

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 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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