

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

information in a way that can be understood. Bill has been the back bone of T A R P (Turfgrass Adaptive Research Program). Carl Dawson, Green Committee Chairman from the Northern California Golf Association complemented Bill on the service he is giving to golf thru the regional meetings and the Golf Course Superintendent Institute which was held for five years at Asilomar.

A plaque was presented to Bill from GCSA of Northern California with the following inscription " Honorary Award, awarded to William B. Davis in appreciation for his special contribution to golf and the golf course superintendent"

Bill has given beyond the call of duty to make all of us richer in knowledge. Our thanks to him for his contribution.

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Bob Ford and his committee have submitted the names of candidates for the upcoming election

Norm Stewart and his committee have submitted names of the annual award recipients

The audit committee is getting ready to go over the books -- WHAT DOES THIS ALL LEAD UP TO?

Another year for our Chapter is coming to an end. Forty-six years ago April 1932 our constitution and bylaws were adopted. Much has transpired over the years. We have come from a small group of dedicated men who got together to exchange ideas and fellowship--Today we are one of the largest Chapters in the nation. Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California is recognized as a leader in upgrading superintendents through education. Through the efforts of this and other Chapters, superintendents have come from the so called peon image to a recognized professional. There are still many things that can and have to be done--like many things it takes time. As you can see it has taken almost a half century to get this far.

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Bob Ford, Nominating committee chairman reports the following nominees appointed for President - Bob Livesey

Vice President - Grady Simril, Jim Ross

Secretary-Treasurer - Jack Jagur, Norm Stewart

Board of Directors - Stan Burgess, Aart de Vos
Leonard Walsh, Ed Watson

Nominations can be made from the floor

Exercise your right and come and VOTE. REMEMBER IT IS YOUR ASSOCIATION

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