

# THRU THE GREEN

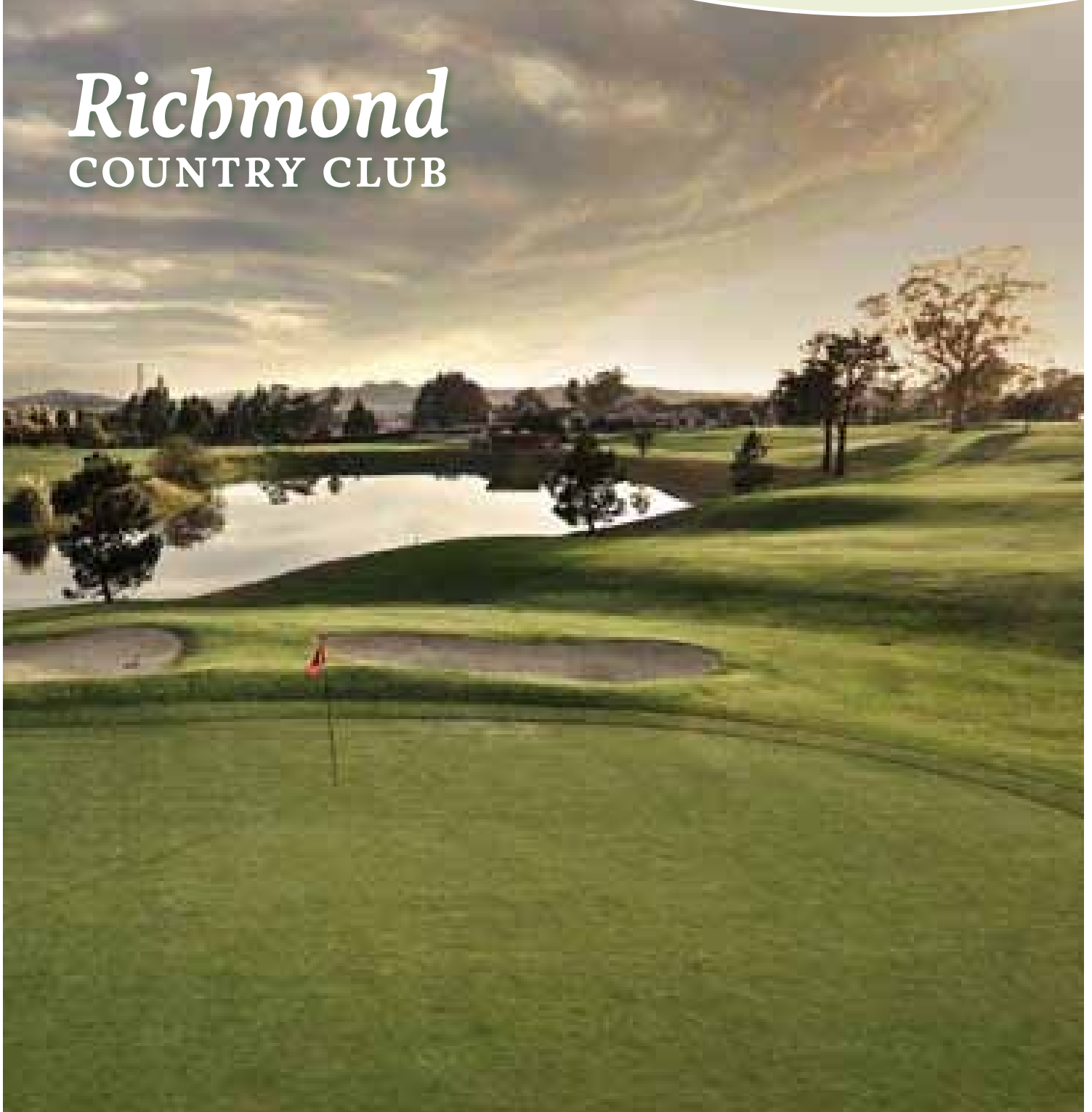
The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

MARCH / APRIL 2014

Northern California Chapter



## *Richmond* COUNTRY CLUB



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THRU THE GREEN EDITOR  
**BRIAN NETTZ, CGCS**  
Presidio Golf Course  
bnettz@palmergolf.com



## ON THE COVER:

Richmond Country Club, Richmond California, hole one.

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EDITOR	PUBLISHER	ASSOCIATION MANAGER
<b>Brian Nettz, CGCS</b> (415) 561-4615 bnettz@palmergolf.com	<b>Shaw Kobre</b> (707) 569-8481 shaw@intheloopgolf.com	<b>Barbara Mikel</b> (530) 626-0931 bmikel@gcsanc.com



## Office Notes

By **BARBARA MIKEL**

In the course of doing some archive research for Green Hills Country Club, I brought out of storage the 1932 to 1958 association minutes. Green Hills Country Club hosted the 1946 post war reorganization of the "Northern California Greens Keeping Association."

I usually get distracted reading through the meticulously hand written minutes of your association.

It's impressive to review the history of professional commitment, industry education and civic involvement of this group. Water issues and its best use were a topic in 1953.

Those involved? USGA, GCSANC, UC Davis. Some interesting items from those minutes are included below.

### LINKS KEEPERS STUDY SOIL AND WATERING

*FROM THE GCSANC ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES APRIL 14, 1953: a clipping of an article from the Sacramento Bee newspaper. It reads:*

Robert M. Hagen of the department of irrigation of the University of California at Davis discussed irrigation and soil management problems at a meeting of the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents' Association at the Del Paso Country Club.

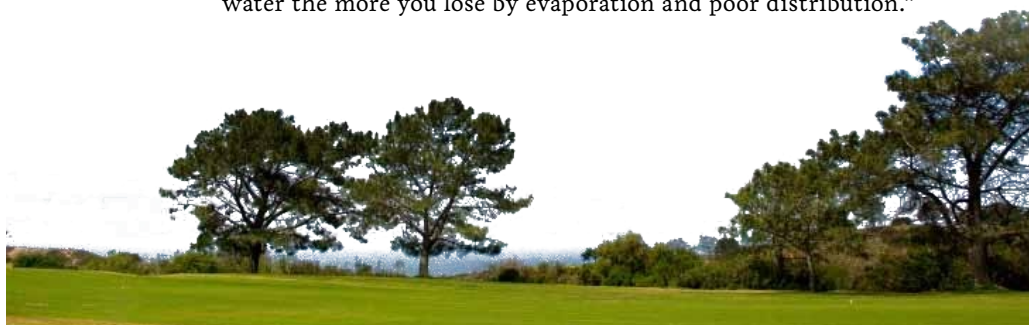
Approximately 40 course superintendents from the central valleys, the bay region and Nevada attended yesterday's luncheon meeting in which Vince Crockett, superintendent of the Del Paso course, was the host.

Hagen told the association members studies now being conducted at the turf experiment station in Davis are aimed at determining proper irrigation procedures for varying types of soil. The results of the tests may enable the course caretakers to effect (sic) savings in operating costs and avoid wasting water in areas found to require less frequent watering during the summer months.

The Davis turf experiment station was set up last year by the United States Golf Association to study irrigation and turf conditions peculiar to the Western states and determine the best grass varieties for greens and fairways.

From the minutes of Secretary Treasurer, Paul Paulsen of the April 14, 1953 meeting at Del Paso Country Club:

"Speaker Dr. Robert Hagen who stressed the frequency of watering grasses. He believes most of our turf grasses are watered too much. Grasses should be given more water after a longer period of time and not watered so often. He explained that golfers demanded more water on the greens than what the turf does. Dr. Hagen is working with Vince (Vince Crockett, Superintendent Del Paso) on a test plot at Del Paso. The new schedule will call for watering every three nights instead of every two. If this works out it may result in a considerable saving of labor. Dr. Hagen remarked that there more frequently you water the more you lose by evaporation and poor distribution."



## NorCalendar

**APRIL 14**

**NCPGA, CMAA, GCSANC  
Invitational**

*Blackhawk Country Club*

**APRIL 21**

**Golf Course Superintendent  
Field Workshop**

*Sequoiah Country Club*

**JUNE 23**

**Seventh Annual Clifford and  
Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship  
Research Tournament**

*Stanford University Golf Course*

**AUGUST 11**

**Tri Chapter Meeting**

*Del Rio Country Club*

**DECEMBER 5**

**December Meeting**

*Del Monte Golf Course and*

*Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa*

### More Details?

Visit [www.gcsanc.com/events/](http://www.gcsanc.com/events/)

## New Members

**Jim Paroli**

**Delta Bluegrass**

*Affiliate*

**Max Levitch**

**ValleyCrest Golf Diablo Creek GC**

*Assistant Superintendent*

## Naumann's NorCal News

By **DON NAUMANN**



Congratulations to Mr Richard J. Lavine, CGCS on his recertification.





## President's Message By GARY INGRAM, CGCS

2014 looks to be a very challenging year, however, with these challenges comes wonderful opportunities!

One of our biggest challenges this year is to find a new executive manager. As many of you know, after 23 years with our association, Bar-

bara Mikel has decided to start a new chapter in her life. With her patience and expertise, she has guided us into the 21st century. She has seen numerous boards come and go, strategic plans developed, and has continued to keep our association moving forward, relevant and economically stable. We will not be able to replace her, but hopefully we will find someone that will continue in her footsteps.

The Education Committee is working diligently on developing GCSANC educational and networking events for 2014. We plan to continue our successful regional meetings throughout 2014. Collaboration with other associations will be one of our goals as we continue to focus on our relationships with other golf course industry associations. Please check your email for upcoming events and or visit the calendar on our association webpage. Our plans are to continue supporting University of Riverside turf research through the California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation. We will continue to have numerous research projects throughout northern California golf courses. Information on results of these projects may be found on our website.

As I write this article, we still have one month of possible rainfall, but it looks like 2014 will be one of our most challenging water years on record. We have helped organize northern California regional meetings with superintendents, general managers, head professionals, and water district representatives to discuss potential solutions for our communities and industry. If you need the association to help arrange additional regional meetings in your area please, do not hesitate to call and ask for support. Members can now get on the GCSANC website under research/water and get information and webcasts relevant to water issues

As we focus on the current water situation in California, we must start developing long-range plans so we do not continually focus on immediate problems. Numerous other states have created state BMPs that are now being used by governments and communities for water management, nutrient applications, and IPM programs. In these states the golf community has become a major ally in helping them develop programs and regulations. We have started to investigate how the golf industry in California can develop a set of state BMPs so that we can continue to be recognized as leaders in environmental stewardship and natural resource management. If you are interested in being part of this process, please contact me. We welcome your input and support

I personally look forward to 2014 and the opportunity to work with all of you!



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## Editor's Ramblings

By **BRIAN NETTZ, CGCS**

### *Thank God for Pink Eye...*

...because I was sick and tired of Bob Costas smugly inserting his political overtones into something as beautiful as the Olympics. Yeah, Putin and Russia certainly deserve some criticism, but let's move on and let the athletes consume the stage. It's Russia. It's their country and they have a right to run it their way; they have their own culture and we don't have to agree on that. As a Russian friend pointed out to me, you need to grow up in their country and be exposed to the propaganda to understand their way of doing things. Nuff said.

Super Bowl. Admit it: you were happy Richard Sherman "got his" and smiled as the camera panned on him and his crutches. Just admit it. You know you were deep inside. We were all tired of his grandstanding, tweeting, gum flapping, overly self important ways. Why does the media indulge this megalomaniac? Blah, blah, blah. So many things in this country more important and more concerning than him...look at all the issues confronting this country. Look at the congress and presidential approval ratings. Look at the violence. Look at the violence against children. Look at the media outlets tearing down everyone in front of them for the sake of ratings.

Then, on to this stage steps a young man, out of seemingly nowhere: a small rural town called Warroad in Minnesota. Just as Herb Brooks and his team 34 years ago, this young athlete reminds us, if only for a minute, that this country can be great. TJ Oshie, scoring the winning goal(s) in that now historic USA v Russia hockey game shootout. In the biggest stage of all sports save the World Cup: the Olympics. Oshie has the greatest moment of his sporting life and career. In front of the whole world. In front of Vladimir Putin. Oshie makes the game winning goal. After this momentous occasion did Oshie talk crap about Bobrovski? About Kovalchuk? About Datsyuk? No way. He was thankful. He celebrated his team. He was austere. He was humble. Upon being called a hero, Oshie quietly and most decidedly sincerely, simply said, "American heroes wear camo." Beautiful. Simple. Truthful. And Oshie left us all asking ourselves as we choked back the tears, "Who the hell is Richard Sherman anyway?"

The beauty of the Olympics: anything can happen and anyone can be a country's hero.

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## Drought, When Will It End?

By **KEVIN P. BREEN, CGCS**

I, like a lot of people, have always felt a connection to the natural environment and in particular the weather. The type of weather that you can feel, the kind that makes your hair stand up and notice the power of nature. The Coastal and Bay areas are not the areas that are known for weather like that. The dramatic storms that contain high winds, lightening, hail, etc. like you see devastating the mid west are literally on a different level. However, California is experiencing severe weather, and has been for a while it just may not have raised hair on end.

My formal education includes a meteorology degree, and I have been watching and predicting weather for my work as a golf course superintendent for 26 years. In the San Francisco Bay area the weather kind of lulls you to sleep. The daily temperatures don't change much, and unless there is rain in the forecast there really is not much going on. And there has not been anything going on for a very long time, with little reason to believe that it is going to change in the near future. There are larger global forces at work here that influence our weather.

The subtleties of the weather in Northern California are dependent upon sea surface temperatures, and those don't change quickly. Most of the weather on our planet is influenced by the 71% of the surface that is water. The temperature of water changes slowly and when the sea surface temperature is not normal, then the normal weather pattern changes as it has this year and it is not changing back quickly. Right now things are stuck in an upper air pattern of a ridge over the west coast and a trough over the east part of the country.

California just had its driest year on record, and maybe you no-

ticed, and if you did possibly you are thinking that things could get bad. For a golf course superintendent, things got bad last winter. We have been dealing with salts in the soil all summer and now into winter. I don't want to bore you with the hardship of providing a surface for recreation this past 12 months when there might be much more dire consequences coming with drinking water availability and water restrictions. The point is, the weather is dramatic right now, you just may not have noticed just how dramatic because it has not been a hardship.

So when is this weather going to change? That is a big question, and frankly most people who make a living answering that question agree that the change has happened. We might be in the new normal for our lifetimes. If this is the new normal we will adapt and change because that is what we all do as a species, and it may not be dramatic in the short term. But from my experience, the long term climate and the resulting short term weather have changed. Don't expect an apocalyptic Hollywood ending to life as we know it, but do expect that your life will change because of the weather.

To keep up on the current sea surface temperature anomalies go to; <http://www.ospo.noaa.gov/Products/ocean/sst/anomaly/>

For national long and short range forecasts and discussion (including sea surface temperatures) go to: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>

For current California reservoir water levels go to:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action>

For current California snow pack moisture go to:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action>

## RIP Buddy

Sadly, we acknowledge the passing of a GCSANC celebrity in Buddy, Keith Kaminski's most loyal employee and Chief Nap Officer of Kaminski Golf. Most of the tenured members of GCSANC know Keith. And you can't know Keith without knowing Buddy, whose favorite job was napping underneath the tractor on a sunny day. Buddy passed peacefully and quietly on Super Bowl Sunday while napping at Keith's feet. We should all be so lucky to pass similarly. We will miss Buddy but we will rest easy knowing that he is forever napping under a New Holland tractor on a sunny day.



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# The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Nor Cal Recognizes Its Award Winners at 2014 Annual Meeting

## GCSANC Member Wayne Kappelman from Sharp Park Golf Course named Golf Course Superintendent of the Year

San Francisco, CA—The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) is pleased to announce its annual award winners. These individuals will be recognized for their outstanding contributions within the golf and turfcare industry at the 2014 GCSANC Annual Meeting set for Mon. January 13, at Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton, CA.

The recipient of the coveted Course Superintendent of the Year award is GCSANC Member Wayne Kappelman of Sharp Park Golf Course (Pacifica, CA) and golf course superintendent at the popular, Alister MacKenzie-designed public golf course owned by the City & County of San Francisco.

The George Santana Distinguished Service award will be presented to GCSANC Past President (1994), Randal “Randy” Gai, CGCS, who has just completed his respected tenure as Director of Golf Course & Club Grounds at Claremont Country Club (Oakland, CA).

Earning honors in Turfgrass Excellence within the Public Category is Golf Course Superintendent & Director of Landscape James “Jim” Ferrin, CGCS, at Sun City Roseville where he oversees Timber Creek Golf Course and Sierra Pines Golf Course (Roseville, CA). The Turfgrass Excellence Award in the Private Category is earned by Golf Course Superintendent Jason Goss of Sonoma Golf Club (Sonoma, CA).

This year the Bert Graves Affiliate Merit Award will be presented to two individuals for their ongoing support to the GCSANC. These exceptional honorees include Danville resident Adrian Bertens, Founder of Hydro Engineering Inc., and Martinez resident Mike Ligon, who serves as Territory Sales Representative for Jacobsen West in a region which spans from the Bay Area to Monterey.

The GCSANC Presidents Award is being presented to Oakland resident Ali Harivandi, Ph.D., Environmental Horticulturist, Emeritus, University of California Cooperative Extension. He receives this special distinction for his significant contributions through turfgrass research coupled with his ongoing support to the GCSANC and its educational programs.

“We are extremely proud of our chapter award winners and we look forward to recognizing each of these fine individuals at our upcoming annual meeting,” said GCSANC President & Annual Meeting Host Jon Christenson. “With such well-deserving honorees, and each of them doing such amazing things within the profession and throughout their communities, it’s no wonder that our Nor Cal chapter continues to shine.”

In addition to award presentations, during the annual meeting attendees will have a chance to gain insight from guest speaker GC-SAA National President Patrick “Pat” Finlen, CGCS, who also serves as General Manager at the Olympic Club (San Francisco, CA). Additionally, during the meeting GCSANC members will elect new directors, install new officers, and recognize outgoing directors for their service to the association.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California is dedicated to serving its members, fostering communication, advancing the profession, improving the environment and enriching the quality of golf for others.



Affiliate members elect new director Vince Keats, CGCS.



GCSANC past presidents.



Randy Gai reviews his awards presentation display prepared by Emmy Moore Minister.



Kappelman



## Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic Needs Volunteers

Lake Merced Golf Club is seeking volunteers for the 2014 Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic, Monday, April 21st through Sunday, April 27th. The par 72, 6,507 yard course will host 144 players and consist of four days of stroke play, including a Pro-Am.

Volunteer efforts will play an integral role in providing championship playing conditions. Of the two working shifts each day, the morning shift is scheduled for 3:30 am to 7:30 am and the evening shift is scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. In addition to providing breakfast and dinner, uniforms will be provided. Lake Merced is appreciative of your existing professional and personal obligations during the spring months, but will value any assistance that you can provide throughout the week.

If interested, please contact Golf Course Superintendent, Zach Ohsann, by phone at (650) 315-3173 or by email at zach.ohsann@lmgc.org.



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## **Turfgrass Excellence—Public Category**

**James “Jim” Ferrin, CGCS** *Sun City Roseville | Roseville, CA*

**Career Highlights:** Jim Ferrin, CGCS, is the Golf Course Superintendent and Director of Landscapes for the Sun City Roseville Community Association. In addition to the two golf courses he oversees, Timber Creek GC and Sierra Pines GC, Jim is responsible for all of the association’s common landscape areas. Now, in his ninth year at Sun City Roseville, Jim

continues to do a remarkable job overseeing the 27-hole facility.

**Prior Experience:** Jim’s career experience includes Superintendent and GM assignments at Whitney Oaks Golf Club and was the grow-in and opening Superintendent at Granite Bay Golf Club.

**Education:** Jim earned a B.A. degree in History from UC San Diego and a two-year certificate in Ornamental Horticulture from Mesa Community College. He also holds title as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with the GCSAA.

**On Course:** At Timber Creek and Sierra Pines GC’s the fairways and tees are a combo of perennial rye and Bermuda with bent/poa greens. Recent projects include installing a new pumping plant as well as redoing split rail fencing and protecting open space/native areas. Jim has a staff of 18, which also includes his assistant and equipment manager.

**Jim’s Course Management Philosophy:** He bases his course management on providing good, playable surfaces. He develops an annual work plan, which also has quarterly and weekly components. Programs are constructed with soil, paste extracts and tissue testing. He encourages sustainability, but admits (after his years of ex-

perience) he must always protect his commodity.

**Jim’s Management Style:** Jim understands golf and the unique science of course maintenance. He recognizes the primary role of the course superintendent is to provide quality playing surfaces for golfers. When it comes to his staff, he believes in educating, cross-training, delegating and empowering. Staying focused on goals which are supported by open communication is paramount to his success. Jim also believes it is his responsibility to provide opportunities for his staff to grow.

**Honors:** He is a former recipient of the GCSAA Environmental Award (1988), SNGCSA Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award (2011), and the CGCSA Writer’s Award.

**ADA Consultant:** Jim became passionate about ADA (along with colleague Sam Samuelson, CGCS) when he repeatedly observed the positive impacts golf has on individuals with disabilities (from stroke or otherwise). After much in-depth research, planning, and application, Jim and his business partner Sam, now provide ADA consulting services for golf facilities. Both gentlemen are considered experts in the field and speak regularly on the topic of ADA.

**Chapter and Industry Involvement:** Jim is known for his ongoing efforts in the area of Government Relations and serves on the board of directors for the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), where he is the voice at the table for California golf course superintendents. Because of his keen agronomic knowledge, Jim was recently featured in a RISE video that focused on debugging the myth about pesticides.

**Dream Foursome:** If all dreams came true, Jim would be joined in a round of golf by Golf Greats Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Lee Trevino.

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## Turfgrass Excellence—Private Category

**Jason Goss** Sonoma Golf Club | Sonoma, CA

**Career Highlights:** Jason Goss is now in his seventh year at Sonoma Golf Club where he originally served as a 1st assistant, and in the summer of 2007 was promoted to head golf course superintendent. Prior, he was employed at Santa Rosa G&CC, and even had a stint helping construct a par-3 course in Sonoma County.

**Education:** Jason earned an AS degree in Turfgrass Management from Michigan State University.

**On Course:** The fairways and tees at Sonoma Golf club consist of poa annua/chewings fescue/rye, and poa annua greens. There haven't been any major on-course renovation projects in the past few years, however, there's been great success interseeding fairways with chewings fescue for five consecutive seasons, improving playability as well as reducing water and fertilizer/chemical usage.

**Special Projects:** Jason's turf care background also includes preparing the course for the Charles Schwab Cup Championships (Champions Tour event), three during his tenure as golf course superintendent.

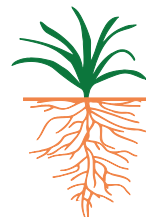
**Jason's Course Management Philosophy:** "We manage the soil not the grass. If the soil is right, the grass will be right," states Jason. The color green and managing for aesthetics is not necessarily number one on the priority list at SGC. It's about playability first, then aesthetics. To keep this championship-level course in good

shape it takes a staff of 21 full-time and two part-time employees.

**Jason's Management Style:** "I like to manage the way I like to learn, mostly through osmosis and also by example. I've worked on golf courses for more than 22 years and have done nearly every job imaginable. My staff members get a chance to see me jump in and do the work whenever necessary and that helps when I have to, on occasion, give corrective instruction. They know I've performed the tasks before and I am still willing to do it when needed."

**Dream Foursome:** If Jason could choose, he'd be teeing it up with his Dad, plus golf legends Fred Couples and Arnold Palmer.

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## George Santana Distinguished Service Award

Randal "Randy" Gai, CGCS Claremont Country Club | Oakland, CA

**Career Highlights:** At the mere age of 13, Randal "Randy" Gai, CGCS, started as a caddie at the historic Alister MacKenzie-designed Claremont Country Club. After attending college at Chico State University, Randy returned to the club with the idea of caddying there for a short stint, that is, until he could find the "right job" outside of golf.

However, as fate would have it, a temporary position emerged at Claremont (working for Golf Course Superintendent Stanley Burgess) and he took the job. It was followed by a two-year mechanic assignment, and next, a position as assistant golf course superintendent.

In 1979, when Burgess left Claremont CC, Randy was offered the favored position as golf course superintendent, an assignment he capably held until 2012 when he was named the club's Director of Golf & Grounds. Randy retired from Claremont at the end of 2013, and left the club safe with Josh Clevenger as head golf course superintendent.

**Chapter Involvement:** Randy's contribution to the GCSANC span several decades. He served on the GCSANC board of directors in the early '90s and was president of the Chapter in 1994. He also served on the planning committee for The Institute with Dr. Ali Harivandi. Randy has hosted GCSANC events over the years; one of the more recent (which he co-hosted with Josh Clevenger) was the 2013 Annual Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament.

**Community Involvement:** In addition to his involvement with the GCSANC, Randy has supported community-based programs like The First Tee of Oakland, as well as numerous charitable events, including those raising necessary funds for cancer research.

**Honors:** He is a former recipient of the GCSANC Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award (1995), GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award (1991).

**Education:** Randy has a B.A. degree in Business Administration from Chico State University. He is also a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, coveted status he's held for 25 years.

**Previous Honors:** GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence in the Private Category, GCSANC Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award

**Dream Foursome:** In his dream foursome, joining Randy at the first tee would be Jason Dufner, David Feherty, and Carl Spackler.

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## **Bert Graves Memorial Affiliate Award**

**Adrian Bertens** *Hydro Engineering | Danville, CA*

**Career Highlights:** Adrian Bertens, founder of Hydro Engineering, got his start in the irrigation business with Rainbird's international marketing department in Southern California. Next, he was offered a sales rep position with General Irrigation. In 1972, he was given the opportunity to serve as a sales representative for Toro in northern California, a position he

gladly held until 1984. Along the way, Adrian obtained his contractor license and eventually started his own Nor Cal-based company, Hydro Engineering.

**Education:** Adrian holds a degree in Agriculture Economics from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, his native homeland.

**Formula for Success:** When you ask Adrian about his success in the irrigation business (as a rep and/or as a company owner) he will quickly tell you, "It's based on relationships....it's all about relationships." Over the years, Adrian has worked closely with golf course superintendents on scores of irrigation-related projects, including those at Blackhawk CC, Cypress Point Club, Pebble Beach GL, Ran-

cho Canada GC, Shoreline GL, and Spanish Bay GL, to name a few.

**Chapter & Community Involvement:** Adrian has supported GCSANC events and educational offerings. He has also dedicated endless hours in the successful planning and hosting of the Chapter's Annual Christmas Party. This popular golf & banquet event has proven to be one of the "best-attended" GCSANC celebrations each-and-every year; where members and spouses gather to celebrate, and where camaraderie is off the chart.

**He Keeps on Giving:** Adrian may have retired in 2009, but nothing stops him from staying involved-- not only with the Nor Cal Chapter but also within the game of golf, evidenced through his association with the Men's Club at San Ramon Golf Club. Adrian plays golf regularly and enjoys the camaraderie amongst fellow men's club members at San Ramon. He serves on the club's fundraising committee whose annual tournament benefits Breast Cancer Research. Because of his passion for the game, Adrian also volunteers as a marshal at PGA Tour events and USGA-hosted championships.

**Dream Foursome:** According to Adrian, it would include PGA standout player Phil Mickelson, Champions Tour Player Mark O'Meara, and PGA TOUR Player and golf icon Tiger Woods.



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## Bert Graves Memorial Affiliate Award

**Mike Ligon** *Jacobson West | Northern California Territory*

**Career Highlights:** Mike is a successful Nor Cal sales rep for Jacobsen West, a Textron Company, an organization that is fully committed to providing outstanding sales, service, and parts to its customers. Mike's territory spans from the Bay Area to the lovely Monterey Peninsula. His 23 years in the industry also include assignments with West Star Distributing,

H.V. Carter Company, Sand Channel and Golf Ventures West.

**Education:** Mike attended Diablo Valley College and Contra Costa College with focus in Electrical studies.

**Chapter Involvement:** In the late '90s, Mike volunteered his time serving as a GCSANC affiliate director. Since 2010, he has worked diligently in the successful revival of the GCSANC Holiday event at Old Del Monte GC, and has kindly garnered event sponsorship support from Jacobsen West as well as E-Z-GO, Smithco, and Turf-

co Manufacturing. Additionally, Mike and his fellow reps have supported other GCSANC events throughout the years including the statewide California Room reception held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show.

**Community Involvement:** Mike and the Jacobsen West team believe in giving back, and are supporters of various charitable organizations including The First Tee.

**Previous Honors:** GCSANC Affiliate of the Year Award (1996), Jacobsen Pacesetter Award (1996), National Mower Top Sales U.S. (1998).

**Love of the Game:** Mike picked up a golf club at the age of 13 and has been playing the game ever since. In the early '80s he enjoyed a stint competing in Golden State mini tour events. Fast forward to 2013, Mike earned title as GCSAA Affiliate National Champion (Gross division), and also earned honors as GCSAA National 4-Ball Champion with playing partner/GCSANC Member Terry Grasso.

**Dream Foursome:** Mike would be joined by Golf Greats Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player.



## Golf Course Superintendent of the Year

**Wayne Kappelman**—*Sharp Park Golf Course | Pacifica, CA*

**Career Highlights:** Wayne Kappelman is the Golf Course Superintendent and Park Services Supervisor (Golf & Turf division) at the Alister MacKenzie-designed Sharp Park Golf Course. This popular, 18-hole course is located along the California Coast within the town of Pacifica (San Mateo County), yet owned by the City & County of San Francisco.

Since 2009, Wayne has done a masterful job maintaining the course, and today, he proudly describes it as "the all-organic" Sharp Park. His professional experience also includes tenure as golf course superintendent at Harding Park GC (2006-2009) and greenskeeper at Harding Park GC (2002-2006). Prior to his work in the golf & turf care industry, Wayne (who grew up in Milwaukee, Wis.) and also worked in the hi-tech industry in Silicon Valley.

**Education:** Wayne has earned a few degrees, one in Business and Economics from Lakeland College, (Sheboygan, WI), a degree in History from the University of Wisconsin, and a Diplôme D'Étude Français University of Bordeaux, France.

**Special Projects Earlier in His Career:** Wayne was deeply involved with course preparation work for the 2005 American Express Championship and the 2009 Presidents Cup, both held at Harding Park GC.

**Community Involvement:** Wayne has been a supporter of the community-based "Save Sharp Park" campaign spearheaded by the SF Public Golf Alliance. He has also provided educational tours to golfers and non-golfers over the years, as well as to members of the media who've been following the fate of Sharp Park.

**Chapter Involvement:** Wayne and his staff were involved with

the development of three Public Service Announcements (PSA's) made possible through the GCSANC and the GCSAA's matching grant program. The PSAs showcase the important role of a golf course superintendent with focus on environmental sustainability. They also cast a positive light on Wayne's dedicated work through San Francisco's Department of Rec & Parks.

**Giving Back in the World:** Wayne has volunteered his time as an English Teacher in Laos, SE Asia.

**Previous Honors:** He is a recipient of Golfdom magazine's prestigious 2013 Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year Award.

**On Course:** With a small staff of six and a very modest budget, Wayne works diligently to keep the MacKenzie-designed course in good shape for the hundreds of local golfers who take great pride in calling Sharp Park their "home" course. (approx. 50,000 rounds are played each year at Sharp Park GC).

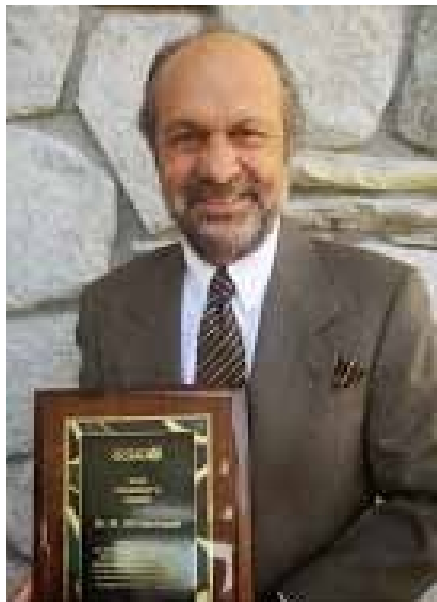
**Course Management Philosophy:** According to Wayne, the number one priority at Sharp Park is the protection of endangered species and the enhancement of habitat for wildlife around the golf course. In accordance with this aim is maintaining the course through sustainable methods that include using only organic products and fertilizers. Wayne believes, that only by protecting the environment can we ensure the continuation of the golf course and that it will be enjoyed for generations to come.

**Wayne's thoughts on receiving this highly coveted Award:** "I feel very lucky and honored to receive this award, especially in our area where there are so many outstanding superintendents as well as such iconic golf courses. It makes me proud that the Northern California Chapter of the GCSA would recognize our efforts to create a sustainable model for golf at a local muni."

**Dream Foursome:** Alister MacKenzie, Aaron Rodgers, the Dalai Lama, plus Wayne, all teeing it up at Sharp Park!



# Dr. Ali Harivandi—Worthy Recipient of the Prestigious GCSANC Presidents Award



The Northern California Chapter of the GCSAA is pleased to announce that Dr. Ali Harivandi, Emeritus, Environmental Horticulturist with UC Cooperative Extension is the worthy recipient of the association's 2013 Presidents Award. He was presented the honor during the chapter's Annual Meeting in early January at Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton, CA.

The GCSANC Presidents Award is a highly coveted honor, and un-

like other awards, this distinction is bestowed only on rare occasions-- to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the Association and to the turfgrass industry. And as most GCSANC members know, Dr. Harivandi has dedicated his career to extensive research and education in the areas of turf, soil and water for the benefit of the Industry.

This honoree, holds both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Turfgrass Management from Colorado State University, where he was a Research and Teaching Associate while completing his graduate studies. He joined the University of California Cooperative Extension in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1980.

Dr. Harivandi has been published extensively in both scientific and popular press. To be exact, he's been published 380 times. His work appears in books, scientific journals, professional and trade journals, and also in several University of California publications. Additionally, he's been featured on several occasions in this publication, *Thru the Green*, and in other leading golf and turf care publications.

Dr. Harivandi has played an integral part in GCSANC education, through his exceptional planning and involvement in Institutes, Seminars, and Field Days. His research and findings have been invaluable to golf course superintendents, spanning beyond the Northern California Chapter. In addition to his written work, Dr. Harivandi has served as a keynote speaker and expert panelist for the GCSANC and at other professional and scientific meetings regionally, nationally and internationally.

## Key Areas of Work/Research

Dr. Harivandi's work has spanned a variety of "key" areas including: Turfgrass management and variety improvement; water conservation; soil and water salinity management; use of recycled water for irrigation; efficient irrigation practices; reclamation and re-vegetation of disturbed lands; development of new landscaped sites (e.g. golf courses, parks, sports fields, cemeteries); turfgrass

weed, disease and insect management; and urban green waste management.

## On the Forefront of Water Conservation and Sustainability

While Californians have been forced to conserve water in recent drought-ridden times, Dr. Harivandi has been committed to the cause for quite awhile. He was a leader in introducing turf that requires less water and maintenance (i.e. tall and fine-leaf fescue species). He even designed a map that shows evapotranspiration estimates which helps prevent overwatering, a guide that residents and landscapers can use when programming their sprinkler systems. In early 80's, he first introduced the concept of using recycled water for turfgrass irrigation at golf courses and elsewhere. His research and educational activities related to recycled water irrigation has now made the practice common. He taught a one day seminar on this topic at the national Golf Industry Show for 22 consecutive years. Currently close to 30% of south western US golf courses are irrigated with recycled water.

## Organization and Affiliations

This honoree stays involved, evidenced by the numerous organizations he has supported (and/or served with) during his 33-year tenure with UC Cooperative Extension. They include Turfgrass & Environmental Research Advisory Committee (USGA), CSAA Technical/Resource Advisory Committee (1988-1993), Crop Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy (Certified as Professional Agronomist), Soil Science Society of America (Certified as Professional Soils Specialist), American Society for Horticultural Science, International Society for Horticultural Science, International Turfgrass Society, European Turfgrass Society, and Turfgrass Producers International.

## Previous Awards and Special Distinctions

Dr. Harivandi adds the GCSANC Presidents Award to other honors he has received throughout his stellar career. His previously-earned distinctions include 2009 Piper & Oakley Award (USGA), The International Sustainability Council, Certificate of Excellence (The Council for Agricultural Science & Technology), Excellence in Teaching & Outstanding Service (UC Davis Extension), Industry Award for Excellence in Public Information (Northern California Turf and Landscape Council), Research & Education Award (Nor Cal Water Efficient Landscape Conference), Research & Education Award (Northern California Turfgrass Council), 1990 Distinguished Service Award (GCSANC), and 1995 Distinguished Service Award (GCSAA).

"We are fortunate to have Dr. Ali, so closely affiliated with our association," said GCSANC Outgoing President Jon Christenson. "He has been recognized world-wide as a top expert in recycled water and he constantly shares his knowledge with us...providing viable solutions, which in turn, help us become better turf managers and environmental stewards. There is no one more deserving of this award, than Dr. Ali."



## From the Field

By **JEFF JENSEN**, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

This column will find many of you just returning from the annual Golf Industry Show, Education Conference and GCSAA Golf Championships in Orlando. I sincerely hope you enjoyed all of the events, hospitality and education that were provided at this very successful show. We appreciate your continued support of the event and look forward to San Antonio in 2015.

As we move into spring, GCSAA wants to hear from our members concerning our strategic vision for GCSAA moving forward and ask for your assistance with key projects when they arise. There are numerous volunteer opportunities throughout the year in which you can engage with GCSAA staff, the GCSAA Board of Directors and your fellow members that have a positive impact on the golf industry. Whatever your interest may be – water management, the environment, government regulations or member relations, GCSAA has a project or a committee that you can assist with.

Take a moment to complete a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VPFKSLH> to indicate that we can call upon you in the future when engagement opportuni-

ties arise. The feedback you share on this survey will also give you the avenue to identify topics that interest you. You will receive 0.25 service points for taking the time to complete this survey.

Additionally, I will be reaching out to Northern California members this summer to identify those who have interest in serving as a GCSAA government relations liaison. More information on this program will be available shortly and we are hoping to have commitments from members by July.

We look forward to working with you and making sure we have our member's best interests in mind. If you have any questions concerning the survey, please contact Scott Woodhead, associate director of member relations at 800-472-7878 ext. 4418 or [swoodhead@gcsaa.org](mailto:swoodhead@gcsaa.org).

Thank you for your support of my position and if I can do anything to make your member experience more beneficial, don't hesitate to contact me at [jjensen@gcsaa.org](mailto:jjensen@gcsaa.org). For current updates and regional news, follow me on Twitter @GCSAA\_SW or check out the Southwest Region blog at <http://gcsaa-southwest.blogspot.com>.

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