

THRU THE GREEN

June, 1998

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —



June Marks The Return To God's Country

The Monterey Peninsula with all its charm and scenic beauty has long been referred to as God's country by those who have had the pleasure of passing through. For the second time in the past 6 months GCSANC members find themselves with the opportunity not only to visit, but to enjoy one of its most treasured golf courses, Coral de Tierra Country Club. Tucked away amongst the foothills of Mt. Toro, Coral de Tierra offers one of the finest inland golf courses on the Peninsula.

Its history dates back to 1959 when designer Bob Baldock's creation first opened. It has since gone through many changes like most courses of similar age. Change will be a part of Coral de Tierra's future as well, with the recent hiring of the J. Michael Pollet Design Group. Pollet's firm has been commissioned to develop a long range plan which will include changes to tee's, bunkers, cart paths and a tree maintenance program.

The demanding layout, which recently hosted a sectional U.S. Open qualifying event, has been under the watchful eye of the talented and respected Rich Scholes for the last 2 1/2 years. Rich earned his reputation as one of NorCal's finest as a result of a 13 year association with Rancho Murieta, located in the Sacramento Valley.

His roots as a superintendent can be traced all the way back to Tualatin Country Club near Portland where he served as the

superintendent for 10 years. A graduate in Agronomy from Oregon State University, the soft spoken and likeable Scholes recalls his early encounter with John Zoller. "John was the superintendent at Eugene Country Club where I worked while attending school. I learned a lot from John, in fact, I still use some of the same principles of fertility and irrigation that he used years ago."

No stranger to innovation Scholes contends that one of the best things he has done since his arrival is purchase a Border Collie for geese control. "We used to have between 100 to 150 geese damaging the turf in various ways. Since the arrival of Mickey, we're down to 2 to 4 and those are just there so he has something to practice on. The membership has really taken a liking to him as well, so much so that he now has full clubhouse privileges. He has been the perfect solution to the problem."

You can visit with both Scholes and Mickey at the June meeting set for Monday, June 22nd.

Course Designer John Strawn Featured At June Meeting

John Strawn, design associate and the Director of Business Development in the Western United States for Arthur Hills and Associates, one of America's premier golf course design firms will be the featured speaker at the June 22nd meeting at Coral de Tierra Country Club.

In addition to this role as associate designer, Strawn has written on issues of golf course development and the environment for such publications as Golf Journal, Landscape Architecture and Golf Week. He is also the author of "Driving The Green" widely praised as a classic in the literature of golf. Strawn's book takes the reader step by step, day by day, through the design and construction of Ironhorse, an Arthur Hills course in Florida. He also contributed to the USGA centennial book, "Golf, The Greatest Game."

Strawn will speak about the design and construction of the new Arthur Hills course at Half Moon Bay Golf Links. Dave Kaplow, a Botanical Consultant who worked with Hills on the project will join Strawn to discuss the "evolution of the natural golf course."

