

## Pat Finlen, CGCS, to Host September Meeting at Bayonet/Black Horse

By: Ken Williams, CGCS

The GCSANC is heading south for the upcoming general meeting. Pat Finlen, CGCS, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Bayonet and Black Horse has been gracious enough to host the September meeting. Pat is dutifully assisted at Bayonet/Black Horse by Superintendent's Tom Bevan on the Bayonet and Brian Nettz on Black Horse.

The educational portion of the meeting will feature practical discussion of the PDI issue and real life scenarios of its effects. Bruce Williams, CGCS, Ray Davies, CGCS and Bob Costa, CGCS will be on hand to explain the intricacies of the proposed initiative.

The Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses are situated just north of Monterey off Pacific Coast Highway 1 in Seaside. Both courses were owned by the Army and were part of Fort Ord until the base was inactivated in 1993. In 1997, the golf courses were purchased by the City of Seaside and leased of BSL Golf Corp of Houston, Texas.

The Bayonet Golf Course was named after the Army's 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the first and last major unit to occupy Fort Ord. General Robert McClure, Commanding Officer of the post at that time, designed bayonet in 1954. It features over 7,110 yards of oak and cypress lined fairways. McClure, a

left-handed golfer with a severe slice, designed the course to fit his game. This is evidenced by holes #11-15, a series of sharp doglegs to the left. These holes are widely known as "Combat Corner", interrupted



only by a 215-yard uphill par 3.

The sister course to Bayonet, Black Horse was designed in 1964 by General Edwin Carnes, the Commanding General at that time. Black Horse was named for the nickname of 11<sup>th</sup> Calvary Regiment. Black Horse also plays to over 7,000 yards and a par of 72.

Both courses were built by enlisted soldiers who "volunteered" for the work. The soldiers planted over five thousand trees on the once nearly treeless site. During the last three years, numerous changes have been made on both courses under the direction of PGA Tour architect Chris Gray.

This fall, The Bayonet Course will host the Monterey Peninsula Classic on September 25 as part of the Buy.Com Tour (formerly Nike Tour.)

Pat Finlen, CGCS, Director of Golf Maintenance, graduated from Rockhurst College with a BS degree in Business Administration. He spent two years as superintendent at Cypress Point CC in Virginia Beach, VA and twelve years as the Golf Course and Grounds Manager at Quivira Lake Golf & CC in Quivira Lake, Kansas. He's been a certified superintendent since 1989 and has served on

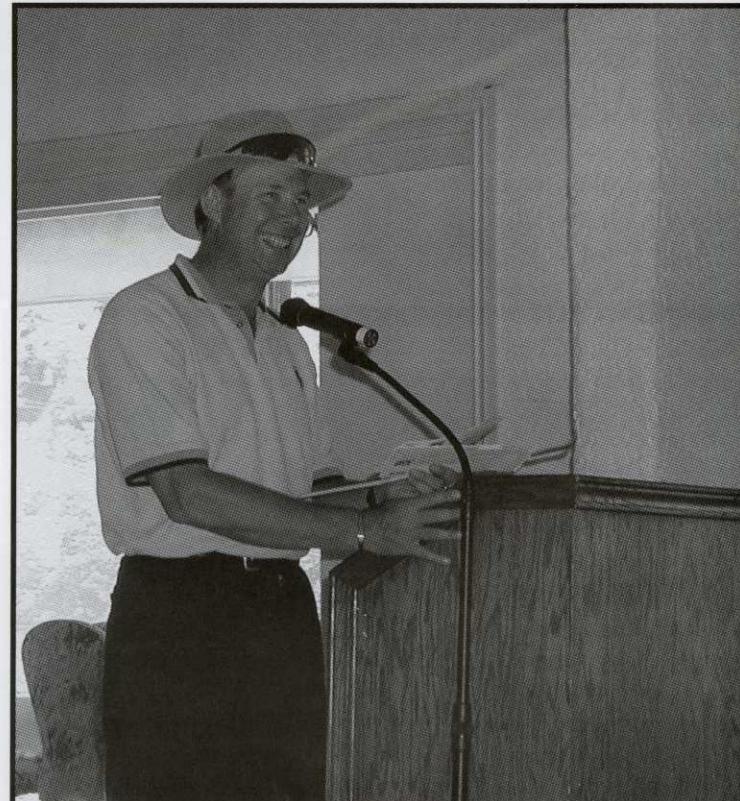
Carmel Valley Ranch. Tom's been at the Bayonet course since September 1998.

Brian Nettz, Superintendent of the Black Horse, graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1993. Brian worked at Interlachen CC in Minneapolis (during the 1993 Walker Cup), and was formerly Assistant Superintendent at Somerset CC in St. Paul, MN and also at Richmond Country Club. Brian's been at the Black Horse since January of 1999.

These three men and their staffs have made vast improvements in the facility in the last few years. Everything is pointing towards a great meeting at a wonderful site. With only a week before the Buy.com event, I'm sure the course will be approaching tournament condition. Hope everyone can head down south to enjoy the cool breezes in Seaside on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

GCSAA Publication, Certification, Education, and Chapter Relations committees.

Tom Bevan, Superintendent of the Bayonet, graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in Horticulture and Turfgrass in 1996. He has worked as a greens keeper at Pebble Beach, a spray technician at Glen Oaks CC in Des Moines, Iowa, and as an assistant superintendent at



Steve Franzen addresses the crowd at Orinda