THRU THE GREEN

December, 1996

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California
— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —

Institute Scores "Two Thumbs Up"

"Exceptional golf course," "well organized," "great program," those are just a sampling of some of the comments recorded by attendees at the 1996 Golf Course Superintendents Institute held at the Cocoanut Grove in Santa Cruz. Although no conference can possibly satisfy everyone's needs, those comments seemed to reflect the opinion of the majority of those in attendance.

Bob Costa, who co-chaired the event with Dr. Ali Harivandi, felt that the success of the conference was the result of the efforts of many. "I'm particularly grateful to the other members of the educational committee who were instrumental in putting the program together. Dr. Harivandi and Barbara Mikel's experience with past Institutes was of great help." Enough can't be said of the speakers. I though each talk was informative and I was really impressed with the presentation by the Pebble Beach staff and from Dave Sexton, Tony Steers and Dean Gump. Having a great facility like the Cocoanut Grove and a great golf course in Pasatiempo seemed to just compliment the whole program."

This year's event drew over 100 members, and with the assistance of 23 trade show participants was successful in raising money which will be used to fund scholarship, research and educational programs.

GCSAA's Steve Mona To Highlight General Meeting

Steve Mona, GCSAA's Chief Executive Officer, has accepted an invitation to address the membership at the General Meeting scheduled for January 16th at Palo Alto Hills Country Club. Mona, who's "Say it to Steve Program" has been a feature at GCSAA committee meetings will utilize a similar format at the January meeting. "Say it to Steve" provides members an opportunity to ask questions directly to GCSAA's CEO about current policy, programs and the future direction of the Association.

The program, scheduled for late afternoon, will include additional educational activities and will conclude with cocktails and dinner.

Holiday Event Returns To Carmel

The annual GCSANC Christmas Party and golf tournament returns to a familiar site, Rancho Cañada Golf Club, in Carmel. Those who have made the December event an annual stop on the NorCal tour may remember the days when many participants would arrive full of holiday cheer on a tour bus, and the tournament was capped with a crab feed hosted by the late Larry Lloyd. Much has changed since those days, gone are the buses and the crab. The tournament is now named in Larry's honor. Yet through it all the spirit of the event is still very much alive.

Rancho Cañada, who's name has been synonymous with the event, is home to two 18 hole championship courses. The West Course, noted by its towering cottonwoods and the Carmel River are a familiar site for many tournament goers. The courses are complemented by the recently remodeled clubhouse and banquet facility which will serve as the site for the dinner and party.

Tournament chairperson, Blake Swint, has made some minor changes to this year's format and he believes they will result in a better tournament. "One of the concerns has been the distribution of gift certificates for tournament winners," Swint said. "This year, with the earlier start, the tournament will be scored and the gift certificates passed out shortly after golf. This will give the winners a chance to conveniently purchase merchandise redeemable at the pro shop." The Ayrshire and Larry Lloyd Memorial trophies will be presented at the banquet where the winners will be properly recognized.

Relaxing in the holiday cheer will no doubt be Host Superintendent Tim Greenwald and his Assistant, George Young. Greenwald, in his twelfth year as Superintendent at Rancho Cañada, has hosted nine of these events during his career. "It's always exciting." Tim says. "The weather usually adds to the challenge, but our crew always seems to respond to the task. They take great pride in the course preparation and deserve a lot of credit."

Knowing the role Greenwald and Rancho Cañada have played in the history and success of the tournament and party, count on another great event.

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