

## Tools of the Trade...at Ralph Kepple's East Lake Golf Club

ATLANTA — You'd think Ralph Kepple would be nervous. After all, he's got 30 of the world's best golfers coming here to East Lake Golf Club on October 30 for the PGA Tour Championship. But Kepple is taking it in stride. His club hosted the same event in 1998, and the superintendent knows exactly what to expect.

"Starting in mid-September, one company comes in to build scaffolding, and one starts building tent structures for corporate hospitality," he said. "They will be building that stuff right up til the first day of the tournament. And the television companies will come in a couple of weeks prior to the event and start building their towers. It's real hectic for a while, but I'm looking forward to it. Right now, we're doing a lot of extra fertilizing in the roughs, leveling heads and just trying to get everything as smooth as we can."

Kepple has been here for eight years, following a stint at Settindown Creek Golf Club in Roswell, Ga. The private East Lake course opened in 1906, and underwent a Donald Ross redesign in 1913. "We had a major renovation here

in 1994, with Rees Jones, bringing it back to the Ross design, and that generated a lot of publicity," Kepple said.

The PGA Tour Championship brings in the year's top 30 money winners. "It's not considered a major," Kepple said, "but it's definitely major money, and the field is great."

**Greens Mowers:** 9 John Deere 220A, 6 Toro GM 500

**Tee Mowers:** 3 Toro 1600

**Fairway Mowers:** 4 John Deere 3235A

**Rough Mowers:** 1 Bush Hog TDM-11,

1 John Deere 1145, 3 John Deere 2653A

**Riding Bunker Rake:** 1 John Deere

1200A

**Turf Utility Vehicles:** 5 John Deere

ProGator, 2 Toro 3200 Workman

**Verti-cut Reels:** 1 Ryan Mataway, 1

Graden

**Aerifiers:** 1 John Deere 1000, 1 John

Deere 1500, 1 Toro Walker

**Topdressers:** 2 John Deere TD 1000,

1 Vicon

**Tournament Speed Rollers:** 2 Salsco

**Reel Grinder:** Express Dual

**Bedknife Grinder:** Express Dual

**Irrigation Pump Station:** Flowtronex

PSI 1250 GPM V.F.D.

**Irrigation System:** Toro Osmac:

SitePro

**Golf Car Fleet:** ClubCar (6 gas, 6

electric)



Kepple's John Deere 4600 tractor with AgriMetal blower

**Flagsticks:** Standard, 8' Tournament (black & white British stripe)

**Computer & Accessories:** Microstar (Toro) SitePro, Windows 95

**Primary herbicide:** Ronstar

**Primary pesticide:** Scimitar

**Primary fungicide:** Heritage

(greens), Prostar (fairways)

**Primary slow-release fertilizer:**

IBDU (greens), SCU (fairways)

**Cannot Live Without:** Faith in God

**Oldest Piece of Equipment:** 1974

John Deere 1250 Tractor

**Total square footage of maintenance building(s):** 17,000 sq.ft.

**Annual rounds of golf:** 20,000

**Normal green speed:** 10'

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