

AUG 0 8 2000

# THRU THE GREEN



August, 2000

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

## Bob Lopic Hosts Annual Scholarship and Research Tournament at Orinda Country Club

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Orinda Country club was designed and built by Willie Watson in 1924. Although it was undoubtedly set as an inland links course, the native oaks have matured to create separated fairways and define the feeling of the course. Additional masterplanning by Robert Graves in the early 80's and a recently completed masterplan for landscape by David Gates, have, and will in the future, serve as the guide to "tune" this old course.

Bob Lopic has been the superintendent for the past two years, joining Orinda after completing the 1998 US

Open at Olympic with John Fleming. "After the Open the first event I did at Orinda was a Halloween event for the ladies club, complete with pumpkins, hay bales and scarecrows! Talk about, "Todo, I don't think we are in Kansas anymore". What I learned was that there would be new challenges here, but the operative word was still "challenge".

Bob has recently been joined by Mike Senneca, also formerly from Olympic, and assisted by Siu Kumar, who has over thirty years of experience at Orinda. Along with Equipment Manager Mike McCone, Bob has an experienced, capable staff.

This year, with construction of a remodeled clubhouse, swimming pool and tennis facility, he has come to truly appreciate their value. "We all know that we get a lot of credit for work done by others. In my case, I am especially grateful because these people are not only a credit to the business, but fun to be around".

Bob has a BS and a BA from Brigham Young University as well a certificate in Turf Management from Cornell. He is currently a director of the GCSANC. Bob lives with his wife Laura, and his two children, Joey and Lisbeth, in Napa.

## Hello is Anybody Out There? Oakmont Hosts the GCSANC

For those of you who missed the \$25 golf and educational meeting at Oakmont, you missed one of the best meetings of the year. The topic of Maintaining Cool Season Putting Green Turf During the Summer Season couldn't have been more appropriate. Mike Clark, CGCS and Steve Good were tremendous hosts for the event and had the golf course playing beautifully. Permacorp sponsored the meeting and the GCSANC Board provided a great lineup of speakers that

included Pat Gross, Dr. Robert Green, and Mike McCullough.

Dr. Green detailed his ongoing study on Poa at Industry Hills GC. He is studying fertilization practices and Hydroject treatments on plant characteristics on a practice putting green on the Eisenhower course. The green is an 80 percent Poa/20 percent bentgrass green. This is the third year of a three-year trial. At this point in the study, some interesting trends are emerging. Dr. Green has seen that a low rate of nitrogen fertilization (5.0-8.0 lbs AI per year) has resulted in turf

that produces fewer seed heads and has better summer hardiness. This fertilization regime also produces a substantial increase in root mass density. Higher nitrogen fertilization treatments (10.0-13.0 lbs. AI per year) have produced higher quality turf through the winter but much poorer turf during the summer stress season. Root mass density in the summer was nearly three times less than that of the lower Nitrogen treatments. Hydroject treatments, so far in the study, have not shown

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