

THRU THE GREEN



July, 1996

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

San Francisco Golf Club - Site for July Meeting

One of Northern California's finest will play host to this year's Superintendent/Pro Golf Tournament, scheduled for Monday July 22nd. The San Francisco Golf Club was designed in 1917 by A. W. Tillinghast, one of the best but least known of the great course architects in the United States. It has since been the aim of the members of this Club to maintain the integrity of his work, as well as the integrity of the game of golf. To protect his design from over zealous club officials, a rule was written into the bylaws decades ago prohibiting any course design changes. Changes have occurred only through time and maintenance induced erosion. These erosions are slowly being recognized by the membership and small restoration projects are undertaken every year. i.e. the seventh hole bunkers, eighteenth greenside bunkers. Trees have grown at will and wherever over the years. Therefore, eucalyptus trees have fallen by the hundreds in an attempt to open up the course to the sweeping vistas it once had when no trees imposed themselves on the property.

Other policies are designed to retain the purity of the game. Golf carts are not allowed on the course unless a physical handicap prevents you from walking. Caddies are mandatory at the San Francisco Golf Club. No cart paths, no yardage markers or 150 bushes, no whiffle balls on flag sticks. When you need assistance you'll get it from the caddy. If you can't carry it on the course you won't take it on the course. The caddy will carry only your bag (and offer advice).

The San Francisco Golf Club is blessed with qualities besides its adherence to tradition. The soil in the area is a fine loamy sand requiring little drainage, resulting in a generally dry condition throughout the winter months. The coastal weather almost eliminates the risk of damage due to heat stress. Average year-round temperatures are 50-65 degrees. The fog shrouded coastal golf courses do have unique problems. Moisture is always present in the form of dew and/or fog. Seldom does the turfgrass plant dry during the course of the day. *Microdochium nivale* is a constant threat twelve months a year.

This ideal *Poa* annual growing climate and sandy soil creates other problems not commonly found in other parts of the Bay Area. The English Daisy is the threat to the aesthetics of this course. Only hand picking seems to control this pest in fairways and tees. This year attempts were made to control daisies in the rough using repeat applications (3 week intervals) of Dissolve, Turflon, and a surfactant. So far this method has kept them out of sight but long term results are still questionable. The other major problem is nematodes on greens. Since Nematicur has become relatively ineffective, a biological approach has been taken using

using Eco-Soils bioject with the *Pseudomonas* micro-organism. After six months of use and 3 months of injection via the irrigation system, the nematode counts are high but the damage to the turf has been minimal. In any previous year 2 complete applications would have been made by July. This year, only three greens have been treated and only once. Other cultural practices may be assisting in these results like the inclusion of organic fertilizer during aerification, humic acid applications, and a raised height of cut from .110 to .135 with rolling.

Our host, Bob Klinesteker, has served as the Superintendent at the San Francisco Club for 15 years, arriving from Michigan. Bob's memories of the climate, heavy handed board members and amenity laden philosophy allow him to really appreciate the pure and linear approach to golf that exemplifies the San Francisco Golf Club. Bob's talents as a Superintendent are well known and were recognized when he was awarded the Turfgrass Excellence Award in 1992. ♦

Plans Set For Turf Research Field Day

The University of California Cooperative Extension is offering the annual Turf and Landscape Research Field Day for turf and landscape professionals. The program is free and no advanced registration is required. The event will be held on Thursday, August 29th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the U.C. Bay Area Research and Extension Center, 90 N. Winchester Boulevard in Santa Clara. Some of the program highlights include, performance evaluations of turf type tall fescue and buffalograss. 3 CDEFA Continuing Education hours have been applied for.

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