

THE WINTER INFOREMER

THE QUARTERLY SDGCSA NEWSLETTER



All you need to know about what's happening with the SDGCSA.

NATIVE OAKS GOLF CLUB

Kicking off 2021 right, we have columns, stories, and tips of the trade written just for members of the SDGCSA, by the members of the SGCSA. In this Winter Inforemer Newsletter, we are happy to have an article about the amazing Mike Magnani Sr. as he leaves the industry to retire. Along with that, we have a great recap of our Fall "Drive-In" Event.

Read our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent spotlights as we showcase two of our chapters' best. Get the overview on two courses in San Diego County and hear from one of our great affiliates. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and we would love to hear your ideas for the future!

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Dear Members,

I hope you had a safe and happy holiday season. As we welcome 2021 with open arms, I couldn't help but think how 2020 is going to change things forever. Here are some things that I noticed in 2020 that I never thought I would see in my lifetime:

- Standing in line for toilet paper
- Zoom happy hours
- Wearing a mask to get groceries
- Cardboard cut-outs at sports games
- Hand sanitizer—So much hand sanitizer

With that being said, we do need to stay positive as we move forward. As an industry, things are looking bright heading into 2021. Most golf courses have seen an increase in rounds. This is mostly due to the effort that was put in in March to prove that golf is one of the safest sports available. That's something we can all take credit for.

In the next few months, my role as our Chapter President will be coming to an end. Who would have thought that half of my term would be served during a global pandemic? The Board has done some great things in the last two years. They have awarded Scholarships, raised funds for Prostate Cancer Awareness, rebuilt the sponsorship program for our Affiliate members, and increased our Benevolent fund by 25%. The list goes on and on with what the Board has accomplished as a team, and I couldn't be prouder.

Chis Erickson will be running for President in March. We are fortunate to have him step up and run for this position. He has served many years as a Director in our Association, and has spent the last two of them serving as our Secretary/Treasurer. With Mr. Erickson at the helm, we can be confident that he will continue to grow the Association, and promote the core values that our Association represents.

In this last President's message, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support over the past two years. It has been such a wonderful experience serving for the Association.

Getting to know all of our members has been a joy. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for us. I know for certain that we have created a path that will lead this Association and its members to success.

- Cody Layton, SDGCSA President

MEET THE SUPER

DAVID VASTOLA - NATIVE OAKS GOLF CLUB

BY KELLY HALSEY



NATIVE OAKS
GOLF CLUB

Nestled in Valley Center with its tree lined fairways and beautiful rolling slopes sits Native Oaks Golf Club (formerly known as Woods Valley Golf Club), second home to Superintendent David Vastola.

David's path to the golf course was similar to most of us I imagine, while working in a green house through high school and part of college he decided to get a pharmacy major. Life in the pharmacy did not appeal so he enrolled at SUNY Cobleskill, about a 4hr drive from his home in Buffalo New York and received his Bachelors in Turf Management. From there former alum Russ Myers hooked him up with his first golf course job at Los Angeles Country Club. After a nice stay there, David took an Assistant position at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples Florida. After roughly a year and a half he decided Florida was not for him and that California is the place he ought to be, so he packed the fam and moved to Beverly...well, not exactly but close...San Clemente. There he worked as an Assistant at Mesa Verde for a 2-year stint and then worked at Monarch Beach Golf Links for 3 years. It was at this point when OB Sports, who managed Monarch Beach took over Woods Valley Golf Course and offered him the Superintendent position. So, east coast to west coast to east coast and back to west coast. Many miles were traveled when David finally got his first Superintendent position in March of 2020.



You're from Buffalo, New York. As we write this, the Bills are in the playoffs for the first time since 1996. Are you a Bills fan? I would absolutely describe myself as a diehard fan and I'm just trying to soak this year in as it's been a lifetime of heartache and misery for me. I grew up with seasons tickets and attended every single game regardless of the weather. It was only a quick 10 minute drive to the stadium which is located in a suburb of Buffalo. My future family in-law, who are from San Clemente, have actually become members of Bills Mafia and we go all out on game days! I still get back once a year to go to a game but the pandemic had different plans for 2020. (I've attached an image because sometimes, pictures speak louder than words.)

What are your hobbies? My current hobbies include reading a good book, golfing with my fiancé when I can, dabbling around on the guitar, and trying to get a blog on golf course maintenance up and running! I've tried surfing but it turns out to be much harder than it looked.

How is your golf game? I didn't start playing golf regularly until I was 23 years old. Before that, it was maybe twice a year so my golf game has flashes of brilliance, but I can never really seem to put a full 18 holes together. I always say that I wish golf courses were only 13 holes, because that's all I can usually muster before I start to blow up! I consistently shoot 80-85 and have yet to break into the 70's. I wish I could play more often.

You literally worked right next to the Pacific Ocean while at Monarch Beach Golf Links in Dana Point and you worked down in Naples, Florida as well. Is it safe to say you're a fan of the beach? I wouldn't say I'm a huge fan of the beach, but there is something to be said about the beauty of the ocean that I seem to gravitate to. I think I like having the option to go and it's also just a nice place to look out and lose all your worries. My family and friends all still live in New York so when they come visit, there is also the element of "look how amazing this place is... I live here." It's nothing like where I grew up.

MEET THE SUPER, CONT.

DAVID VASTOLA - NATIVE OAKS GOLF CLUB

For those who have never worked at a golf course in Florida, how would you describe that experience? Working at a golf course in Florida is very similar to a golf course in Southern California, but with way more humidity. Summer in Florida is about 100 degrees with 100 percent humidity almost every day. It can become unbearable. The street signs are even sweating at 5am. You can also guarantee a thunderstorm every day at about 2pm. Overall, I really enjoyed it and learned a lot about Bermuda grass maintenance, but if your number one fear in life is snakes like it is for me, don't go to Florida. My heart would skip a beat at least 3 times a day.

What are a couple of projects or things you are looking forward to accomplishing at Native Oaks Golf Club? Some short term projects that have me itching for the spring are re-leveling our tee boxes at Native Oaks. Gophers are a huge problem and its been estimated that I have around 60 gophers per acre. The tunneling is non stop and the tee boxes which are adjacent to native slopes have really took the brunt of it. I am also looking forward to getting some pre-emergent down for crabgrass control, applying wetting agents on fairways and rough, and establishing more Bermuda in the summer, all which have been added to the budget in 2021. I also plan on using a Graden on the greens in March.

So you're getting married in July. Anything you want to share on that note? Yes, I am getting married to my beautiful fiancé Allie Roy on July 10th, 2021 at Talega Golf Club located in San Clemente, CA. I'm sure some may have even met Allie while grabbing a drink from the beverage cart at Monarch Beach Golf Links, which is where we met. I actually proposed to her on the 3rd hole in front of the fairway bunker that runs parallel with the ocean. I had the current Superintendent, Matt Sanders, call me right before I had dinner reservations and say I needed to go check an irrigation leak on hole 3. Of course Monarch was on the way to the restaurant so I told her to come on the course with me. I had will you marry me spelled out with tea candles in the bunker. It worked just the way I expected!



FEATURED ARTICLE:

Mike Magnani Sr. Retirement

WRITTEN BY: MICHAEL AND STEPHEN MAGNANI

Mike's career in the golf course turf industry started out innocently enough as a part time job to make some money to support his dream of professional cycling. A fellow training partner, Patrick Holden, whose father Ron Holden, was the Superintendent of La Costa Resort and Spa. With the dream of competing in the Tour de France fueling the early morning wake up calls, to allow afternoon training sessions, the job was ideally suited. The job began in the usual fashion, starting from the bottom, weed-whipping trees and digging trenches. The main difference being that in order to "train" he would refrain from taking a utility vehicle and run from hole to hole. After qualifying for the US 1980 cycling championships and realizing anything higher wasn't possible he decided maintaining golf courses looked pretty good.

At La Costa Mike found a job that he could turn into a career and make a decent living. Under the tutelage of Dick Rudolph, Mike began to learn more skills and advance through the ranks, eventually becoming the Assistant Superintendent. Consequently, it was at a co-workers family outing that Mike met his future wife, Elvia. Elvia was the sister of three of Mike's co-workers, so you can imagine the joking and ribbing that occurred. While at La Costa, Mike helped host the Tournament of Champions, a PGA Tour event held there for some time.

After spending 10 years at La Costa, Mike then became the Golf Course Superintendent at The Doubletree Resort at Carmel Highlands. At Carmel Highlands, Mike had the freedom to hone his craft and lead a team on his own. His team led numerous renovations in house, making the golf course better. During this time he began to devote some energy to being a part of the San Diego Superintendents Association. He made his way onto the Board and eventually the President of the association.



Finally, his career led him to Admiral Baker Golf Course. While at Admiral Baker, his superiors took note of his ability to get things done and began to expand his role. He gradually began to take on supervisory roles at the other Navy golf courses in the area, Sea & Air, and the Naval Base Golf Performance Center. Eventually the role led him to oversee Naval Golf Courses in Seal Beach, Ventura, Ridgecrest, and Monterey as the Naval Region Southwest Golf Course Superintendent.

After a successful tenure with the Naval Golf Courses, including 2 golf course renovations, and with encouragement from his wife Elvia, Mike decided to retire in December of 2020. He plans to spend his retirement enjoying the company of his wife and kids. His oldest, Adriana, a nurse and the mother of their first grandchild will be a constant visitor. His legacy continues on directly with his two sons. Michael is the Superintendent at Andalusia Country Club in La Quinta, CA while his brother Stephen is currently the Assistant Superintendent at The Farms Golf Club in Rancho Santa Fe, CA.

One of the most impactful memories of his long career came from installing a new pump station at La Costa. The workload was immense, partitioning part of the lake, digging the footings, along with all the headaches of a pump station build. Given a \$65,000 budget they came in at \$58,000. Young Mike was very proud of this and expected a pat on the back from General Graham, the director of maintenance for the property. Rather than give Mike a pat on the back, General Graham said "Doing good, is reward enough." This would become a mantra for Mike and a saying he still uses today.

Mike expresses nothing but gratitude to this industry and the relationships this career brought him and his family. He sends thanks to all the vendors, colleagues, and the SDGCSA who were along the journey with him. His sons, and a few others will benefit greatly from his advice and guidance with work and personally as well.

If you are looking for someone to round out a foursome for golf, give him a call, he has lots of time on his hands now.

FEATURED ARTICLE, CONT.

Mike Magnani Sr. Retirement

**"Doing good,
is reward
enough."**

Mike and his daughter Adriana
throwing some fert at La Costa



Mike in his competitive cycling days



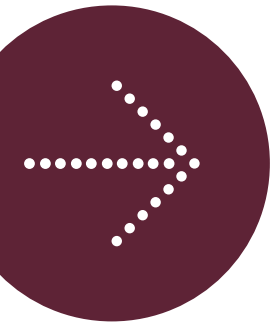
Mike with Pat Holden,
George Lakatos, Bill Widas,
and Doug Rudolph.
La Costa teammates.



COURSE PROFILES

MIRAMAR MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE

MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA | Superintendent: Matt Partridge, GCSAA Class A | General Manager Mark Hayden, PGA



San Diego County is home to approximately 80 golf courses. Of the approximately 80 course in the county two are owned and operated by the United States Marine Corps, and Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS). Those two courses are; Miramar Memorial Golf Course located on MCAS Miramar, and Marine Memorial Golf Course, located on Camp Pendleton. One thing many people do not realize is that nearly all military golf course across the US are open to the public, and many times are the best value around. In 2011 a federal law was passed requiring all Military golf course in the U.S. to be completely self-sufficient and receive no tax payer dollars. So the next time you are looking to play some golf and book a tee time, don't forget about your local Military Golf Course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Miramar Memorial Golf Course is situated in the heart of San Diego on Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar. It has hosted the prestigious Armed Forces Championship and boasts a regulation 18-hole golf course, expansive clubhouse, driving range practice facility, putting green, chipping green, and short game area. In addition, Miramar is known for having some of the best greens in San Diego County. Come experience all of it today.

RENOVATION:

New Pro Shop, restaurant 2008

New greens on holes 9, 18, and practice green 2008.



RATES:

	Weekday:	Weekend:
Active Duty:	Rates vary depending upon rank	
Retired:	\$26	\$28
DOD:	\$28	\$35
Public:	\$35	\$40

*Rates do not include cart. Cart is additional fee \$13

COURSE INFO:

Architect: Jack Daray Jr. - 1966

Greens: Poa-bentgrass mix

Tees: Kikuyu-Bermuda

Fairways: Kikuyu-Bermuda

Par 72, 6818 yards

Slope: 126

Rating 72.2

COURSE PROFILES

MARINE MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE

Camp Pendleton, CA | Superintendent/General Manager: John Martinez



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Unyielding to the seasoned, yet playable for the novice, William P. Bell's Marine Memorial Golf Course has been praised for its bunkers, ingenuity, and innovations in golf course construction. Enjoy the Marine Corps heritage of this course and play for the history, the heroes, and the tradition.

RENOVATION:

- Multiple Pro Shop and restaurant renovations
- Rebuilt greens mid 2000's
- New bunkers. Cary Bickler 2017

COURSE INFO:

- Architect: William P Bell - 1948
- Greens: Poa-bentgrass mix
- Tees: Kikuyu
- Fairways: Kikuyu
- Par 72, 6855 yards
- Slope: 127
- Rating 72.3



RATES:

	Weekday:	Weekend:
Active Duty:	Rates vary depending upon rank	
Retired:	\$26	\$28
DOD:	\$28	\$35
Public:	\$35	\$40
Footgolf:	\$8	\$8

*Rates do not include cart. Cart is additional fee \$18



FEATURED ARTICLE

"Drive In" Fall Education Recap

By BRANDON WILLIAMS, St. Mark Golf Club

While 2020 started off with some great SDGCSA events such as the Crew Appreciation Challenge at St. Mark Executive Course in January and the GCSAA BMP Roll-out event held at Hunter Industries in February, the remainder of the year resulted in cancelled events due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, by mid-August, it seemed at the time that restrictions on events were lighter, and the Board of Directors decided it was time to get together for an education event.

Led by our president and gracious host, Cody Layton, it was decided Fairbanks Ranch would be able to accept us for a socially distant, cautiously minded education and golf event. Jennifer Browning, PCA with BASF, presented us with a very informative virtual seminar on management of Summer Patch, mostly on *Poa annua* greens in Southern California. She did a fantastic job explaining the pathogen, and environmental factors that help a turfgrass manager with a selecting a management program. While we're still in the middle of a pandemic, I treated her presentation like dealing with Summer Patch as a pandemic on turf, as we all deal with it and need to find ways to manage it at our respective facilities. The setting for the presentation was perfect. Cody's team found a great spot outside on the golf course in amongst the trees where chairs and golf carts could be socially distant from each other, and attendees could enjoy the presentation. Thank you so much to Jennifer for her great talk on Summer Patch.

The education and box lunch was sandwiched between two 9-hole golf tee times at Fairbanks Ranch, and the golf course was perfect. No Summer Patch that I could see, but I spent my golf like usual, out in the bushes and native areas. Plus, Cody's greens were very quick and I sailed my putts past the hole a good 10-15 feet. Well done to Cody and his team for presenting us with a spectacular golf course and we are very gracious to all the Fairbanks staff for allowing us to be there on property during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Now on to the horse race, where our president and gracious host, turned himself from golf course superintendent into a play-by-play commentator, almost like you would hear at an actual horse race. Entertaining is an understatement and Cody delivered, providing everything from heckling golf skills of all kinds, celebrating well deserved shots, and getting in the face of those who didn't fill divots on his fairways. Plus, he added one-liner jokes during his commentary to keep the afternoon interesting. At the end, after a vicious battle, Paul Zarumba (Oceanside GC) and Joe Neri (Arrowood GC) came away victorious for the day. It was a great event and thank you to all members who attended, Cody and all Fairbanks staff, Sandy and Marissa, and we look forward to hopefully more events in 2021.



Aerial photographs provided by Mitchell Kohl



Have you been to the Association website www.sdgcscsa.com lately?

Equipment Swap

In addition to all of the useful tools and resources, we have a brand new feature called Equipment Swap. Here you'll find new and used equipment for sale or trade. If you'd like to add something you're no longer using, email Sandy Cooper, Chapter Manager at info@sdgcscsa.com with a description and photos. Listings will be removed automatically after 90 days.



Useful Features:

- Members can log in to view the Member Directory. You can update your information and search for other members. If you don't have login info or recall your login, contact Sandy Cooper.
 - Do you have a position you need to fill? We have an active Job Board and also broadcast it out to the Association and other local chapters.
 - You can also view the updated Event Calendar, Photos from past events, Sponsor Benefit Packages, information about our Student Scholarships and the latest News.
- We will continue to update the website to bring you the latest updates and resources!



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FROM THE FIELD

JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

I hope this finds your New Year off to a great start! 2020 was not what we envisioned, but there is some light at the end of the tunnel moving into the new year. As you read this, vaccines are being distributed to frontline workers and vulnerable populations and hopefully things will be back to some semblance of normal late this summer or early fall.

As a reminder, there is still time to register for the virtual 2021 Golf Industry Show Feb. 2-4. We have 88 education seminars scheduled as well as Opening and Closing Sessions, awards ceremonies and numerous networking events. Packages are available for individuals as well as facilities. Complete information, a schedule of events and registration can be found at <https://www.golfindustryshow.com/>.

Please begin to think about your facility donating a foursome for the 2021 Rounds 4 Research auction. The dates haven't been officially set yet for the Spring auction, but we are already taking donations at <https://www.eifg.org/research/rounds-4-research>.

We realize that many facilities are seeing record breaking play and donating can be difficult, but this is a great opportunity to assist your local chapter in raising funds for research, education and advocacy purposes. 80 percent of all funds raised through the auction goes back to the participating facilities home chapter.

You have the ability to set blackout dates and times that work best for your course. Resort, private, daily fee and municipal courses are all welcome to participate in the auction and it is a great way to market your facility due to the national nature of the auction.

Several Southwest chapters have experienced success over the past years including the Hawaii GCSAA who raised nearly \$6,000 during the 2020 auction.

In closing, I would like to thank those members who have signed up to be a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador. We still have numerous openings available in Southern California and it is a great opportunity to work as a liaison between the golf industry and your member of Congress.

As we shift from the pandemic back to normal business, golf will once again be under the microscope for its water and pesticide use, taxes and beneficial use of open space. It is important that we get the message out about the games economic, environmental and social impacts. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in the program.

Thank you for your support and if you have any questions, please email me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter at [GCSAA_SW](#) for industry updates. Happy New Year!

-Jeff Jensen
Field Staff, Southwest Region



AFFILIATE PROFILE

POPE TREE SERVICE

Happy New Year! 2020 was our first year as a Diamond Sponsor! All though it was a rough year. We still maintained to reach our goals and continued to grow. We look forward to continued excellence within the golfing course maintenance industry.

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Pope Tree Service facilitated the tree removal and trimming for the San Vicente Golf Course renovation. After working on “San V” for over 20 years, this course holds a special place for us, as does its superintendent, Pat Shannon. The long partnership has provided a vast education in course management. We wish him a very happy retirement.

We also facilitated the tree work for the Dinah Shore GC at Mission Hills Country Club. This included over 100 large eucalyptus removals and over 250 eucalyptus trims to prepare the course for the LPGA’s ANA Classic. This was a time sensitive endeavor and quite an undertaking. The project was completed, as promised, in just over 6 weeks. Our company began working with Cody Layton at the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club where we designed and presented a proper tree care plan for his club. We look forward to working together.

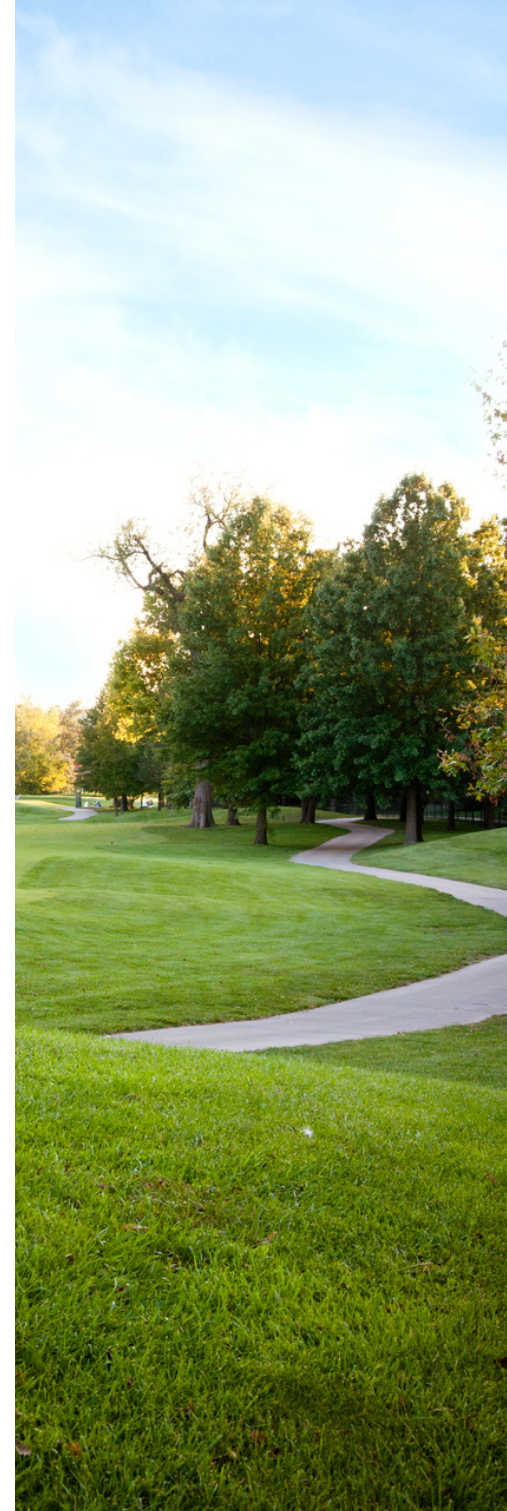
The team at Pope Tree Service appreciates the relationships that we have already built at the GCSAASD Chapter and we look forward to more engagement with all of its members. We take much pride in the specialized scope of work that takes place on golf courses as well as the creative partnership that develops while working closely with superintendents to achieve their vision. We understand the intricacies of the course and the importance of its flow. We are mindful of ways to work around the golfers and move equipment thoughtfully throughout the course. We continue to add more “golf course friendly” equipment to our fleet, including: smaller dump trucks and loaders with turf tires. All of this with a goal to lessen impact on the courses that we serve.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

This year, we are launching our Plant Health Care division, a very exciting expansion for us. Pope Tree Service will be working all over the county to diagnose trees that are failing to thrive. There has been a demand and necessity for a company that offers tree and shrub treatments locally. Our unique region has a notable influx of pests and pathogens. Now, further options to address problematic trees have arrived. Instead of simply removing a tree, we may prescribe treatments to prolong the life of a tree whenever possible. This will provide our clients with further options for course maintenance and offers more flexible timing to schedule long term renovations.

We look forward to more events in the coming year. We would like to receive any feedback and certainly, the opportunity to create more relationships within this incredible organization. Being an avid golfer, I appreciate all that it takes to ensure a fun and memorable experience when I get out to play 18. It’s a privilege to be a small part of what makes a round stand out.

Here’s to a productive and prosperous 2021!
Dustin Pope, President
Pope Tree Service



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

ALBERT VERGARA FROM SAN DIEGO COUNTRY CLUB

BY GEFF WARD

Albert was born in Tucson Arizona, where he spent a short time. After he was born, his family packed up and was off to Southern California in the Golden State, which is where he has grown up. Albert is from a rather large family which includes his mother Marlene Evaristo, Dad Jose Evaristo, brother Edward Betts, and two sisters Ashley Evaristo and Rosalinda Vergara. Most of Albert's family moved back to Tucson so he goes back three or four times a year and visits them all. Luckily, it's not too long of a drive! I asked Albert where he gets his great work ethic from and he credits his mom. He said that she has always been a very hard-working individual. Raising four kids while working to support the household must make her a saint, like most moms are! Albert went to Orange Glen High School where he excelled in his studies. His favorites were psychology and art, so if you need a psychologist just call Albert and he can draw your picture while you're on the couch. Albert also won the wrestling league title while in high school, which is pretty impressive! When you meet Albert for the first time you just know he had to wrestle. He also went to school at Mira Costa college and Fresno State (Go Bulldogs!) Albert is still very active in sports and plays softball, golf and rugby....ah nothing like a good scrum! He also likes to go hiking and has

hiked about all of San Diego trails and mountains. His goal is to climb Mt. Whitney and Half Dome this year.

Albert's parents influenced him to pursue his education and find something he loves to do for a living. He got into the golf industry through his love of golf and the great outdoors. He started at Twin Oaks and Reidy Creek in the position as a rover. It's his work between both those courses that gave me the opportunity to meet Albert. He also worked at Rancho Bernardo Inn, and yes, he started from the ground up by weed wacking, operator and cupping. Albert's favorite job is to mow greens with the tri-plex... just peaceful and relaxing in the early morning. His least favorite job is edging bunkers since he did it too much when he was a rover and didn't like the sand hitting his face (who does??) Albert received some excellent mentoring while at these courses. Albert learned many things from John Kelly at Twin Oaks and he was very impressed with the fact John always worked hard and was very well rounded. He also spoke very highly of Chris Haymen, and learned many things at RBI such as water management and all-around managerial skills. He was grateful of his time working with these two proven superintendents.



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE, CONT.

ALBERT VERGARA FROM SAN DIEGO COUNTRY CLUB



Albert's long-term goals include passing the CCA exam, getting his license and becoming a certified agronomist - hopefully within the next year. He also wants to become a Superintendent, retire and then teach at a community college and consult. I asked Albert if he wasn't in the golfing business what would he be doing. He indicated that he would have become a nurse in the medical field, knowing that they work a lot of hours but then get large chunks of time off. If you know Albert, you would agree that he would be good as a nurse he always wants to help people.

Albert's favorite thing to do when he's not working is go out to the breweries, find new taco spots, golfing, hiking and traveling to other states and countries. He has been all around the west coast, but wants to visit many other parts of the great USA as well as other countries. One of his favorite places is Sedona, Arizona with its great hiking trails, golf and picturesque views. As a kid, Albert went to Sinaloa Mexico and said that it left a lifetime impression on him. He hopes to go to Japan and Peru in the next year or two, and believe me he's working on that!

Most people don't know this about Albert, but he was a ballroom dancer in college. YES - you read that right!! Apparently, Albert is a very good Salsa dancer, and while he was at college the dance professor asked him to join the ballroom dance class. Of course, he earned an A for the class and then took 1st, 2nd and 3rd level ballroom dancing and did recitals. Who knows - we might just see him on Dancing with the Stars someday!! Just don't give him any flack on this - remember he is a wrestling league title holder and plays rugby! And his talents don't end there, as he also plays the guitar. I asked him what was the funniest thing that has ever happened to him and he couldn't pick just one, but he's certain there will be many more. When asked if his glass was half full or half empty, he said that his is half full since he will always leave room for more to add and enjoy.

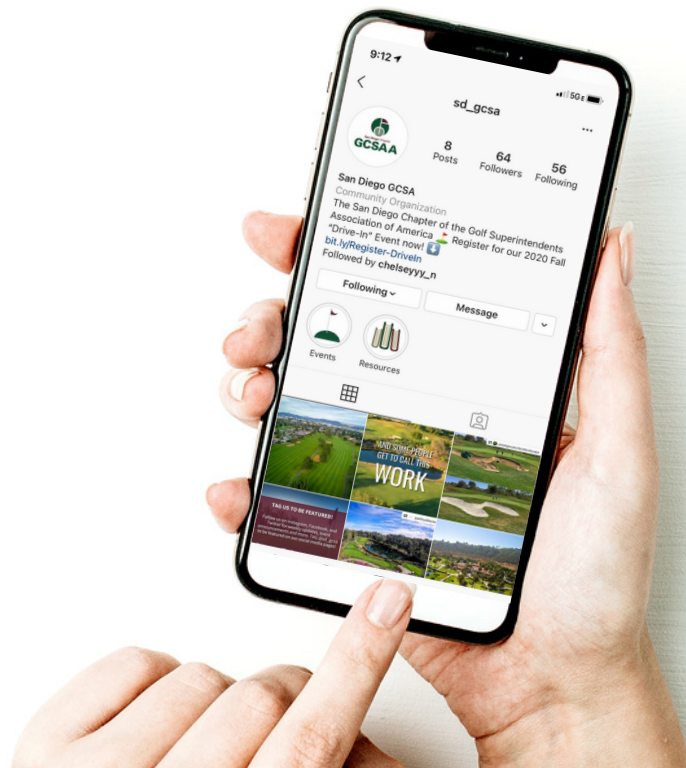


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