GCSAA actively pursues public-access members

By HAL PHILLIPS

AWRENCE, Kan. — To keep pace with changing demographics in the industry, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is poised to more actively include superintendents at public-access golf facilities.

The GCSAA’s newly formed Public Golf Resource Group met in October to discuss ways the association could reach out more effectively to superintendents at daily-fee and municipal golf courses, according to Chief Operating Officer Joe O’Brien.

“We talked about better providing services to our members in the public sector and attracting new members from it,” said O’Brien. “The numbers speak for themselves.”

Two-thirds of the nation’s golf facilities are public access: daily-fee, municipal and resort. The percentage is climbing higher: From 1990 through 1993, 80 percent of spending thousands of dollars on new equipment is looming at public-access facilities, according to GCSAA’s Chief Operating Officer Joe O’Brien.

Focus on everyday people: The Family Stone

Tennis, eyes extensive research

Focus on everyday people: The Family Stone

Golf Resorts takes promotion on the road

THE TEAM APPROACH

At Francisco Grande Resort & Golf Club in Casa Grande, Ariz., superintendent Juan Riosco (right) and head pro Ken Chase work together to shore up the bottom line. See this month’s Public Arena, page 54.

The contractor building a Texas sports complex rejects the root-zone materials delivered for construction. The material is different than what it is supposed to be. "This is a tremendous problem," agreed Dr. Norm Hummel of Cornell University, who spent many days and lots of money creating a berm of golf greens, course builders and soil professionals decry inconsistent root-zone mixes

By MARK LESLIE

ORBAND, Fla. — Hailing public-access golf as the fuel driving golf development and the game’s key component, leaders in the industry have high expectations for Golf Course Expo. The Expo, to be held at Orange County Convention Center here Nov. 11-12, is the only national trade show and conference targeting superintendents, managers and developers of public-access facilities. The U.S. Golf Association Green Section has helped develop the education program.

Noise laws drown out bottom line

By PETER BLAIS

SOMERS POINT, N.J. — Rounds are down, overall pay is up and the prospect of spending thousands of dollars on new equipment is looming at Greate Bay Country Club, all because of the town’s noise ordinance here.

Up the coast at Greenwich (Conn.) Country Club, the grounds crew spent many days and lots of money creating a berm to muffle noise from its power equipment to try to keep ahead of the noise laws. But the suburban New York community is considering.

Farther south, Lochmere Country Club’s revenues dropped the past two summers when it was forced to hold golfers off.

The U.S. Golf Association “in most cases, it's not intentional. But I'm sure there are situations where some maliciousness is involved.”

“This is a tremendous problem,” agreed Glen Waldms, president of Root Zone Mix in Muleshoe, Texas, who does quality-control work on sports field and golf course construction. “It can be a total nightmare to go on a job and check the sand and, lo and behold, it’s entirely different than what it is supposed to be.”

In the wake of court cases over failure of golf greens, course builders and soil mixers have been encouraged to take a closer look at root-zone mixes.