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'The bottom line is, he has a vested interest.— He has to stay and take care of it after everybody else leaves' -Tim Hiers,

Hire the super before you build

Developers should require architects to design courses that can be maintained properly within pre-set maintenance budgets and, most importantly, they should hire qualified superintendents as early as possible — ideally before any dirt is moved.

"I'm not saying architects and designers can't do their jobs," said Tim Hiers, golf course manager at John's Island Club in Vero Beach and the first of eight speakers during the seven-hour conference. "And I'm not saying that contractors and construction people don't do theirs.

"But the bottom line is, they don't have the same vested interest as the superintendent. He's going to stay there when everybody else is gone."

Among the benefits superintendents bring to the early stages of construction are efficient design of the maintenance complex and irrigation system.

"I'm not saying I think a superintendent is a qualified engineer, architect or draftsman," Hiers said. "I know I wouldn't want the legal liability for putting my name on

the plans. But the superintendent will know better than any engineer or architect whether the complex will work."

The superintendent will know not to put new equipment on a new golf course, Hiers said. "He knows that the sand tears it up."

Hiers also urged superintendents to become familiar with environmental issues and learn to present them in terms that will not arouse emotional reactions.

For instance, rightly or wrongly, "pesticide" is a dirty word to most people who think of themselves as environmentalists. Instead of trying to convince them directly that pesticides are good, Hiers suggested the argument between environmentalists and pesticide applicators be changed to one between "toxoterrorists" and environmental managers.

Among the facts with which he suggested superintendents arm themselves:

- One part per million equals one ounce of salt in 32 tons of potato chips; one part per billion is one second in 32 years; one part per tril-

lion is one flea amongst 360 million elephants

- Golf courses should provide oxygen. When grass is brown, it contains no chlorophyll and therefore is not transpiring.
- Research has shown conclusively that for each gallon a typical golf course withdraws from the aquifer, it puts back eight.
- Golf courses provide natural habitat for most forms of wildlife because they have worms and insects.

Hiers sprinkled his presentation with operating tips for busy superintendents:

- Carry a camera everywhere to document damage, needed work or completion of projects.
- A light coat of baby oil on spray tanks will help prevent corrosion from chemicals.
- Lightning protection on key trees can save money and heartache.

USGA Green Section conference outgrows JDM

PALM BEACH GARDENS — Superintendents should mix chemicals themselves, learn everything they can about environmental regulation, urge their clubs to install a second set of tees for women, and carry cameras whenever they're on the golf course.

Those were some of the highlights of the annual USGA Green Section Regional Conference at JDM Country Club April 20.

According to Roger Harvie, USGA Regional Affairs manager for the Southeast, total attendance of 235 broke down to 118 superintendents, 39 golf professionals, 24 club managers, 21 club officers, 12 USGA officials, and 21 "others." The latter included architects, builders, speakers, association officials and one member of the press.

Eight speakers filled six hours of education sessions with a one-hour lunch break at the midway point.

Main speakers were Tim Hiers, golf course manager, John's Island Club, Vero Beach; Mike Veron, attorney and member of the USGA Green Section Committee; Kevin Downing, golf

and landscape operations manager of Willoughby GC in Stuart, also a member of the USGA Green Section Committee; and Pete and Alice Dye, golf course architects from Delray Beach.

Technical speakers from the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Services were Dr. Bert McCarty from Gainesville and Dr. Monica Elliott and Dr. John Cisar from Fort Lauderdale.

Moderators were F. Morgan "Buzz" Taylor, a resident of Hobe Sound and chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee and Pat O'Brien, USGA agronomist for the Southeast.

After the meeting, John Foy, USGA agronomist for Florida, said the conference next year will be held at a different site.

"We've outgrown this one," he said, noting that late arrivals had great difficulty seeing the projection screen. He said he will consider any site in Florida, although he pointed out that attendance dropped sharply several years ago when the conference was moved out of South Florida to Orlando on a one-year experiment.