

OUR HOST FOR APRIL - WILLIAM (BILL) SMITH

Bill started 22 years ago as a Maintenance Man at Castlewood Country Club, under George Finnin. In July of 1973 when George retired, Bill was appointed to the position of Superintendent. With the help of his able assistant Gene Gordillo and an 18 man crew they maintain 36 holes of golf, club house grounds, sewer and water service to 130 homes that are built around the course.

Bill says they are in the process of having an automatic Rain Bird system installed on the Valley course. A 1½ million gallon lake has been built for the storage of effluent water.

With the water situation that we have had the past few years quite a few courses are going the effluent route due to availability and cost.

Castlewood was organized in 1924 with the Hill course. The old club house that burnt down 7 years ago was the home of Phoebe Hearst. When Bill came to work for Castlewood the Valley course had just gone under construction.

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Menlo Country Club hosted the March 16th meeting. Thanks to Frank Olivera, Host Superintendent and Joe Rocha for some great hospitality. Since many years had passed since we had a meeting at Menlo, it was good to be welcomed back.

Bill Davis, Environmental Horticulturist at University of California, Davis, gave a talk on tree maintenance. He said to be very careful in selecting material from the nursery. So called bargains are not always the right way to go. He warned to be careful in planting trees to be sure the augur does not compact the sides of the hole. Also staking is very important. Do not try to immobilize the tree trunk. It should be allowed to be flexible. Some trees have forks which split more readily than others. Try to encourage spacings of at least one foot between limbs on the trunks. Bill said there was not much one can do with the grown trees to eliminate the disaster of the last winter. He encourages everyone to be more careful with new plantings.

Pamphlets are available from the Extension Service on tree care. Bill encourages everyone to contact their local Extension office to get advice from the Extension personnel and to take advantage of the printed material.

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BILL DAVIS was honored at the GCSA of Northern California meeting in March. He was praised by Dr. John Madison for his ability to attack scientific problems in a very practical manor. He also is able to disseminate this