



SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATIONS DUE BY MARCH 31, 2019

Name of Nominee: NOLAN WENKER

Name of Golf Course/Club: OSWEGO LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

Contact Information of Nominee:

Email: NWENKER@OSWEGOLAKECOUNTRYCLUB.COM Phone: 503 998 4733

Please include with completed form:

- 1) Brief outline of Nominee's past employment history.
- 2) Basis for nomination (i.e. current course conditions, major projects, work ethics, significant accomplishments, work performance, etc.

Nominator Information:

I certify that the information in these nomination papers is true, accurate and complete.

Nominator Name: AARON PRELWITZ Position: ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Email: AARONPRELWITZ@YAHOO.COM Phone: 415 577 5890

Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/21/19

We ask that this nomination form be co-signed by another representative from your club or company or by another member of the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Co-Signer Name: Conner Olsen Position: Assistant Superintendent

Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/22/19

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS BY MARCH 31, 2019

MAIL TO: OGCSA

P.O. BOX 1556
OREGON CITY, OR 97045

EMAIL TO: ogcsa@ogcsa.org

Dear OGCSA Board of Directors,

In the year and several months that I have had the great pleasure of working with Nolan Wenker, CGCS, I have learned some, but certainly not all, of his previous work history in the golf course maintenance industry. He has worked at courses such as Forest Hills, Eugene Country Club, The Reserve and worked as an Assistant at Langdon Farms where he eventually became Superintendent for approximately ten years before beginning his current position as Superintendent at Oswego Lake Country Club in June 2017.

My counterpart, Assistant Conner Olsen and I began working as Nolan's Assistants about six months after he had begun work at OLCC. It was very clear that Nolan had spent the time until we arrived doing everything he could to right a sinking ship. Meaning; the course, its infrastructure, shop and crew had gone neglected or under managed for a long time. Much work needed to be done to reorganize the crew and break some very counter productive habits. Many different areas needed a dramatic overhaul to reinstate the attractiveness of Oswego Lake Country Club's property to its potential. As previously mentioned, the course's infrastructure required much work in regards to the irrigation system needing most of its heads to be raised and leveled, valve boxes had been lost to turf cover and many drain lines had developed blockage issues as well as drain boxes needing to be raised.

In less than two years we have greatly diminished the lengthy list of immediate issues. Nolan has an amazing ability to know what needs to be done and when is the most appropriate time to do it. Whether it be routine golf course cultural practices, transforming an area that needed some serious rehabilitation, raising heads, edging cart paths, or any number of aspects that are a part of maintaining a golf course and all its facilities. On a nearly daily basis I am impressed with Nolan's awareness of his course's conditions and its needs as well as the needs of his crew, mechanic and the membership. He even managed to sell enough of our obsolete equipment to raise the money needed to provide our mechanic with a much needed equipment lift!

In the relatively short period of time I have worked with Nolan, I feel as though I have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and confidence on the job. He has given me room to make decisions as I see fit when needed and encouraged me to grow in my position by opening up opportunities to learn through OGCSA interactions and always being available to me for guidance when desired. I feel I have a true mentor in Nolan. He continues to show me what it takes to effectively manage a crew to maintain a golf course to its highest potential in all conditions, while keeping crew morale and motivation in a positive state. Most of all, Nolan is always willing to take the time to help or advise anyone in anyway he is able.

I often get to hear directly from members of Oswego Lake Country Club about how ecstatic they are about the improvements and conditions at their club since Nolan's arrival. Some have even shared that they used to be somewhat embarrassed to bring guests to play but now take great pride in bringing guests to partake of the premium experience of playing golf at Oswego Lake Country Club. This is an incredible transformation in less than two years and it is only getting better with each day that we go out and do our best to achieve Nolan's vision.

I am aware that Nolan won Superintendent of the Year in 2015 while working at Langdon Farms. I would hope that having won in 2015 will not inhibit his consideration

for this prestigious award as 2019's Superintendent of the Year. I can hardly imagine someone being more deserving. Nolan Wenker is an exemplary Golf Course Superintendent, boss and mentor and simply a person of great character and integrity that the OGCSA should take great pride in having as a member of their community.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration,



Aaron Prellwitz
Assistant Superintendent
Oswego Lake Country Club

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Conner Olsen
Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
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March 30th, 2019

OGCSA Board of Directors
P.O. Box 1556
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear OGCSA Board of Directors,

As co-signer to the nomination of my supervisor and mentor, Nolan Wenker, CGCS, for Superintendent of the Year (sent by my colleague, Aaron Prellwitz), I would like to express/reiterate the profound influence Nolan has had on all things around Oswego Lake Country Club (OLCC), as well as in my career in golf course management.

I have been Assistant to Nolan at OLCC since December of 2017, and although this is the first time I have held the position of Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, I feel as though I've seen enough around the industry in my handful of years' experiences to realize that Nolan is up there with the best of them. He has a great command over the crew that impressively blends compassion and compatriotism with a high set of expectations that seems to bring the best out of everyone. Of course, there are always a few outliers whom do not seem to fit the mold; but the way Nolan has dealt with these circumstances have afforded me with some great examples of how to maintain a professional and productive work environment throughout adversity. On top of all this, his connections to the golf and turf industries spreads wide and far, providing great opportunity and insight into how things work in other parts of the state and country.

When it comes to the progress made around our golf and country club in the last year, you'd be hard-pressed to find a square-foot of the property that Nolan hasn't had an influence on. Since his arrival in June of 2017, he and his crew have been on a mission to right the sinking ship that was OLCC; as he has prioritized providing premium playing conditions through proper irrigation auditing and the addressing of drainage issues, as well as the continual renovation of unsightly landscapes, as opposed to the crew's prior tendency to simply over-irrigate and remain content with re-painting benches and tee markers throughout the winter as golf balls were plugging in fairways and the surrounding landscapes were going by the wayside. As a part of this crew for much of Nolan's time at OLCC (I started as his Assistant in December of 2017), I can attest to the fact that we have been extremely active and effective in accomplishing his goals of restoring OLCC to top-tier playing conditions and a property of great natural beauty.

I realize that my colleague's nomination and explanation should be sufficient, however, I feel so strongly that Nolan is a deserving candidate that I wanted to include some of my own words and thoughts. I knew when I took the position as Nolan's Assistant that I was in good hands and going to learn a lot, but he has far exceeded my expectations as a quality mentor in golf course management as well as in life. The general consensus around OLCC is that Nolan is a great guy to have around, and I'm certain that even if a hundred signatures were required for this nomination, we would have no problem finding the support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Conner J. Olsen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. J. Olsen', with a stylized flourish at the end.