



### **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 Diplome 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!