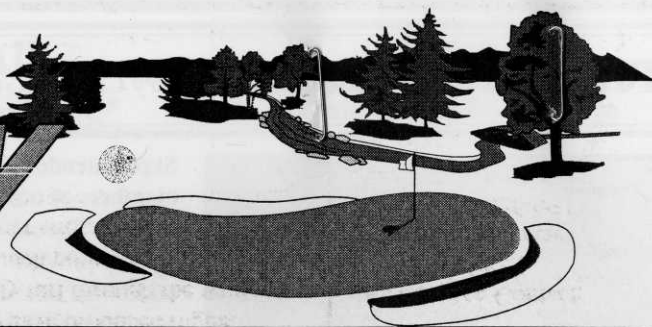


AUG 0 8 2000

# THRU THE GREEN



August, 2000

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

## Bob Lopic Hosts Annual Scholarship and Research Tournament at Orinda Country Club

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Orinda Country club was designed and built by Willie Watson in 1924. Although it was undoubtedly set as an inland links course, the native oaks have matured to create separated fairways and define the feeling of the course. Additional masterplanning by Robert Graves in the early 80's and a recently completed masterplan for landscape by David Gates, have, and will in the future, serve as the guide to "tune" this old course.

Bob Lopic has been the superintendent for the past two years, joining Orinda after completing the 1998 US

Open at Olympic with John Fleming. "After the Open the first event I did at Orinda was a Halloween event for the ladies club, complete with pumpkins, hay bales and scarecrows! Talk about, "Todo, I don't think we are in Kansas anymore". What I learned was that there would be new challenges here, but the operative word was still "challenge".

Bob has recently been joined by Mike Senneca, also formerly from Olympic, and assisted by Siu Kumar, who has over thirty years of experience at Orinda. Along with Equipment Manager Mike McCone, Bob has an experienced, capable staff.

This year, with construction of a remodeled clubhouse, swimming pool and tennis facility, he has come to truly appreciate their value. "We all know that we get a lot of credit for work done by others. In my case, I am especially grateful because these people are not only a credit to the business, but fun to be around".

Bob has a BS and a BA from Brigham Young University as well a certificate in Turf Management from Cornell. He is currently a director of the GCSANC. Bob lives with his wife Laura, and his two children, Joey and Lisbeth, in Napa.

## Hello is Anybody Out There? Oakmont Hosts the GCSANC

For those of you who missed the \$25 golf and educational meeting at Oakmont, you missed one of the best meetings of the year. The topic of Maintaining Cool Season Putting Green Turf During the Summer Season couldn't have been more appropriate. Mike Clark, CGCS and Steve Good were tremendous hosts for the event and had the golf course playing beautifully. Permacorp sponsored the meeting and the GCSANC Board provided a great lineup of speakers that

included Pat Gross, Dr. Robert Green, and Mike McCullough.

Dr. Green detailed his ongoing study on Poa at Industry Hills GC. He is studying fertilization practices and Hydroject treatments on plant characteristics on a practice putting green on the Eisenhower course. The green is an 80 percent Poa/20 percent bentgrass green. This is the third year of a three-year trial. At this point in the study, some interesting trends are emerging. Dr. Green has seen that a low rate of nitrogen fertilization (5.0-8.0 lbs AI per year) has resulted in turf

that produces fewer seed heads and has better summer hardiness. This fertilization regime also produces a substantial increase in root mass density. Higher nitrogen fertilization treatments (10.0-13.0 lbs. AI per year) have produced higher quality turf through the winter but much poorer turf during the summer stress season. Root mass density in the summer was nearly three times less than that of the lower Nitrogen treatments. Hydroject treatments, so far in the study, have not shown

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## “Hello” (Cont’d)

to be more beneficial than the non-Hydrojected control plots.

Pat Gross detailed ways to deal with the summer stress conditions when growing annual bluegrass putting greens. Pat noted that *Poa* would die when turfgrass canopy temperatures reach 105 degrees. Typically canopy temperatures are 10-15 degrees higher than the air temperature. So on a day over 90 degrees or if the turf feels hot to the touch, a syringe cooling mist of water should be applied. Pat cautioned that water is a great conductor of heat and that over watering will actually superheat the root zone and predispose the turf to heat and other stresses. Pat recommended the use of fans in pocketed sites to dry the turf and increase transpirational cooling. A good suggestion was to use a tractor-mounted blower on a problem green to determine if a permanent fan is needed. Pat also talked about getting the turf healthy going into the summer, managing salinity, and using walkers with solid front rollers during the summer stress season.

Mike McCullough, agronomist for the NCGA, noted some of the problems we have in the area. One of the worst weeds in putting green turf is *Solivia* or Brass Buttons. This weed can compete at greens height and will spread rapidly if left unchecked. Light frequent applications of herbicides have only had mixed results. Mike has also been working on a moss control study evaluating Junction, RD-20, Moss Out, Daconil, and Ultra Dawn. The Ultra Dawn had the best results as a drench treatment at the rate of 4 oz. per gallon with 80 gallons of spray solution per 1,000 sq. ft. Mike also mentioned a new product called Proxy for *Poa* seed head suppression. The product has been tested and provided 75%

control of seed heads for up to six weeks for a single treatment. The product should be available in California next year.

The meeting portion of the day concluded with a panel discussion and questions from the floor. An awesome lunch and a great day of golf followed.

Sorry that more members couldn't attend this outstanding event at \$25. The lineup of speakers was second to none. It was a throw back to the old days of the association. There just aren't going to be many meetings like this anymore. I guess price, a fun golf course and educational value isn't the issue. Hello out there, what is? ♣

## Naumann's NorCal News

**Adam Schauer** is the new superintendent at Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino. He was previously the Superintendent at a course in El Centro. He had been the assistant at Rancho Del Pueblo GC in San Jose prior to his move south. Both Rancho Del Pueblo and Deep Cliff are managed by CourseCo.....**Ray Layland** Has left Sierra Pacific Turf Supply and is now working with **Dave Sexton** at the Meadow Club in Fairfax. Replacing Ray as the Napa Branch Manager and golf salesman in the area is **Tony Steers**. Tony was the superintendent at Contra Costa CC until January of this year....Poplar Creek Golf Course, formerly known as San Mateo Municipal Golf Course, had its Grand Opening and media day on July 10. The media and many local superintendents participated making it a "Grand Day" for all. Thanks go out to superintendent **Dulbag Dubria** and his staff....The week before the U S Open in Pebble Beach, Pasadera CC in Monterey had its Grand Opening. Superintendent **Mike Phillips** and staff had the place shining. Jack Nicklaus was there to give a golf clinic and play a round of golf. Over 600 people were there to witness the event.....

## CGCS Laurent Has “Senior” Moment to Remember

It's been a memorable year for Terry Laurent, CGCS at Saucon Valley Country Club. He had the task of preparing his Bethlehem, Pa., golf facility to host the U.S. Senior Open, but that was only the beginning. The evening before the final round of the tournament, Laurent was approached by the USGA about playing as a marker for competitor Bill Tindall. It caused a restless night, but 45 minutes before the scheduled tee time it was confirmed that he would be

playing with Tindall as a marker to help maintain the pace of play.

Although he's a four handicapper, Laurent hadn't played a competitive round since the 1970's. Despite hitting only a few practice shots, he managed to calm his nerves and shoot a respectable 81. The experience was made even more special by the fact that his 22-year-old son Patrick, home from college for the event, served as his caddie.

Laurent said he had additional support from his crew who

followed him around the course and provided vocal support. And from the club members who served as security and escorted him to the first tee.

“It was something I'll never forget,” Laurent said. “It was one of those dreams come true, getting to play in the event at my own facility. The gallery was very intimidating and my heart was pumping the whole round. But the best feeling may have been the support I received from the club members. That was great.”

## Cornell Offers Help in Canada Geese Management

**Cornell Cooperative Extension** has produced a 42-page guide to help wildlife professionals, turfgrass managers and homeowners select strategies to alleviate problems caused by non-migratory Canada geese.

*Managing Canada Geese in Urban Environments* provides information on the biology of Canada geese, regulations covering them, management strategies and techniques. It lists equipment suppliers and includes a chart that summa-

rizes the management methods. It was produced as a collaboration by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the University of Wisconsin, the Berryman Institute, Utah State University and the Wildlife Society.

The publication complements the video, *Suburban Goose Management*:

*Searching for Balance*, which explains why geese are attracted to suburban neighborhoods and how they can be discouraged from nesting. It covers goose biology and takes viewers into the heart of this controversial topic while offering a critical look at current management techniques from traditional to new methods.

To order either the publication or video, contact (607) 255-2080, <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/natural-resources.html>.