New USGA service targets construction

By PETER BLAIS

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section will launch its new Construction Education Program next month with Mid-Continent Regional Director Jim Moore as director. Moore is developing materials, web site and seminar programs that will be available at minimal charge to developers, superintendents, course owners, club managers, golf professionals and others involved in building golf projects.

“We know that many of the physical problems golf courses experience after opening occur because of things that were or weren’t done when the course was originally built,” Moore explained. “We want to be involved up front providing good information for construction. We want to help eliminate mistakes and save money.”

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NTEP funding survives; Morris credits lobbying

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The embattled National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) received good news from Congress in August when the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate passed an agri-cultural appropriations bill that included—even added to—NTEP funding.

NTEP operates as an independent agent under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but the USDA had proposed redirecting its entire NTEP funding to other research.

Citing effective lobbying from the $30-billion turfgrass industry, NTEP National Director Kevin Morris said lawmakers actually increased the funding $5,000 to $55,000.

“We got a tremendous response from the letter I sent out lacking for industry support,” Morris said. “The Turfgrass Producers International and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America lobbied on our behalf at the Congressional level. It pushed the key congressmen. And that was really helpful.”

Happy at the turn of events, Morris is nonethe-