

MAY 09 2000

THRU THE GREEN

May, 2000

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

GCSANC Awards Student Scholarships

By Robert Costa, CGCS

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California recently awarded three scholarships at its April 12th meeting, hosted by the Course at Wente Vineyards. **Chris Hogan**, Fresno State University, **Scott Walwynn**, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and **Brent Costa**, Delta College, Micke Grove Golf Course were selected by the Scholarship committee, chaired by Ken Williams of Stanford University. "Providing deserving Turfgrass Management Students with financial assistance is an opportunity to ensure the future growth of our profession," said Williams.

Funds for the scholarship program are raised annually by member contributions at the CGSANC Scholarship and Research tournament. This year's even will be hosted by Orinda Country Club, on August 21st.

Scholarship winner Hogan, in his acceptance speech, vowed to participate in this year's event at Orinda CC as means of giving something back to the Association. "I am proud and honored to accept this award," said the former Aptos High Standout golfer. "I hope some day to fulfill my career aspirations and join you as a golf course superintendent."

Bermudagrass In The Bay Area?

Mark Licon Shows How at Ruby Hill

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Would somebody please tell Mark Licon that you cannot grow good bermudagrass here? Mark is charged with that daunting task at Ruby Hill Golf Club, the first Jack Nicklaus signature course in Northern California. The tees, fairways, and roughs at Ruby are made up of Tifway II Bermuda. The turf presents some unique problems and benefits that will be addressed at the second annual Field Workshop on May 22nd.

His well-manicured course is made up of over 200 acres of turf that includes Crenshaw bentgrass greens and numerous native grass areas. It features pristine water features and spectacular views of the Livermore Valley. It was

built in 1995 and opened in 1996.

Mark's from the desert so growing Bermuda is old hat. Mark was in the Palm Springs area before arriving at Ruby two years ago. He spent 12 years at PGA West and 3 years at the ultra exclusive Quarry at La Quinta. Mark chuckles when asked to compare growing Bermuda at Ruby compared to down in the desert. "Yes, it's a little different up here." "We might not get green-up until March and not really get growing until May."

One of the challenges Mark found when he arrived was the excessive thatch layer the Bermuda had produced. "Since we only oversee tees, the rest of the course never had been renovated.

We had up to three inches of thatch which presented scalping and irrigation problems." Mark has begun an aggressive vertical mowing/dethatching program to eliminate the thatch. Mark utilizes a unit called the Dakota Dethatcher that will be demonstrated during the Workshop.

Mark spent four years in the US Navy and is a graduate of College of The Desert. He's currently enrolled in the Penn State Turfgrass Program adding to his background of turf education. "I'm a big believer in using good cultural practices," notes Mark. "The Penn State program is another avenue to help me be at my best agronomically."

See Ruby Hill Continued on page 3



Brent Costa, Scott Walwynn and Chris Hogan receive Scholarships



Bob Costa introduces the Media Panel at Wente.

Crawford Resigns GCSANC Media Post

In a surprising announcement, Greg Crawford, Media Director for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California announced his resignation effective March 31, 2000. Crawford who served as GCSANC Media Director since January 1999 will continue similar duties with the Northwest Turfgrass Association.

As his primary reason for stepping down, Crawford cited "a need for a more local influence to jump start the program." GCSANC President Gary Carls, CGCS credited Crawford with developing the Media Program and indicated that the Board of Directors would be discussing a successor to Crawford at a future board meeting. In the interim, the Media Director's position will be assumed by Bob Costa, CGCS.

Ruby Hill (Cont'd)

When Mark's away from the golf course, he enjoys spending time with his wife Dora and their three children. They like to camp and attend the Church of Christ. Mark's hobbies include playing golf and restoring old cars. Asked how he misses the heat of the desert, Mark quips, "Around April I seem to always be wishing for some heat but by July I'm very glad to be here." /

Dates For Upcoming Board Meetings

The GCSANC Board of Directors encourages members to attend Board Meetings of the Association. GCSANC Board meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- May 15 10:00 a.m. @ California Golf Club
- June 19 @ Palo Alto, Time and location t.b.d.

Naumann's NorCal News

Chris DuBas is the new Superintendent at Santa Teresa Golf Club in San Jose. Chris was the assistant at the Institute Golf Course in Morgan Hill.... **Rich Laura** has accepted the Superintendent position at Burlingame Country Club. Rich has been the assistant there under **Terry Grasso** before Terry moved on a few months ago to Sequoyah CC.... **Jay Abbott** is the new Superintendent at Contra Costa Country Club. Jay was the Special Projects Manager prior to accepting the new position. He comes from a family of golf superintendents from Michigan.... **Barry Mueller** has moved from Redwood Empire Golf Course and is now the new Superintendent at Mountain Shadows Golf Course in Rohnert Park.... **Mike McCraw** is the new Superintendent at Seascape Golf Course in Aptos. Mike is still the NorCal Regional Supt for American Golf. He is taking his old position back with the recent departure by **Mike Higuera** who has moved on to another project.....

Media Scorecard - April 2000

- Press Release - Scholarship recipients
- Press Release - Jr. Golf Contribution
- Golf Column Monterey Herald - Green speeds
- Golf Today - Question of the Month
- Media Day - Media panel, The Course at Wente
- Hooked on Golf - Interview with Mike Garvale
- Article Monterey Herald - Merle Russell
- Golf Column S.F. Chronicle - Jr. Golf Contribution