

THRU THE GREEN



October, 1997

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —

Nunemacher, Oakhurst Set To Host Joint Meeting

The excitement is evident when talking to course superintendent, Mike Nunemacher about the upcoming NorCal/Sierra Nevada joint meeting in October. This year's event, scheduled for the 15th, will be hosted by Nunemacher and the prestigious Oakhurst Country Club.

The semi private layout is located in the foothills of Clayton and "provides a challenging layout," says Nunemacher. The Ron Fream design which opened in 1990 has quickly gained a reputation as one of the areas toughest with its deep faced bunkers, narrow landing areas and 8" fescue lined fairways.

Nunemacher, a five year member of the GCSANC is a relative newcomer to the golf course management profession. His career began at Rancho Solano where he honed

his skills for four years, the last as the superintendent. His arrival at Oakhurst three and a half years ago has been a continued challenge. Under his direction two new practice Greens have been built, along with the rebuilding of two tees.

His impact in the profession has reached beyond the golf course having been elected to the NorCal Board of Directors this past spring. Mike has brought a fresh energy to the board and has offered many creative ideas. Among his professional goals are to continue his active involvement with the Association and attain certified status.

Quickly being recognized as one of the industry's top young superintendents, Mike is quick to point to his crew for his success. "Since my arrival, their support and effort have been tremendous," he said. "I'm fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard working group. We're all very much looking forward to the opportunity to represent the NorCal Association at this special event."

Mira Vista Scholarship Research & Education Tournament

By Barbara Mikel

Day one of the Bart strike found 52 superintendents, assistant superintendents, professional, guests and 34 affiliates and guests gathered at Mira Vista Golf and Country Club to chase the illusive white ball around 18 holes of a lovingly prepared golf course. I decided to drive, not fly to this meeting. Luckily, my commute was mostly non-eventful. Although, I must admit there were a few late arrivals with stories about travels from various "Gulliveresque" parts of the hinterlands of Richmond, Contra Costa County, etc. I arrived to find the registration for golf already in progress under the watch eyes of John Holmquist, SRE Chairman, and Vice President, Dave Davies, CGCS (returned from GCSAA delegates meeting in Lawrence KS, Sunday, Sep September 7, 1997 on the "red eye special"). Due to the efforts of John Homquist, the Scholarship Research & Education Tournament was well on the way to yet another successful year.

Frank Barberio and his crew worked into the night prior to the tournament to prepare the site for the Fifth Annual GCSANC Scholarship Research and Education Tournament. I personally witnessed a magnificent and mostly unknown view of the San Francisco Bay from the top of the hills of El Cerrito.

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue . . .

Golf Course Superintendents

Create Real Fields of Dreams page 2

Event Sponsorship Receives Support page 3

A Difficult Position To Fill page 4

Naumann's NorCal News page 4

1998 Environmental Stewardship Award

Information page 5

Venturi To Receive Old Tom Morris Award page 6

Boardroom Briefs page 7

Audubon Regional Coordinator Initiative page 7

For Sale page 8

Calendar of Events page 8

65th Anniversary Golf Results page 8

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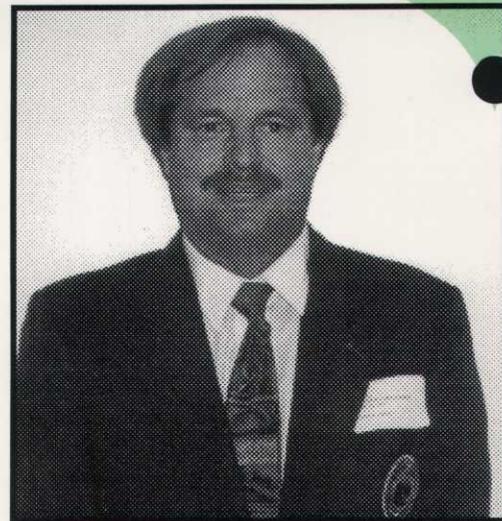
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From The President

"El Nino," we've heard it for several months now. Warmer than normal water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean that could help produce greater rainfall totals than those of 1982, a year that many golf courses were mowed wall to wall with string-trimmers. I hope they're wrong, but they're probably right. We may again have to deal with what we cannot control — the weather. It might not be a bad idea to purchase a couple of additional small mowers before it hits. Installing a few mainline drains is another idea. Smaller drains that may be added later to the mainline drains would have a place to take the water. Add a helicopter to the capital equipment budget? No, then we would have to employ a pilot. Whatever we do probably won't be enough. It's going to come down to how well we communicate with those we work for as course closures occur.

As far as the weather goes, it's not all gloom. We have had a cooler than normal summer with lots of air movement. As a result, some of us have lost less turf on greens this year compared to years past. This has presented another communication opportunity. As a member or manager has told me that we have done a great job with our more difficult greens this season, I have stressed that we have been consistent with our care and that the milder temperatures have done most of the work. Again, we can't control the weather, one of the most



Blake Swint, President

significant factors relating to growing putting green turf.

On a lighter note I share some frustration. Changes in our industry continue to alter our course. How many of you, like I, have found it difficult to walk through a set of newer sprinklers in operation that are turning counterclockwise compared to those that have been turning clockwise for so many years? I keep getting wet, something I may have to get used to this year.

Have a good Indian Summer, it arrived September 19th.

Blake

Mira Vista (Cont'd)

The very first meeting of GCSANC I attended was a Mira Vista meeting "way back when" I began working with the Superintendents Association. I was impressed with the terrain, view, course and Frank Barberio then and have not changed my opinion. The challenging course is best left to those who can play, say and comment. I suspect that a Mira Vista member playing 90 years ago had some choice comments on his game too!! I have traveled and viewed the San Francisco Bay Area from the air & ground and most do not know the beauty and challenges provided to golfer and observer from this location. I do remember the faces and comments of various members as they entered the clubhouse for a late lunch following the tournament.

Many of you know the efforts undertaken for a monthly meetings of this Association are burdensome and rewarding. Those few who undertake to

shepherd the SRE Tournament, undertake the full implications of a monthly meeting plus the added responsibility of making sure there is "money in the bank" to fund next year's contributions to the Scholarship Research and Education Funds. Without this fundraising effort, the future education of worthwhile superintendents, assistants, greenskeepers, and students would be more financially difficult if not impossible in some circumstances. Congratulations to John and all his Committee on this successful year!

This year's golf participation, prizes, raffles, contributions enabled the organization to raise over \$ 8,000.00 net to add to the scholarship research and education fund. This represents a net gain of \$2000.00 over this year's disbursements to worthwhile individuals. Everyone who participated, contributed and enjoyed this tournament should be thanked.