

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE



Name: Dan James
Employer: The Peninsula Golf and Country Club
Position: Assistant Superintendent
Years in the Business: Golf business: 18; Golf maintenance: 12
Previous Employment: Kauri Cliffs, Matauri Bay, Northland New Zealand... Pebble Beach Company NCGA Intern, Pebble Beach, CA...Oakmont Country

Club, Oakmont, PA...The Olympic Club, San Francisco, CA

Education: Cal Poly SLO Horticulture

GCSANC Work or Interests: I'm interested in meeting more guys (and hopefully playing more golf) around the area. I don't do enough networking and would like to see what other courses have going on.

Other Organizations: GCSAA, NCGA, MLB

Family: Wife Sarah, dog Pete, cats Jack and Gus.

What was the first car you ever owned? 1985 Volkswagon Vanagon

How fast did you drive it? As fast as I could while making sure it didn't rattle apart.

What is your favorite band? Pearl Jam

How did you get into the business? My introduction to the game was at a young age, caddying for my Dad in numerous NCGA amateur events. I eventually started caddying at Burlingame Country Club in Hillsborough, worked in the Pro Shop at Coyote Point GC, then got my first maintenance job raking bunkers for John Fleming on the Olympic Club Ocean Course.

What did you learn that they never taught you in college?

How to load a vicon with 1,000 lbs. of compost out of a 2,000 lb. sack without spilling 500 lbs. on myself and smelling like a cattle farm for the rest of the day.

Please list your fantasy foursome: My Dad, Bill Murray, and the Dalai Lama

What is #1 on your bucket list? Oktoberfest in Munich...

Playing golf in the Kingdom would work too.

What's the best bit of professional advice ever tossed

your way? "Anybody can grow grass, cowboy." —Andy Shaffer, the (famed) Olympic Club

What accomplishment are you most proud of? We recently completed a bunker renovation here at the PGCC. I was fortunate enough to play a major role in not only the scheduling of the day to day course maintenance but the actual installation of the bunkers themselves. I worked closely with our architect, Ron Forse, to get the lines exactly where he wanted them. Also, I gained great experience working with our contractor Earth Sculptures. Ray Rodriguez from ES taught me volumes about how to do things the right way. There are so many pitfalls in construction!

What's your favorite restaurant? The tap room at the Sierra Nevada Brewery

Beer or wine? See previous question.

Favorite course to play: The Olympic Club Lake Course

Ipod top 5: Pearl Jam, Cake, Black Crowes, David Grisman, Bert Bacharach

What's your favorite vacation spot? Winter in Yosemite, summer in Tahoe, anytime in Hawaii

Favorite hobby: Following the San Francisco Giants...TORTURE!

Strangest thing you've ever seen on a golf course: 30 minute fireworks display over our 8th fairways here at PGCC. Our club celebrated its centennial this year and threw a massive party capped off by one of the best fireworks displays I have ever seen. We cleaned up all the shells with a buffalo blower and a Toro sweep-vac. Well worth it.

Name your top superintendent influences: Frank Zamazal, John Flemming, Bob Lopic, Tom Huesgen, John Zimmers, Jeff Steen, Jack Holt, Bob Yeo, Michael Phillips, Pat Finlen, and Geoff Plovonich.

Name your top life influences: Mom and Dad. No one else comes close.

Lowest score you ever shot and course: Even par at Franklin Canyon

The hardest part of your job: Pleasing all the different groups at a private club. Additionally, the toughest part of pleasing everyone is when you know someone might not be your biggest fan, but saying hello and engaging them anyway.

The most rewarding thing in your job is: Seeing hard work pay off in a finished product whether it's a strong stand of turf or a new bunker.

Few people know I like to: Participate in Tough Mudder. Look it up, it's a great experience. You might wonder why I would pay to put myself through a meat grinder, but you have to understand, I'm a Giants fan.

If you weren't in the business of growing grass what would you be doing? I would probably be an accountant. I've never met a poor accountant.

What's in your office? Other than the usual golf related items... a kennel for Pete, a box of protein bars, and a pile of dishes I need to take back to the clubhouse.

What magazines do you subscribe to? *Baseball Digest*, *Cooks Illustrated*, and *The New Yorker*

Do you collect anything, and why? I'm collecting more and more gray hair from a combination of long summers, co-workers who forget things I've told them one hundred times, my wife, and the Giants.

Worst piece of equipment ever owned? My wife's 2000 Oldsmobile Alero. She inherited it from her great aunt and I can't wait to get rid of it. Only 50k miles if anyone's interested. It hasn't broken down ever, but I just get that feeling. I never drive it. djames@thpgcc.org

Worst place you have ever slept? In a rat-hole of a hostel in Venice. We had an early flight home and planned on sleeping in the terminal to save money only to find out the terminal closed overnight. We needed a night of cheap housing and obviously chose wrong. I've been in cleaner gas-station restrooms. My wife slept fully clothed.

Stupidest thing your wife has asked you to do? She asked me to be quieter when I eat cereal. Seriously.

Do you expect to collect on social security? Yes. Big brother will take care of us all.