

*Play Where You Live*



*Dear Superintendent of the Year Selection Committee,*

The Superintendent of the Year Award is presented to someone who has done exemplary work in their field. Nolan Wenker undeniably embodies the qualities deserving of this honor. Reflecting on Nolan's leadership, a quote from Simon Sinek, author of *The Infinite Game*, comes to mind, capturing Nolan's approach: "Infinite-minded leaders understand that 'best' is not a permanent state. Instead, they strive to be 'better.' 'Better' suggests a journey of constant improvement and makes us feel like we are being invited to contribute our talents and energies to make progress in that journey."

Nolan exemplifies this infinite mindset, continuously seeking improvement and growth in his role as a Golf Course Superintendent. His pursuit of excellence, coupled with a genuine commitment to the betterment of the golfing community, distinguishes him as a leader of integrity and vision. As such, Nolan is indeed an excellent representation for the prestigious Superintendent of the Year Award.

Nolan's journey to becoming recognized as a leader in the industry traces back to his formative years in high school. His first job at the Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club, working in Player Services and Golf Course Maintenance, ignited his passion for golf and set him on a path towards pursuing golf course agronomy.

Following his tenure at the Reserve, Nolan continued to hone his skills and expertise at Eugene Country Club and Langdon Farms. Each experience provided valuable opportunities for growth and development, further solidifying Nolan's reputation for excellence in agronomy.

In 2017, Nolan's journey led him to Oswego Lake Country Club, where his expertise and dedication have significantly elevated the club's standards. His relentless pursuit of excellence and commitment to continuous improvement serve as a testament to his remarkable journey from a high school job to being recognized as one of the industry's best Superintendents.

Nolan's impact extends beyond his contributions on the golf course. As a Past President representing the OGCSA, he has left a lasting mark on the industry. Currently, he is collaborating with state representatives to address critical issues affecting golf courses including advocating on a bill that could potentially end daylight savings time and providing crucial testimony at the Portland City Council regarding the proposed ban on gas-powered blowers. Nolan's dedication and proactive involvement emphasize his commitment to his fellow Superintendents and the industry.

To truly embody the role of an exemplary Superintendent, one must go beyond maintaining a well-groomed golf course and this past year, Nolan was an instrumental part in the 'Vision 2024' Golf Course Improvement Project. His hands-on involvement at every stage of the project was pivotal to the success of the project. Nolan's comprehensive approach involving the Green Committee in the selection and interviews of course architects,

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**OSWEGO LAKE COUNTRY CLUB**

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then collaborating closely with the architect on conceptual designs, and delivering compelling presentations to the membership, demonstrates his knowledge and dedication. Furthermore, his meticulous attention to detail managing the project budget and diligent oversight of construction serves as a testament to his leadership as a Superintendent.

Throughout this period, Nolan remained resolute in his commitment to maximizing member access to the course despite ongoing construction activities as well as his dedication to delivering exceptional playing conditions with a compacted tournament schedule. His proactive communication with the membership about the expected daily golfing experience was instrumental in fostering understanding and cooperation. In addition, Nolan's input and recommendation to the architect through the process resulted in recommendations that improved the overall playability and experience while balancing changes that did not increase operating costs.

The membership and staff at Oswego Lake Country Club are deeply grateful and immensely proud to have Nolan as our Golf Course Superintendent. His unwavering dedication, tireless work ethic, and personal sacrifices throughout this past year have not gone unnoticed. Nolan's exceptional leadership and commitment to excellence have significantly elevated the members' golfing experience and the overall quality of the club.

*"Nolan is a true cross functional team leader. He is respected in his views on the course, but also the overall experience of the Club." - Steve Elliott, 2023 Club President*

Being named Superintendent of the Year would be the perfect recognition and affirmation of Nolan's outstanding contributions, exemplary leadership and his dedication and commitment to excellence. The entire club community joins in expressing our heartfelt gratitude and admiration for Nolan's exceptional service to the club.

On behalf of the Board of Directors membership and staff, thank you for your consideration.

*Bryan Fisher, CCM*

General Manager

Board of Directors

Steve Giannini, President, George Hale, Vice President, Green Committee Chair, Jeff Shearer, Secretary, Steve Elliott, Past President, Jill Abere, Judy Westwood, Paul Glass, Tim Long, Josh Loye, Brett Joyce, Roger Mills

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Aaron Prellwitz, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

**OSWEGO LAKE COUNTRY CLUB**

March 14, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Oswego Lake Country Club's fine Superintendent, Nolan Wenker for consideration as the "OGCSA Golf Course Superintendent of the Year".

In the summer and fall of 2023, along with Milroy Golf Systems, we completed a major renovation at Oswego Lake CC. Nolan put in a tremendous amount of work and commitment to the project and ultimately improved the course. He and his crew worked extremely hard to help the project move along as well as keeping the playing conditions excellent for the membership.

Nolan's work ethic and general talent as a Superintendent truly elevated the final result of the project. He tracked the daily financial details, design decisions, project scheduling, managed the intra-club communications and kept the project on budget to the dollar with continual improvisation. From seeding, sodding, shoveling, spending and supervising, Nolan did it all, in what I am sure was his busiest year of his career.

I could not have asked for a better Superintendent to run a project of this size. Oswego Lake Country Club is very lucky to have Nolan.

Respectfully,



**Dan Hixson**

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