

# 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.