

THRU THE GREEN

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The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —

It's All in the Family at Spring Valley

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Spring Valley Golf Course in Milpitas is unique in today's world of corporate, big business golf. The course is leased from the Santa Clara County Parks Department by the Jetter family, where son Greg is Superintendent and brother Dana is the Director of Golf. Greg, Dana, and their father have a 30 year lease from the county to operate and improve the facility. Currently, they are in the sixth year of the contract.

The facility encompasses an 18 hole golf course and 26 stall driving range. The clubhouse is brand new and now accommodates large groups of players. The course originated in the 50's and is very simple in design. The original designers are unknown but were probably not employed at the time as golf course architects. The course is situated on 120 acres, 80 of which are irrigated. Putting greens are native soil and average about 4,000 sq. ft in size. Obviously, this becomes a challenge when hosting 90,000 + rounds per year.

Numerous improvements have been made to Spring Valley over the years. In 1988, Roy King was hired as a consultant to previous leaseholder Ray Anderson. He rebuilt two new greens and several tees. At the same time, the quick coupler irrigation system was replaced with a double row, valve-in-head system supplied by a VFD pumping station.

Greg Jetter took over as Superintendent in 1990. He has been busy working on improvements to the property ever since. Greg has installed a new irrigation central and satellites, 150 additional heads, lots of drainage, three new greens, several new tees, cart paths on 11 holes, and planted approximately 800 trees. In addition, he served as project manager

for the new maintenance building, driving range, snack shack, and clubhouse. Greg has a real talent for construction management and his skillful crew was utilized as much as possible on these projects.

Greg believes in tapping his key staff members for strategies in accomplishing his goals. "We tend to use the round table approach in our operation," says Greg. "We meet regularly to discuss specific tasks or projects. Each individual has input in the way we go about things." Greg utilizes a specific Greens Maintenance Program he has written for Spring Valley. "I believe the key to our green's success lies on the ability to educate our key employees and to consistently follow a solid program."

Greg is a graduate of UCSB, where he received his BA in Business Economics. He enjoys sports and is an active biker, runner, and snow skier. He has a dune buggy, Willy jeep, and loves to fish and backpack. He recently learned to fly fish and just returned from a well deserved vacation in the wilds of Alaska. Greg and his wife of two years reside in Pleasanton. /

Grass Carp the Subject at Spring Valley

The triploid grass carp will be the subject of the educational session at Spring Valley. The weed consuming fish becomes legal to use statewide January 1, 2000. Past CGCSA President Jim Husting, CGCS of Woodbridge Country Club and a speaker from the California Department of Fish & Game will present the topic.

Hope to see you there on September 14! /