

Annual Awards

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 takes into consideration: overall course condition, conservation and environmental factors, course activity and maintenance budget. This honor will be awarded in two categories.



Turfgrass Excellence Award, Public Category

George Young

*San Jose Municipal Golf Course
San Jose, CA*

George Young started in the turf care industry working 12 years for the Pebble Beach Company as a spray technician and project man at Spyglass Hill GC and Pebble Beach GL on the Monterey Peninsula. Next, he was off to Rancho Canada GC (Carmel, CA)

where he served seven years as an assistant golf course superintendent. To this day, he still remembers the two major floods he endured during his tenure at the 36-hole public facility located next to the Carmel River.

In 1999, Young accepted the golf course superintendent position at San Jose Municipal Golf Course (San Jose, CA), a South Bay facility owned by the City of San Jose and operated by Rawitser Golf. If you've never had the chance to visit a busy, Silicon Valley-based municipal course, you might want to spend an eye-opening day with Young, at facility that welcomes golfers 365 days a year.

Now, in his 13th year at this popular municipal course (a course, known by the locals, simply as "Muni"), Young knows that the tee sheet remains full and golfers are Number 1, which may require adjusting crew schedules to complete on-course projects. It never fails, no matter how busy the course might be, Young and his staff get the job done, and well, at that.

While many golf courses experienced some decline in business in recent years, San Jose Municipal GC remained solid in rounds, keeping Young and his crew of 12 in demand when caring for the 100-acre parcel which also includes a highly-frequented driving range and practice center.

This par-72, Robert Muir Graves-designed course consists of ryegrass and bermudagrass fairways with a bent-poa mix, and bentgrass greens with some poa. The course relies on both recycled water and well water recycled for fairways and rough, and well water for greens. Common practice at the facility is to minimize the use of chemicals whenever possible.

Young and his team have redone all 18 greens and recently he's been working on drainage projects. Next priority will be a tree moving project with the ultimate goal of elevating interest and increased shot strategy for the low to the mid-low indexed player.

Young enjoys his work as well as the crew he surrounds himself with on a daily basis. As for his management philosophy, Young believes you should use everyone to the "best of their strengths" and work with them on their weaker areas, too...but always make sure to recognize their talent and strengths.



Turfgrass Excellence Award, Private Category

Ken Williams, CGCS

*Stanford University Golf Course,
Stanford, CA*

When it came to selecting a finalist for Turfgrass Excellence in the Private Category, certified golf course superintendent Ken Williams quickly came to mind. Not only is he responsible for a well-maintained university golf course in the San Francisco Bay Area,

Williams is also responsible for overseeing the 30-acre Siebel Varsity Golf Training Complex which has been touted as the best in all of collegiate golf.

Prior to arriving at Stanford University GC in 1995, Williams worked at Rancho Bernardo Inn & CC (San Diego, CA) and also at La Quinta Hotel GC (La Quinta, CA).

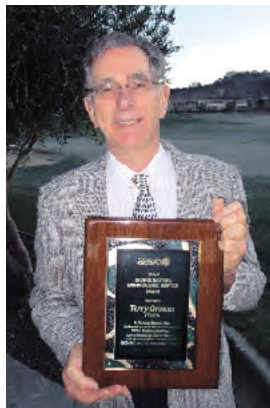
The Stanford University GC (originally designed by George Thomas with construction managed by William "Billy" Bell) continues to be in premier condition today, due to the diligent work of Williams and his crew. Ranked No. 6 on *Golfweek's* Best Campus Course list, the course is enjoyed by university students, faculty, members, and alum, and has hosted scores of notable tournaments over its 83-year history including: NCAA men's and women's championships, Pac-10 championships, U.S. Open Qualifiers, the USGA Junior Championship and the Western Amateur.

When you ask Williams about his maintenance philosophy he'll be the first to tell you he leans towards natural and sustainable. At Stanford they conduct very few preventive treatments for pests, and make a point to spot treat most weeds and diseases. Williams works faithfully to keep bent grass the primary turf on the greens, because it requires far less fertilizer and chemical inputs. According to Williams that work entails doing things "the old school way" (similar to a British greenkeeper's model) which means more sand, less fertilizer, lots of iron and no core aeration. Overdoing the cultural practices like verti-cutting aerating, ultra-low mowing and heavy feeding shift the balance away from the favored turf types. He also believes that maintenance practices dictate what type of turf will persist on the rest of the course, and since California's climate is so mild many types of grass grow but few will truly thrive. Williams tends to let nature and the maintenance practices dictate what type of turf grows where, and in what season.

A former GCSANC Course Superintendent of the Year honoree, Williams also shows his dedication to the game through his volunteerism. He has served on the GCSANC board of directors, hosted Nor Cal Chapter fundraising events and a highly successful Field Day, too. And, while he's a successful blogger today, the GCSANC will always be grateful to Williams for his years of dedicated work as the chapter's newsletter editor.

Annual Awards

The George Santana Distinguished Service Award is presented to a dedicated chapter member, for their long-standing commitment to the GCSANC and the turf care industry.



George Santana Distinguished Service Award

Terry Grasso, CGCS

Sequoyah Country Club,
Oakland, CA

At the formative age of 13, Terry Grasso started as a caddie at Claremont CC, and now, today, this distinguished honoree is a certified golf course superintendent at Sequoyah Country Club (Oakland, CA) where he is completing his 26th year as a GC-

SANC member.

Prior to Sequoyah CC Grasso was the golf course & grounds superintendent at Burlingame CC (Hillsborough, CA), an assistant golf course superintendent at the Olympic Club (San Francisco, CA), a greenskeeper at Claremont CC (Oakland, CA) and also an assistant golf professional there, too.

Grasso does a tremendous job in his role as golf course superintendent at Sequoyah, a private, East Bay club which is rich in history and spirit. In the late 30's and early 40's, Sequoyah served as venue host for the Oakland Open which attracted such stand-out players as Hogan, Nelson, Snead and Demaret.

Grasso has long-garnered the respect of the club's leadership team, who values his work and recognizes the importance of a well-maintained course. Grasso finds great satisfaction in training and inspiring his staff and continues to mentor them as well as other up-and-coming turf care professionals throughout the Nor Cal region. He is a trusted confidante to his colleagues and makes a point to get together with them as often as he can to "talk" turf.

This is a special year for Grasso and Sequoyah CC members as they celebrate the clubs' 100th anniversary. When the GCSANC was planning its 75th year anniversary celebration (a few years ago), it was Grasso who stepped up to the plate to serve as our event host. He still continues to lend a hand today whenever he can. In addition to supporting GCSANC programs like scholarship & turfgrass research, Grasso has hosted education workshops, California Alliance for Golf meetings and USGA Green Section meetings at his club.

Grasso and his club members are supporters of The First Tee of Oakland, the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative and the NCGA Foundation and have even hosted a 100-hole golf marathon benefiting charitable causes. Because Grasso and the members at Sequoyah genuinely care about the future of golf for kids, they have established a golf merit scholarship program which benefits local youth.

View All Annual Meeting Photos:

<http://www.gcsanc.com/events/photo-archive/2013-empire-ranch-golf-club/>



Dedicated to fighting evils,
StressGard™ Formulation Technology
never rests.

Protect your course with the most powerful technology out there. When it comes to overall plant health, Bayer fungicides with **StressGard™** Formulation Technology give you control when it matters most. We've developed these products to work at a cellular level, strengthening turf and fighting against evil stressors like heat, drought and traffic so you'll have the strongest, healthiest turf and happy golfers. **To learn more visit BackedByBayer.com/StressGard.**

Tartan® | Chipco Triton® Flo | Interface® | Chipco® Signature™ | Reserve®

Our five quality fungicides with **StressGard Formulation Technology** are proven to have preventive and curative properties against disease.

For further information call:
George Raymond 805-290-0413
george.raymond@bayer.com



StressGard™
FORMULATION TECHNOLOGY

Bayer Environmental Science, a division of Bayer CropScience LP, 2 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. 1-800-331-2867. www.BackedByBayer.com. Chipco, Chipco Triton, Interface, Reserve and Tartan are registered trademarks of Bayer. StressGard and Signature are trademarks of Bayer. Not all products are registered in all states. Always read and follow label instructions carefully. © 2011 Bayer CropScience LP.



Bayer Environmental Science

"Tame Your Turf"



We at **Parris Turf Equipment** strive to Provide unmatched Service and **Support** for our customers **before, during and after** their purchases. We help customers to **maximize their investment** by minimizing the operating challenges of their equipment.

Parris Turf Equipment • Sebastopol, CA

707.364.0213

www.parristurf.com



Annual Awards

The Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award is presented to an individual who has contributed in extraordinary ways to the association & its members.



Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award

David "Dave" Wilber
Sierra Pacific Turf Services,
Nor Cal Region

The 2012 Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award was bestowed upon Dave Wilber, principal and director of agronomy for Sierra Pacific Turf Services, a division of Sierra Pacific Turf Supply.

Wilber has been an agronomic consultant since 1992 and prior to that a golf course superintendent in Northern California and Colorado. He started in the golf maintenance and construction business at the age of 15. He has an AAS degrees in Soil Science and Turfgrass Science from Northeastern Colorado College and attended the Turfgrass program at Colorado State University. He was awarded the William A. Albrecht Soil Science Fellowship in 1990 and is a member of the Brookside Society of Professional Consultants.

Wilber has advised on construction, renovation/restoration and turfgrass management issues at high-end facilities to sites with limited budgets, and in more than 20 countries and throughout the U.S. His client list includes the Bandon family of courses plus Kingsbarns, Southern Hills, San Francisco Golf Club and the Olympic Club, to name a few.

He integrates sustainable soil and plant nutrition into the practical turfgrass environment. Wilber also blogs and shares his passion for turf care as a contributor to various turf and golf-related publications. There is no end to Dave Wilber's passion for Turfgrass, thus he's been tagged with the nickname: "The Turfgrass Zealot".

Wilber has served on the GCSANC Board of Directors as an affiliate representative (for two separate terms) and on the Sierra Nevada Chapter board where he served two consecutive terms. His knowledge is invaluable and his contributions to the association and the turf care industry are greatly appreciated. Wilber, along with Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, continue to be loyal supporters of the Nor Cal Chapter through their sponsorship of education, turfgrass research, and scholarship programs.

The Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award is presented to a GCSANC member who has made contributions for the betterment of the association, its members and the overall profession. This is the highest distinction bestowed upon a golf course superintendent.



Golf Course Superintendent of the Year

Rodney Muller
Empire Ranch Golf Club
Folsom, CA

The GCSANC is pleased to announce that Rodney Muller is the worthy recipient of the 2012 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award.

As golf course superintendent at Empire Ranch Golf Club (Folsom, CA) Muller keeps himself fully-engaged at this public, links-like parkland course managed by Club Corp. Previous to Empire Ranch, Muller served as golf course superintendent at Tilden Park GC (Berkeley, CA) and earlier in his career held assistant superintendent positions at Monarch Bay GC (San Leandro, CA) and Topeka CC (Topeka, KS).

It was at Kansas State University that Muller earned a BS Degree in Agriculture with emphasis in Golf Course Management, which he added to his BA Degree in Management and Human Relations.

As a Class "A" golf course superintendent, Muller receives the Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award for his ongoing contributions to the betterment of the association and its members, as well as the golf community. He has served on the GCSANC board of directors and in officer capacity as vice president, and in 2012, as president of the organization.

During his tenure as chapter president Muller was instrumental in improving programs and services for fellow golf course superintendents and affiliate members. His volunteerism efforts include serving on several committees spanning from Education and Institute to Newsletter & PR to Salary & Membership as well as Strategic Planning. At the national level he has participated in the Chapter Leader-Executive Symposium.

Muller is a supporter of the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), a statewide organization whose goal is to protect valuable resources for those in the business of golf and turf care industry. He's been an advocate for helping save Sharp Park Golf Course and supports charitable causes which include the ASPCA, The First Tee, and the Sam Singh Scholarship Fund.

Naumann's Nor Cal News

Justin Mandon has accepted the Superintendent position at Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz. Justin was the Superintendent on the Lake Course at the Olympic Club in San Francisco prior to his moving...**Pat Finlen, CGCS**, who was the Director of Maintenance at the Olympic Club, is now the Director of Golf at the Olympic Club...The former Superintendent at Pasatiempo, **Paul Chojnacky**, is now the new Superintendent at Oakridge CC in Farmington, Utah.

TMT ENTERPRISES, INC.

GCSANC Members Since 1976

Phone: 408-432-9040

IN BUSINESS SINCE 1961



Winter Specials From TMT Enterprises!

Cooler temps typically mean slower germination rates. Keep your seed popping with colored top dressing or divot mix & STS Soil Activator! Colored sand or divot mix, available in bulk or bulk totes will hold more heat than ordinary sand. This helps germination & increases soil temps. STS Soil Activator conditions soil & promotes nutrient uptake for turf recovery & better root development. Call today for more info!

TMT Enterprises is now your exclusive supplier of TD-320 top dressing sand & BB-205 Bunker Sand. We offer you the widest selection of top dressing & bunker sand of any supplier in California. From Idaho BB bunker sand to Monterey's PB bunker sand, our own TMT White Bunker Sand, G8, #3, kiln-dried sand, bagged sand, colored sand, divot mix, organics, aggregates, cart path materials, Bunker Binder, gypsum, lime, compost tea & more. TMT Enterprises is a full-service vendor.



Web: www.tmtenterprises.net

Email: info@tmtenterprises.net

Never lose tee times to aeration again!

SHOWARD TURF SERVICES

Northern California's premier
mobile aeration service



Proudly using the revolutionary
PlanetAir Tri-fecta

Call or email today for pricing or a free demo

Jason Showard
Mobile: 925.487.2105

Email: Jason@ShowardTurf.com
Web: www.ShowardTurf.com

Watch the PlanetAir Tri-fecta in action!



Schedule today and get 50% off of your first service!

Trees

By **SEAN TULLY**, Meadow Club

Most of our Bay area courses were first built with very little in the way of trees. Courses like those found at Olympic Club, the Presidio, and the Cal Club were all heavily planted with trees to reduce the effects of wind on the course. These courses were planted early on and have come to be known for the trees as much as for the golf course itself. Among other courses in the area, trees were planted over the years with a large effort to plant trees during the 1930s. There are some wonderful aerials of San Francisco golf courses that were taken in 1937-8 that show that trees were already being planted on golf courses. It has been commonly thought that most of these trees were planted in the 1950s with the increased efforts of individuals and groups in celebration of Arbor Day.

Now we see these same courses removing trees for better turf conditions and increased playability. More thought is going into the proper management of trees on our golf courses and the results have made for far better experience on the golf course. One of my favorite comments on our Tree Management Program at my course was by one of our pros who said, "By taking out that one tree I can see more trees."

The following photos show the 9th hole at the California Golf Club. The first one shows the course in 1980 and the second shows the course shortly after the renovation work done there by Golf Architect Kyle Phillips, and by Thomas Bastis, CGCS and his staff. Sometimes it takes more than one tree to do the trick!!



The California Golf Club, 1980



After renovations

GREENER LONGER

GREEN LAWNGER® TURF COLORANTS

For a quick and easy solution for natural-looking, year-round green turf, add Green Lawnger® brand turf colorants to your management program.

Green Lawnger turf colorants restore natural-looking green color to dormant or discolored turf, and will not break down from UV light for long-lasting results.

BEFORE *AFTER*

BECKER UNDERWOOD
Inventing the Future

Greg Wahl
greg.wahl@beckerunderwood.com
925.519.2193 • beckerunderwood.com

Scan to learn more.

™, © Trademarks, registered or applied for, of Becker Underwood, Inc., Ames.

GCSANC Members, Folsom to San Diego



▲ 2012 GCSANC award winners



▲ The California Room on the USS Midway provided an interesting photo op.



▲ Scott Dickson, Dan Rogers, Chuck Talley discussing equipment?



▲ GCSAA and GCSANC Past President Clifford Wagoner, CGCS congratulates GCSANC Past President Pat Finlen, CGCS on his election as the 2013 GCSAA President



▲ Wagoners enjoying opening session at GCSAA GIS San Diego 2013



▲ Everybody check your shoes for TP.



▲ Welcome to San Diego GIS 2013 (back row, L-R) Patrick Finlen, CGCS, Barbara Mikel, Gary Carls, CGCS, Shirley Isham (front row) Myrtle Wagoner, Clifford Wagoner, CGCS



▲ Seriously Dale, this is the last time I'm tying this thing! Wait, does it go over once or twice?



▲ Ken Williams, CGCS reads Richard Harris's letter accepting Honorary GCSANC membership



▲ I thought you were going to bring the chips and I was bringing dip!



▲ I know, I know. 4th and goal we didn't run it...



▲ There's a brown Audi parked in my space. Call a tow truck and have it towed immediately!



▲ I know, I know...pass attempt on 4th and goal?



▲ Catching up with Friends

SAND - BASED

**Bentgrass
Ryegrass
Bluegrass
Bandera Bermuda
Rye-Blue
Fine Fescue
Tall Fescue
Tifway II**

SOD

GREG DUNN
209/993-3329
www.westcoastturf.com

Installation available

Find us on Facebook 

**Seashore
Paspalum**

**or your
custom
grown
variety!**

LOCALLY GROWN

**WEST COAST
TURF**

Life is short. Sod it!