Claremont Country Club was constructed in 1904 and was originally designed by James "Pop" Smith, the patriarch of a famous golfing family from Carnoustie, Scotland. Pop Smith had five sons: George (Claremont's first golf professional), MacDonald, Willie, Alex and James, Jr.; Alex, Willie and MacDonald either won or were runners-up in the U.S. Open Championship nine times.

The golf course was redesigned by Dr. Alister MacKensie in the 1920's. The extent of his work is not known because all records were lost in the clubhouse fire in 1927. The bunkers and their surrounds were rebuilt in 1989 under the guidance of golf course architect J. Michael Pollet. This work effectively transformed an "older" golf course into one of contemporary design. The golf course measures 5,469 yards, par is 68, rated at 67, with a slope of 119. The course will test your accuracy particularly on the back nine. Consistent with an older golf course, the greens are quite small, averaging about 4,000 square feet, requiring accurate iron play.

One of the highlights of play here at Claremont Country Club was the Oakland Open held here in 1937, where Sam Snead scored his first tour victory.

Randy Gai, CGCS
Host Superintendent

Our Host Superintendent for April is Randy Gai, CGCS, home grown in Oakland. Randy attended Merrit College in Oakland and finished at Chico State College majoring in Business Administration. Upon concluding his formal education, he took a part time job on the maintenance crew at Claremont in 1973 and never left. Randy was taught the fine art of Golf Course Maintenance from Stan Burgess. Randy became Golf Course Superintendent in the fall of 1979. He became certified by GCSAA in 1984, and recertified in 1989 and again in 1994.

Currently Randy lives in Napa with his wife of 12 years Susan, they have two children, Chelsea, age 9 and Greg, age 7. At this point, the children are their hobbies. Randy is a avid golfer having played competitively through college on both college golf teams.