Tools of the Trade...at Kip Tyler’s Salem Country Club

PEABODY, Mass. — With this summer’s U.S. Senior Open fast approaching, superintendent Kip Tyler is nailing down the last details of a refurbishment program that began seven years ago. The Donald Ross course here at Salem Country Club, built in 1926, has gone through a major facelift.

“Architect Ron Forse and contractor Jerry Deemer of Country Golf renovated 56 bunkers on the course and removed any bunkers not installed by Ross. All 18 tees have been revamped and replaced with new bentgrass sod. Also, a new irrigation system, with the main lines just over the left bunker. We have heavily topdressed the tees and green approaches to firm them up,” Tyler said. “The membership voted in 1994 to have the bunkers restored,” Tyler said. "Many were repaved with asphalt or stalled by Ross." The bunkers on the Donald Ross course here at Salem Country Club, has gone through a major facelift.

The nines will be reversed for the tournament in order to provide better spectator viewing. “This week will require extraordinary caution, since the whole golf world will be watching. It's a pretty awesome responsibility, but we welcome it,” he said.

A 1977 agronomy graduate of Ohio State, Tyler arrived at the club in 1982 after working as an assistant superintendent at the Medina Country Club in Medina, Ill.

GROOMING REELS: Jacobsen

TOURNAMENT SPEED ROLLER: 1 Salsco, 1 GreensIRON 3000

REEL GRINDER: Neary Spin-matic II

BEDKNIFE GRINDER: Neary model 250

PRIMARY INSECTICIDE: Macht II

PRIMARY FUNGICIDE: Daconil Ultrex

PRIMARY SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZERS: Polyon

CANTON LIVE WITHOUT: My wife, Mary Lou, and sons, Ben and Christopher

OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT: 1962 Cushman Turf-Truckster

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS: 12,200 sq. ft.

ANNUAL ROUNDS OF GOLF: Approximately 30,000

Hocutt creates free job-hunting Web site

By Joel Joyner

PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. — Tired of doing out the cash and dealing with the hassles of finding the perfect job? Sam Hocutt, the superintendent here at the Pawleys Plantation Golf Course, has now made it a bit easier for those in the job market these days.

“Hocutt discovered that fellow superintendents were not finding the jobs available in different locations without having to pay service fees. The only service that listed jobs free of charge was Turfnet,” he said. “I thought Turfnet was only a forum to discuss turf topics. It occurred to me that the more you offer, the more people sometimes overlook certain services you offer. That’s when I did a Web site name search and registered the name www.golfcoursejob.com.”

The site was established in January and I received many e-mails about how good an idea it was, but one stuck out,” Hocutt said. “It was from Clayton Hoyt, a 1999 graduate of the University of Minnesota in Crookston. He earned a B.S. in plant industries management with a horticulture emphasis and had aspirations of becoming a golf course superintendent.

“Hoyt is currently employed as an assistant superintendent at the Thief River Golf Club in Thief River Falls [Minn.],” said Hocutt. “He offered to help, and that’s when I decided to go for it. He was instrumental in helping me get it started, so I offered Clayton a small part of the Web site.”

SPONSORSHIPS PAY THE BILLS

Buying additional programs and finding sponsors helped Hocutt fulfill his dream of a free site. He originally had 400 viewers a month, but that has increased to 2,000 a day, with an average of 12,000 a month. Since the site is free, Hocutt said he has had little trouble building the list of sponsors.

“Sponsorships pay the bills, and it’s a great way to keep the site running.”

Continued on page 12

Photos by Roy Smillie