



Ryan Zuehlsdorf *Golf Club at Roddy Ranch, Antioch*

Turfgrass Excellence Award in the Public Category: *This honor is presented to an individual with the highest quality standards in turfgrass maintenance. Award criteria takes into consideration: overall course condition, conservation and environmental factors, course activity and maintenance budget.*

Career Highlights: Besides his tenure at Roddy Ranch, Ryan Zuehlsdorf has worked at a variety of Northern California facilities including Blackhawk G&CC, Moraga CC and Orinda CC.

Good for the Environment: From its inception, Roddy Ranch was designed as an environmentally-conscious course. The water used to irrigate the course is supplied from irrigation canals which are pumped directly out of the Delta. Ryan monitors the water use and utilizes a variety of wetting agents to help irrigate at or below evapotranspiration. He reclaims runoff water through multiple drains and reroutes it back to the pumping lake. He minimizes pesticide use by utilizing good cultural practices and through the use of slow release fertilizers.

Management Style: Ryan's says his work assignment is like masterly fitting together pieces of an intricate puzzle. First, hire the right people, create a strong team that works well together, and always keep the channels of communication open. When these elements in place, it's much easier to ensure tournament-like conditions, thus, players' needs are met.

Education: Ryan has a B.S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

The Course: Designed by J. Michael Poellot, Roddy Ranch is a 4 star-rated course surrounded by a 2,000-acre cattle ranch. A western theme is woven throughout this links-like track which measures over 7,000 yards from the tips. Local players are the first to speak up about the course's fine condition and meticulously-maintained greens. While there's always plenty to do at Roddy Ranch, one of Ryan's more interesting projects was a lake renovation which required the lake to be raised and lined. With the assistance of Wadsworth, he finished the project on time, within budget, and with minimal disruption to play.



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