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.