Top supers, USGA directors to speak at Expo agronomy sessions

By MARK LESLIE

In addition to ClubCorp, owns and operates approximately 260 daily-fee golf courses, resorts, clubs and real-estate developments worldwide. Family Dye Dedman

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One of three educational concentrations cornerstoning the Expo, the Maintenance Track, will feature three key USGA Green Section regional directors as well as some high-visibility superintendents. The nation's only conference and trade show geared toward public-access golf course superintendents, developers and general managers, Golf Course Expo will also conduct Marketing/Management and Development Educational Tracks.

USGA Green Section Mid-Atlantic Region Director Stan Zontek, Mid-Continent Region Director Jim Moore and Florida Region Director John Foy will take the podium in the Maintenance Track, along with Keystone Ranch Resort's Steve Corneillier from Keystone, Colo., and Terry Buchen from Double Eagle Club in Galena, Ohio.

Cal Roth, director of golf course maintenance operations for PGA Tour Investments, Inc. and its 14 Tournament Players Clubs around the country, will speak on course safety as part of the Management Track. And David Johnson, vice president of agronomy for Golf Corp's 38 public courses, will participate in a General Session panel on upgrading daily-fee facilities.

Zontek will unveil his "Best Management Practices." Moore will speak on "Environmental Common Sense: What We're Doing Wrong and What We're Doing Right." Foy will address the notion of "Doing More with Less."

Corneillier will tell how to renovate an entire golf course without closing it — a feat he has accomplished at Keystone Ranch Resort, where he is superintendent and the former vice president of Dedman College of Southern Methodist University and the Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports at SMU are named in his honor. Dedman Memorial Hospital and Dedman Medical Center in Dallas also are named in his honor.

Pete Dye, with wife Alice his primary consultant, has designed eight of the top 69 golf courses in the country. His design innovations aside — many of which actually pay homage to traditional Scottish features — Pete has proven the financial viability of high-end courses anyone can play: the TPC at Sawgrass' Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.; Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head Island, S.C.; PGA West's Stadium Course in La Quinta, Calif.; and Blackwolf Run Golf Course in Kohler, Wis.

Perhaps the only Kentucky colonel among his peers, Zontek has been with the USGA for 23 years, directing its Mid-Atlantic Region the last 10. A member of the board of the Masser International Turf Foundation and the Technical Resource Advisory Committee of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Penn State University graduate is an honorary member of seven superintendents associations.

For the past 10 years Moore has traveled extensively to courses in the United States as well as in Jamaica and New Zealand. The Texas A&M University alumnus has made more than 1,000 Turf Advisory Service visits. He was a superintendent for seven years before joining the USGA, and has served as president of the Texas Turfgrass Foundation and on the board of directors of various industry and community associations.

Before joining the USGA in 1985, Foy was involved in several aspects of the turf industry, including field research and development for a major turfgrass pesticide manufacturer. A University of Georgia alumnus, he has traveled extensively throughout the Southeast and the Caribbean visiting golf courses.

Last year superintendents attended the event from the Atlantic Coast to Hawaii and Canada. The organizing Golf Course News conference division expects a greater turnout this year. For more information, contact the Expo conference division or Program Chair Hal Phillips at 207-846-0600.

Dedman, Family Dye

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Always a leader in the golf industry, ClubCorp was quick to recognize the unprecedented growth and specific needs of public-access golf in the 1980s. Indeed, GolfCorp, the newest division at ClubCorp, is solely devoted to the management of daily-fee golf facilities. Another new division, ClubResorts, manages ClubCorp's portfolio of resort operations.

Dedman, who practiced law in Dallas until founding ClubCorp in 1957, has received numerous honors including the Horatio Alger Award in 1989, Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Texas in 1976, and Humanitarian of the Year Award in Dallas in 1980.

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P.B.'s forte is public-access courses. He joined Canadian investors in 1990 to form Brassie Golf, a firm developing and managing low-cost daily-fee facilities. Like his father, P.B. is apt to hop atop a bulldozer and shape his own designs. He worked with Pete designing Long Cove Club on Hilton Head Island, S.C., and The Honors Course near Chattanooga, Tenn. — both highly ranked layouts.

Perry formed Perry O. Dye Design International in 1962 and worked almost exclusively in Japan until recently to focus his attention on the United States, particularly municipal projects. He has continued to collaborate occasionally with his father, most notably on Arizona State University's acclaimed Karsen Golf Course.

The eyes of the golf world have been on Pete Dye since he began designing Scottish-style courses with a North American twist in the 1960s. His rise was meteoric, and Alice joined him for the ride, pushing all the way for architects to build forward tees for highly-handicapped golfers. Alice's campaign has been overwhelmingly successful, and for her efforts she was honored with the 1994 Donald A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America.

Alice, Pete and P.B. are all members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), Pete serving as president in 1989. The first female member of the ASGCA, Alice now serves as secretary-treasurer and is expected to ascend to the society's presidency in two years. So stereotyped by others, The Dyes in general — and Pete in particular — have gone about inventing new, maintainable methods to accomplish their individual design philosophies. Vertical walls of turf and the old Scottish style of riveted bunkers. Boulders used as bulkheads. Vertical wire mesh edging water hazards.

"The variety and challenge of different designers, a multiple selection of design in any given community, is its variety. If we were all Donald Rosses, Ellis Mapleses, or Alister Mackenzies, it would start to get boring."