by the greenkeeping industry but members successfully managed to organize, grow, and strive for education, networking, camaraderie and strength for all of golf.

From the 1932 President's Message, Will Rogers, the first president, wrote: "I would like to call the attention of every greenkeeper in our organization that the time of one day a month would be well spent in attending these meetings. We must never let up in our efforts to make our gatherings worth-

while so that on leaving we may have attained some knowledge of greenkeeping that we did not have before."

So that one day a month commitment was possible in 1932 in the midst of the depression! So, can it be so difficult to commit to your future in the upcoming year? The Nor Calendar has events scheduled through July of this year. Take a moment and mark your calendars and commit to making taking these opportunities for the personal smile, laughter, sharing of the face to face events in the education setting and on the golf course.

Many thanks to all our Holiday Meeting sponsors who provide the financial support for a great time of meeting and greeting old and new friends. Golf results are posted on page 13. A list of the Affiliate sponsors is on page 12. Give these pages a look and a thank you for all the support for a wonderfully relaxing and fun event!

The link to photos (taken by Emmy Moore Minister):

<http://www.gcsanc.com/events/photo-archive/2012-del-monte-holiday-meeting/>

Superintendent Institute Education links for the Excel templates used during the education session were forwarded to the attendees. If you missed them, contact the office.

Naumann's Nor Cal News

Tim Powers has left Crystal Springs Golf Course in Burlingame. Replacing Tim is **Darin Pakkahla**. Darin comes to us from Arizona. Crystal Springs is a CourseCo managed property....**Matt Wisely** has left Alameda Municipal Golf Course and is being replaced by **Danny Holmes**. Danny was most recently in Florida prior to his return to Northern California. Alameda was a Kemper Sports Managed facility and now is a Greenway Managed facility...Both Matt Wisely and Tim Powers are working with **Tom Gray** at CordeValle Golf Club in Morgan Hill....**Jon Christensen** is the new Supt. at Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton. Jon was the Supt. at Monarch Bay GC in San Leandro prior to his move. Both facilities are managed by American Golf Corp....**Sean McPhedren** is the new Super at Valley Hi Country Club in Elk Grove. Sean was the Assistant Super at Mayacama Golf Club prior to his move....



NorCalendar

FEB 6

California Room at GCSAA Conference & Show

USS Midway, San Diego

MAR 18

USGA/NCGA/GCSANC Green Section Conference

Sequoyah Country Club, Oakland

APRIL 14

NCPGA, GCSANC & CMAA Invitational

Ruby Hill Golf Club, Pleasanton

JULY 1

Clifford And Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament

Claremont Country Club, Claremont

DECEMBER 6

Holiday Golf and Dinner

Del Monte Golf Course

More Details?

Visit www.gcsanc.com/events/next/

New Members

Chris Strange

Student

Douglas McCullen

Bayer Environmental Science Affiliate

Jeremy Galvin

The Olympic Club

Class C Assistant Superintendent

Ronald Fukuyama

Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Class A Superintendent

Darin Pakkala

Crystal Springs Golf Course Class A Superintendent

Jim McKenna

American Golf Corp Superintendent Member

Bernadette Ward

Student

President's Message

BY RODNEY MULLER



Notes From a Successful 2012

Are you ready for all the “Year in Review” shows that are produced this time of the year? I like to go back and recap the past year so that I can reflect on what has had meaning in my life. This time last year when I became President of the Association, I had both goals and a planned agenda. I had a strong idea of my duties and what was expected of me to lead our Association through another year of a poor economy and budget cuts, but as we Superintendents know, even the best laid plan can not be executed alone or without modifications. I think three significant factors contributed to our association's success in 2012 and I would like to recap those successes. Specifically, I have seen (1) social media, (2) Scholarship and Research Tournament and (3) our members' resolute support as defining contributions to 2012.

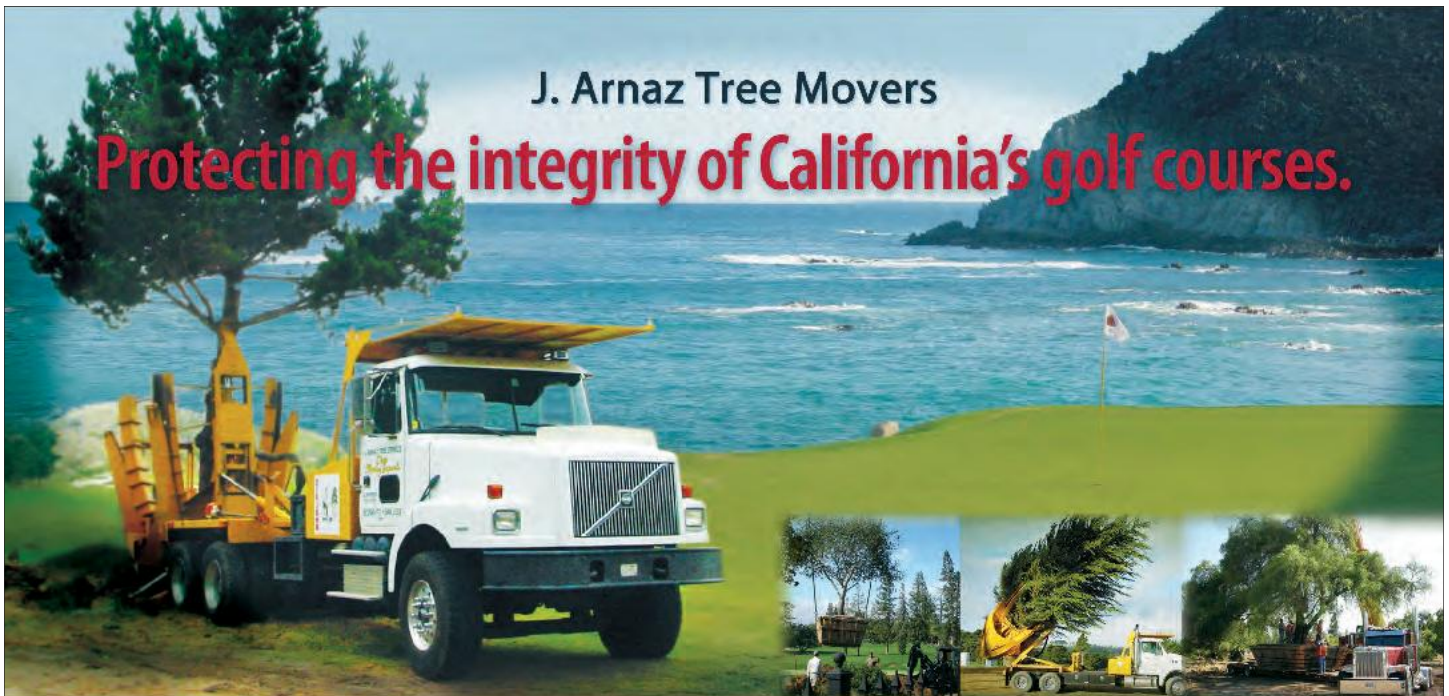
First, I want to point out how social media has played a part in last year's success. Brian Boyer, Dave Proctor and Barbara Mikel expanded our Associations visibility using Facebook and Twitter as tools. Through Twitter '@GCSANC' has had over 411 tweets, 551 following and 238 followers. Through Facebook GCSANC has 14,002 “friends of fans” who receive status updates concerning the

GCSANC, events and GCM industry news— all in real time. Many of the shared photos and updates came directly from you... our members. It's nice to see how many members are utilizing social media to stay involved in our association and events.

Next, I would like to share the success of our Scholarship and Research Tournament. Affiliate members Dave Wilber and Jim Sherman and Programs and Golf Committee members Tim Powers, Brian Boyer and Nick Checklenis proved again what it means to set the standard for this tournament. Through donations and auction items (and maybe a little competitive bidding on my part) we set a new record for revenue at this event. We also gave out \$7,000 in scholarships and donated \$6,000 to Dr. Jim Baird of University of Riverside for turf research in Northern California.

Of course we have to give thanks to host Superintendent, Jason Goss, and Sonoma Golf Club's General Manager, Mike Kosak along with their staff for supplying us with such a great venue. And additionally...was that the BEST sandwich you have ever eaten?

But the essence of 2012 was its members' unyielding support for the GCSANC. This Association could not survive on the support of



J. Arnaz Tree Movers

Protecting the integrity of California's golf courses.

Los Altos C.C.

100" SPADE

TREE BOXING

J. Arnaz Tree Movers

Email John: treemover@comcast.net

408-266-1717

1593 Koch Lane • San Jose • California • Visit us on the web: www.treemovingexperts.com • State Contractor Lic. # 472305

Our experts can transplant or relocate mature trees quickly and efficiently using the latest state-of-the-art equipment including:

- 48", 65", 90" and 100" Hydraulic Tree Spades
Allowing for the transplanting of any tree without damaging the fragile root system
- Serving over 60 courses since 1972 • Tree Boxing and Planting

the superintendent alone. That is, our Affiliate members and Sponsorship package holders continuously provided financial support and committee participation to our Association. Thank you for making our sponsorship program packages successful. Also, our Superintendent members sacrifice being away from work to attend meetings and events that help guide and strengthen our profession. And for that, I say thank you too.

Finally, I want to say THANK YOU for allowing me to serve the Association. Although it was a challenge at times to balance family, friends, and work with this service, it was truly an honor to be part of the history and legacy the GCSANC holds. Through serving the Association, I have learned new skills and now have the confidence to apply them to our profession.

Thank you,
Rodney Muller



TEE OFF - The Koro Topmaker® is ideal for removing and leveling damaged or worn turf areas on your fairways, verticutting and dethatching your tee-tops and greens.

THE APPROACH - Install our Tifway 419 Hybrid Bermuda, 50-50 Blue Rye Blend, Bentgrass or our *exclusive* bermuda turf blends; Baby Bermuda, Celebration, and Princess 77. All varieties are offered on peat soil or sand with or without netting, ideal for all your golf course needs.

IN THE CUP - Our Sports Turf and Golf Specialists also offer a wide range of other services: Complimentary Consulting, Custom Laser Grading, Big Roll Installation, Bermuda Sprig Planting, Soil Reliever Aeration, Slit Seeding and Field Top-dressing.



Call Today
For the Tee-To-Green Success
Your Course Deserves!
(800)637-8873

www.deltabluegrass.com • C-27 752734

Visit us at the San Diego Golf Show, Booth #1315



See how equipment and agronomics can work together.

Only John Deere Golf offers both a full selection of golf maintenance equipment and soft goods from top name brands. Plus advice on how to pick the best of each for your course. Call us today.



JOHN DEERE
GOLF

Think Ahead.

Equipment Sales:
Mid Cal Tractor,
Stockton, CA
209-944-5714

Agronomic Sales:
Sacramento: Nick Biggi,
916-765-6881
San Francisco: Gary Otto,
209-483-5648

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC GOLF ALLIANCE



235 Montgomery St., #400, San Francisco, CA. 94104 • 415-290-5718 • info@sfpublicgolf.com

December 7, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSES ANTI-GOLF LAWSUIT AT SHARP PARK

SAN FRANCISCO. Judge Susan Illston on December 6 dismissed a federal court lawsuit aimed at closing the historic, San Francisco-owned Sharp Park Golf Course.

Brought by a covey of conservation groups led by the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sierra Club, the lawsuit alleged that public golf operations at Sharp Park are killing rare frogs and snakes, in violation of the federal Endangered Species Act. Wild Equity Institute, Center for Biological Diversity, et al. vs. City and County of San Francisco, et al., U.S. District Court, N.D. California, No. C11-00958 SI.

Judge Illston cited an October 2, 2012 Biological Opinion issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”) that found golf at Sharp Park is “not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the California red-legged frog or San Francisco garter snake.” The FWS issued an Incidental Take Statement, approving continued golf and related maintenance activities, subject to FWS restrictions on pesticides, golf carts, water pumping, and other practices.

“This is a common sense result,” said Chris Carr, of the Morrison and Foerster office, lawyers for co-defendant San Francisco Public Golf Alliance, which brought the motion to dismiss. “And it should lead to a period of cooperation in which San Francisco and San Mateo County can work together to restore habitat for the species, while preserving historic and popular public recreation.”

Sharp Park was created by master architect Alister MacKenzie, who built many of the world’s greatest golf courses, including Augusta National, home of the annual Masters Tournament, and the Cypress Point Club.

Long known as “the poor man’s Pebble Beach,” Sharp Park has been a Pacifica gathering place since its opening in 1932. It is the historic home of a middle-class and ethnic minority golfing clientele, and in 1955 hosted the inaugural tournament of the Western States Golf Association, one of the country’s oldest and largest African-American golfing societies. Sharp Park is designated an “historic resource” under the California Environmental Quality Act, and recognized as historic by the Pacifica General Plan, the Pacifica Historical Society, and the Cultural Landscape Foundation of Washington, D.C.

Sharp Park has been the focus of a four-year political and legal tug-of-war between advocates of public recreation and historical preservation on the one side, and the environmental groups led by CBD on the other. In December, 2011, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance calling for closure and conversion of the golf course into a frog and snake sanctuary. But the ordinance was vetoed by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, who in his veto message called for San Francisco and San Mateo County to work together for a “balanced approach” to save public recreation at the golf course, while recovering habitat for the species.

“With this important step behind us,” said former Pacifica Mayor Julie Lancelle, “the dream of restoring the public treasure that is Sharp Park can move forward.” Golf course preservation, combined with habitat recovery, is supported by San Francisco Mayor Lee, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission, unanimous resolutions of the Pacifica City Council and San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and by Congresswoman Jackie Speier.

Contact:

Richard Harris: Richard@erskinetulley.com (415) 290-5718

Bo Links: bo@slotelaw.com (415) 393-8099

For past press releases and news stories, see: <http://www.sfpublicgolf.com/news.html>

Honorary Member Gratitude



SLOTE & LINKS

255 California Street, Suite 1300
San Francisco, CA 94111-4925
Phone: 415-393-8001 Fax: 415-294-4545

January 10, 2013

Mr. Rodney Muller, President
Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California
c/o Empire Ranch Golf Club
1620 E Natoma St
Folsom, CA 95630

Re: Recognition as Honorary Lifetime Membership in GCSANC

Dear Mr. Muller:

This afternoon, I got a call from Emmy Moore-Minister who informed me that my dear colleague, Richard Harris, and I have been named Honorary Lifetime Members of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Northern California. As Emmy may have imparted to you, my schedule is so hectic these days that I can't join you next Monday when you announce this special distinction at your meeting. Hence this letter. I wanted to convey to you and the membership how deeply touched I am by your thoughtful gesture.

As a 20-year member of the USGA Green Section, I have come to know, admire and appreciate the work done by golf course superintendents all over the world. I have a particular bias for my home turf (no pun intended) as I feel we not only have the greatest collection of golf courses anywhere right here in our own backyard, but in Northern California we also have the greatest group of superintendents who work so hard to preserve and sustain these precious places.

The work of a superintendent is one of the hardest jobs there is. You've got to guess the weather every minute of every day, and Mother Nature never calls in sick or takes a mental health day. You have to battle budgets and fussy (often uninformed) golfers and management personnel. And no matter how well you groom the course, there's always someone to contend the green was too fast; or too slow; or the rough too high; or too low; or something else perhaps that butterfly making noise in the next meadow- that wasn't just perfect.

You know exactly what I'm talking about.

But they never pat the superintendent on the back when he aerates a green to keep it healthy; or when he sands the fairway to enhance the turf bed; or when he trims or removes a diseased tee to provide light and air movement; or cuts his hand repairing a piece of equipment so the club or course can squeeze another few years out of it. Yet all of this, and so much more, is part of the job.

I have also come to love speaking on these issues and trying, in my own way, to teach golfers and non-golfers alike the important work that golf course superintendents perform. People need to hear

this message and I am happy to be a foot soldier in that effort. I love telling folks that when there was a severe drought in Georgia a few years back, who did the state call on for advice on how to manage water? They called on the golf course superintendents, of course, because they, as much as anyone, know that reality inside and out. In every respect, you folks are the truest environmentalists of all.

But I know this award is not really about my efforts to spread the word. It is, in every fitting respect, a treasured recognition for the work Richard and I have undertaken to save and restore Sharp Park, that Alister MacKenzie classic that stands for so much and is in such jeopardy. Recognition from the GCSANC means everything to us. We could not- and cannot do what we need to do without support from you. So please know that we accept this recognition humbly, gratefully, and knowing that we are now part of that wonderful, incredible brotherhood of men and women who are so vital to the future of the game.

Let me close with two thoughts. First, whenever someone congratulates Richard and me on "winning" the Sharp Park case, as many have recently in the wake of the trial court's dismissal of that unfounded environmental claim, I must say that I feel like the superintendent who has just gotten past the member-guest with everyone raving about the quality of the greens. I know full well that a storm may blow in, or a heat wave descend, that will ruin everything. That is to say, we are in a good place now, but we have to keep on keeping on, if we are to get the job done.

And secondly, let me take a moment to express as best I can the gratitude for the work of your incredible organization and every member in it. I tried to do that in a little poem called "Guardians of the Game," which is a verse about golf course architects and superintendents- the folks who create and in every real sense sustain the places where we play the greatest game of all. What follows is a paraphrase of what I wrote, morphed if you will permit the phrase, so it hones in on superintendents alone (the architects can wait for another day): (See next page)



RON HARVEY
PUMP SERVICES MANAGER

125 MASON CIRCLE
SUITE G
CONCORD, CA 94520
rharvey@cornerstoneenv.com

DIRECT: 209.345.8359
FAX: 925.755.8099
MAIN OFFICE: 925.299.9225

*Those whose skills have shaped the land
And caressed the earth with able hands
Both bent and tugged at every fold
With tools they've driven, some they've rolled
They've given golf its storied ground
Where greatness lives, yet makes no sound
To answer back, for just one day
To offer thanks from those who play
Whose triumphs here, all shine in grace
Saluting those who tend this place*

* * * * *

*Ever more, I wonder
Who'll know golfs name?
Who'll be the ones
To play the game?
Yet I know, golf will be found
By people seeking higher ground
I sense we'll always find a throne
On which to rest golfs crown
If the course remains forever more
The sacred game's most hallowed ground
And to those men whose hardened skills
Bring forth the game from ancient hills
They may be faceless, with no name
To forget their work would be a shame
The labored on, and sought not fame
They lent their hands when the challenge came
And that's why they shall remain
The truest guardians of the game.*

Thank you again for this incredible honor. In the days, months and years to come, I will do my best to prove myself worthy of your judgment.

Here's hoping we all meet again soon somewhere down the fairway.

Sincerely,
ROBERT D. LINKS

RDL/r
cc: Ms. Emmy Moore-Minister
Mr. Richard H. Harris, Jr.

(800) 648-7626

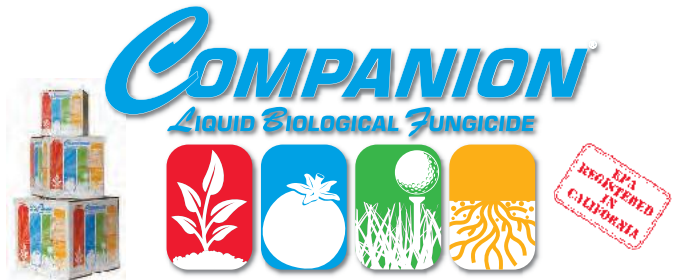


www.GrowthProducts.com

**change The Way Your GREENS
Work For You!**

**COMPANION® A BROAD SPECTRUM BIOLOGICAL
FUNGICIDE**

- Prevents and Controls Turf Disease • Improves Turf Vigor
- Makes Fungicides More Powerful •
- Increases Rooting



• PROVEN • TESTED • RELIABLE • CONSISTENT •
**EACH GALLON CONTAINS 55 BILLION SPORES OF BACILLUS
SUBTILIS GB03**

To learn how Growth Products can help your greens,
call Keith Giertych today at (408) 687-3225 • kgiertych@growthproducts.com

**What You've Been Looking for
in an Organic and Organic
Based Fertilizer...**



**at the
RIGHT
PRICE!**

- Slow Release Nitrogen and Variably Releasing Nitrogen Blends.
- Promotes Turf Density and Speeds Aeration Recovery.
- Enhances Soil Structure for Improved Disease Resistance.

Available in 50 lb. bags,
1 ton totes, and bulk

For more information visit our web site: www.NatureTechFertilizers.com
or call **209-394-1171**



Available In
Fine And
Standard Grade

Honorary Member Gratitude

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC GOLF ALLIANCE



235 Montgomery St., #400, San Francisco, CA. 94104 • 415-290-5718 • info@sfpublicgolf.com

January 11, 2013

Mr. Rodney Muller, President
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Northern California Chapter
Empire Ranch Golf Club
1620 E. Natoma St.
Folsom, CA. 95630

Re: Thanks to GCSAA, Northern California Chapter

Dear President Muller,

This is to thank you and the Northern California Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for the great honor you do me and my compadre Bo Links, in naming us Honorary Members of the GCSAANC.

When I was a young university golfer at Stanford in the mid-1960s, I was on the golf course hitting balls on a warm Spring evening as the sun was setting into a fog bank rolling over the Coast Range to the west, and the thought came to me clearly: "This is what Heaven looks like." That epiphany has never left me: I regard a beautiful golf course as sacred ground. And I regard Greens Superintendents as keepers of sacred grounds.

So you and the GCSAANC do me more honor than maybe you know to invite me into your fraternity. Until now, I have thought that becoming a Super would have to wait until some future incarnation - the reward of a life particularly well-lived. But with this Honorary Membership, there's no waiting. So I gladly accept the

honor, which I consider to be an instance of True Grace.

I know that you have honored me and Bo in recognition of our ongoing work to save the Sharp Park Golf Course. We have worked hard, but it is a team effort of the several thousand members of the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance. The Superintendents have been part of the team, with your donations of money, connections, and psychic energy to the cause. Also important to the effort is Sharp Park's own Superintendent, Wayne Kappelman, a GCSAANC member who does extraordinary work, in very challenging circumstances, to keep golf playable at Sharp Park. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Wayne in this letter.

The effort to save public golf at Alister MacKenzie's Sharp Park is far from over. There are many years and many political, bureaucratic, legal, and financial obstacles between us and our goal. But the effort is worthy, and together we will succeed. Thanks for your help and encouragement.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the January 14 annual meeting of the GCSAANC. So I have asked Stanford Superintendent Ken Williams to accept the award on my behalf. Thanks for your understanding.

Far and Sure.

Richard Harris

cc: Robert "Bo" Links
Emmy Moore-Minister
Ken Williams
Wayne Kappelman