



October, 1996

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

## LPGA Site To Host Joint Meeting

An LPGA event in Lincoln? — that's right. This past April, Twelve Bridges Golf Club, site for this month's Sierra Nevada/Norcal joint meeting, hosted its first LPGA tour event, remarkably only four months after it opened. The tournament climaxed with a five hole playoff victory by Kelly Robbins, who bested Val Skinner. Prominent PGA tour players, Johnny Miller, and Peter Jacobsen have also graced the fairways at Twelve Bridges. Quite an auspicious beginning for the public course in its inaugural season.

The site was a natural for Golf Course Architect, Dick Phelps of Evergreen, Colorado, and he took full advantage of its special features such as natural granite outcroppings, streams and over 20,000 Oak trees. The site lended itself so well to Phelps design that only 150,000 cubic yards of soil were moved during construction.

Golf Course Superintendent, Neil Hladick, CGCS, arrived at Twelve Bridges from Arizona's Antelope Hills in August of 1994. A graduate Michigan State University in 1976, he is no stranger to golf course construction, having participated in 5 projects while in Arizona. As in any new construction, the challenges are many. In the case of the Twelve Bridges project, none was more prominent than the task of completing construction in time for the LPGA event schedules for the spring of 1996.

With the spring opening and the LPGA event behind him it appeared that Neil and his staff had successfully met their

challenge and summers arrival would bring a much needed opportunity for some rest. Ooooh but not in this business. Electrical problems throughout the summer resulted in twelve days without power. In searing 100° plus temperatures, that spells **TROUBLE**, and trouble in this case was the loss of some cool season turfgrass in the fairways. With one more challenge thrown their way, the staff at Twelve Bridges were quick to respond, taking advantage of the recent cooler weather, by "sweetening" the fairways with an overseeding program. With Neil's track record, expect conditions to be exceptional again by late October.

In spite of the demands of course construction, which has been a major part of Neil's career, his dedication to his profession has been well demonstrated. Twice, he served as a Director for the Cactus and Pine Superintendents Association where he participated as member for 14 years. He has also been a member of the GCSAA since the early 80's and has achieved certified status.

Reflecting back upon his career, Neil can't remember ever wanting to do anything but work on a golf course. The seeds of superintending were planted early, high school to be exact, and he credits fellow superintendent, Frank Stydnickl as having the most influence professionally.

## Date Changed For Joint Meeting

For those planning on attending the joint meeting hosted by the Sierra Nevada Golf Course Superintendents Association, you will want to take note of one very important change — the date. Previously scheduled for October 21st at Twelve Bridges Golf Club, **the meeting has been pushed back one week until October 28, 1996.**

## Institute Brochures Distributed

Brochures and registration forms for the 1996 Institute have been mailed to all members. This year's program offers a few changes that should be noted. Golf will precede the seminar on Monday and is limited to the first eighty players. A Cocktail party and trade show are scheduled for Monday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Coconut Grove. There will be no party or trade show at the conclusion of the seminar on Tuesday. As always, registration for the seminar is required for golf. Take advantage of this opportunity to play an exceptional golf course and attend an exciting seminar featuring two pertinent topics. **Register Now!**

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