

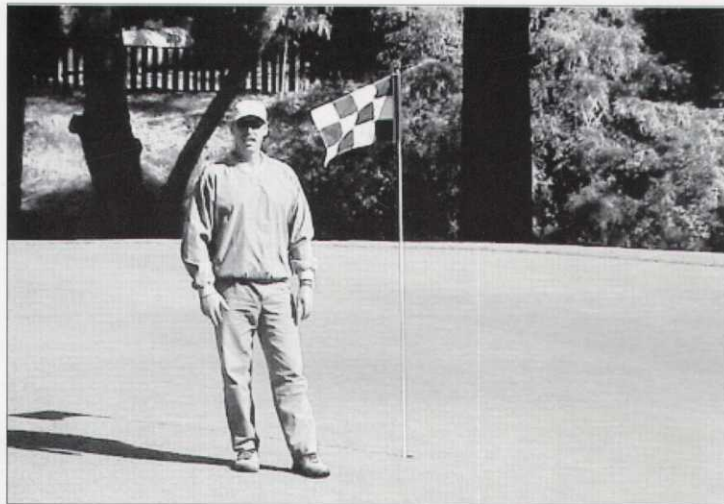


BOULDER CREEK'S

Bill Keller To Host The GCSANC This Month



Bill Keller, G.C.S.
Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club



Club in preparation for the '98 US Open.

Bill has faced numerous challenges during his tenure at Boulder Creek. His course averages 65" of rain a year and he has seen temperatures as low as 8 degrees and as high as 112 degrees. In the El Nino year of 1997-98, his course received an amazing 108" of rainfall. He lost portions of fairways to the surging Boulder Creek and could not mow for over three

Bill is looking forward to hosting the GCSANC. He proclaims that there are some great places to stay alongside the golf course and hopes to see everybody come up.



"This really is a special place, I hope everyone gets a chance to experience it."

By Ken Williams

I wish you could hear Bill Keller describe his golf course. Just talking with him brings out a feeling of emotion and love for this wonderful course set amongst the towering redwoods. Located high in the Santa Cruz mountains, Boulder Creek G & CC is an ideal setting to host golf for this year's Institute Meeting. With tennis, swimming, and a great stay/play package, Boulder Creek should be a great way to conclude the two-day educational event.

Boulder Creek's history is really a story of two nines. The front, built in 1961 by Jack Fleming, shows many signs of the influence of Dr. Alister Mackenzie. The back nine was constructed in 1971, done by retired superintendent Leonard Walsh. The back lies on what was an old airport runway. In fact, the current maintenance building utilizes an old airplane hangar. The course is a par 65 executive design with about 55 acres of maintained turf. Bill has a crew of eight, plus a mechanic in season and drops down to four or five in the winter.

Bill Keller started at Boulder Creek in 1988 just as Leonard Walsh was about to retire. Bob Lopic was there at that time and soon became superintendent. Bill is quick to credit both Lopic and Walsh for their inspiration and help in the business. Bill took over as superintendent in 1996 when Bob moved on to the Olympic

months. One of his biggest challenges has been dealing with an increasing number of wild pigs.

The photos demonstrate the destruction the pigs can inflict. Bill has utilized a fencing system to exclude the "Mad Swine" from his most problematic fairways but still sees the pigs a little more often than he'd like.

Growing up in Southern California, Bill's first career was in commercial fishing. His first trip out was at age 13. He fished for a number of years, even spending time on the big Purse Seiners out of San Pedro. Fishing is now simply Bill's hobby. He has a boat he can quickly jump on down at the harbor. He goes out fishing a lot, many times with fellow superintendent Dean Gump in tow. When talking fishing, Bill understates his ability, but notes, "Well, I still know how to find a few fish out there."

