

# THRU THE GREEN

July, 1997

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —



## NCGA's Poppy Ridge To Host Superintendent/Pro Tourney

**G**CSANC members and their respective club professionals are in for a treat at this year's Superintendent/Pro Tournament slated for Monday, July 14, 1997. The location is the Livermore Valley's newest addition, Poppy Ridge. The NCGA's 2nd course is a 27 hole facility with each nine named after a varietal wine in honor of the areas' many local wineries.

Designed by Rees Jones, brother of Poppy Hills Architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr., Poppy Ridge is similar in character to a Scottish links course blending well with the surrounding topography. On the 285 acre site, Jones had but one tree to contend with. In the completed design 300 trees were planted yet the course still maintains an open feel. In what appears to be a trademark of the Jones family, bunkers play a prominent role in the design of Poppy Ridge. One hundred and fourteen in all, many of them large and deeply set amongst the green surrounds.

Another prominent design feature is the "far rough." These areas were seeded with a blend of fine fescues in an attempt to mimic the surrounding hillsides. The intent

was for these areas to receive no maintenance, however course superintendent, Todd Cook, has had a different experience. Cook notes that these areas have taken more time, energy and nurturing than any other part of the course.

Todd Cook's road to Poppy Ridge as the Golf Course Superintendent has been a long one, fulfilling a dream which began in 1978. It was then that Cook got his first taste of the golf maintenance profession as the night waterman in Elko, Nevada, his home town. Playing his first round of golf at the age of eight, Cook originally set his sites on becoming a golf pro. After a successful high school career in which he captured the Elko City Championship, he tried out for the Nevada - Reno college golf team. It was then that his destiny in the Golf Management profession began to take shape. Disappointed by his failure to make the team, Cook turned his attention to turf maintenance, enrolling in the Golf Management Program at Lake City Community College in Florida.

A summer internship took him to Lake Tahoe to the prestigious Edgewood Tahoe Resort. Under the tutelage of Superintendent

Steve Seibel, Cook began to hone his turfgrass skills. Nine years at Edgewood, in which he served for a portion as the Assistant Superintendent, led him to his first big break, a call from Olympic Club Superintendent John Fleming. With little hesitation, Cook accepted Fleming's offer to become his Assistant at the Ocean course on April 1, 1991. It was during his four year stint at the Olympic club that Cook credits Fleming with teaching him about handling pressure, and gearing up for a major tournament.

With Poppy Ridge under construction, in 1995 Todd Cook's dream was finally fulfilled when he was offered the position of Golf Course Superintendent in May of 1995. Without question hard work and perseverance have been an important ingredient in Cook's career, but he is quick to acknowledge the role of two dear friends and mentors, Steve Seibel and John Fleming. Most importantly Cook says the key in his path to success is the support he has received from his wife, Cheryl and their three children, Lance, Jessica and Ryan. /

## Mira Vista To Host Major Fund Raiser

**T**he stage is set for one of the seasons most attractive monthly events. It's the Annual Scholarship, Research and Education Tournament, scheduled for Monday, September 8th at the prestigious Mira Vista Golf Club. Located in the hills of El Cerito, Mira Vista offers scenic views of the majestic San Francisco Bay. The tournament will be graciously hosted by Frank Barberio.

Tournament chair John Holmquist and his fellow committee members are

presently in pursuit of additional sponsorships, donations, and prizes. Sports apparel, golf equipment, trips and cash are just a sampling of the many valuable prizes to be awarded.

Don't miss the chance to support three important Association programs, play a great golf course, and take home some excellent prizes. Mark your calendars now. This is the one event in '97 you won't want to miss. For more information please contact John Holmquist at 707-451-9050

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