

## 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.

"The membership voted in 1994 to have the bunkers restored," Tyler said. Architect Ron Forse and contractor Jerry Deemer of Country Golf renovated 56 bunkers on the course and removed any bunkers not installed by Ross.



Kip Tyler

All 18 tees have been revamped and replaced with new bentgrass sod. Also, a new irrigation system, with the main lines running along the rough, was installed in the last couple of years. "All the cart paths here were reviewed, too," Tyler said. "Many were repaved with asphalt or crushed stone, and some were rerouted away from play."

The 47-year-old superintendent ex-

plained the level of detail involved in getting the layout ready for the Senior Open, an event already sold out. "New chipping areas were created," he said. "The left portion of the 15th green was also enlarged to provide an additional hole location just over the left bunker. We have heavily topdressed the tees and green approaches to firm them up."

Fairways will be cut to 3/8ths of an inch, and the greens will measure right around ten and a half on the USGA Stimpmeter. "Fairway widths will average between 29 and 38 yards in the landing zones," Tyler said.

The staff will strive to hit peak condition as the event unfolds. "Our equipment needs will increase dramatically for championship week," said Tyler. "I typically have four people walking the greens with mowers. We hope to use 12 that week. We'll mow the greens at least twice each morning, and possibly roll them as well. Then we'll cut again, and possibly roll them in the evening."

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



1962 Cushman Turf-Truckster, Tyler's oldest piece of equipment

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 Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill.

**Greens mowers:** 6 Toro 1000, 2 Jacobsen Greens Kings V

**Tee mowers:** 5 Toro 1600, 1 Jacobsen Greens King IV

**Fairway mowers:** 4 Toro 5000 Series  
**Rough mowers:** 1 Ransomes 250AR, 2 Steiner 230

**Riding bunker rake:** 1 Toro Sand Pro (for habd raking)

**Turf utility vehicles:** 6 Club Car Turf II, 6 Cushman Turf-Trucksters

**Verti-cut reels:** Jacobsen

**Aerifiers:** 3 Ryan Greensaire 24, 1 Ryan GA-60

**Topdressers:** 1 Turfco SP-1530, 1 Turfco F12d

**Grooming reels:** Jacobsen  
**Tournament speed roller:** 1 Salsco, 1 GreensIRON 3000

**Reel grinder:** Neary Spin-matic II  
**Bedknife grinder:** Neary model 250  
**Irrigation pump station:** Flowtronex 1,200 gpm

**Irrigation system:** Toro LTC Plus  
**Golf car fleet:** 80 Club Car (electric)

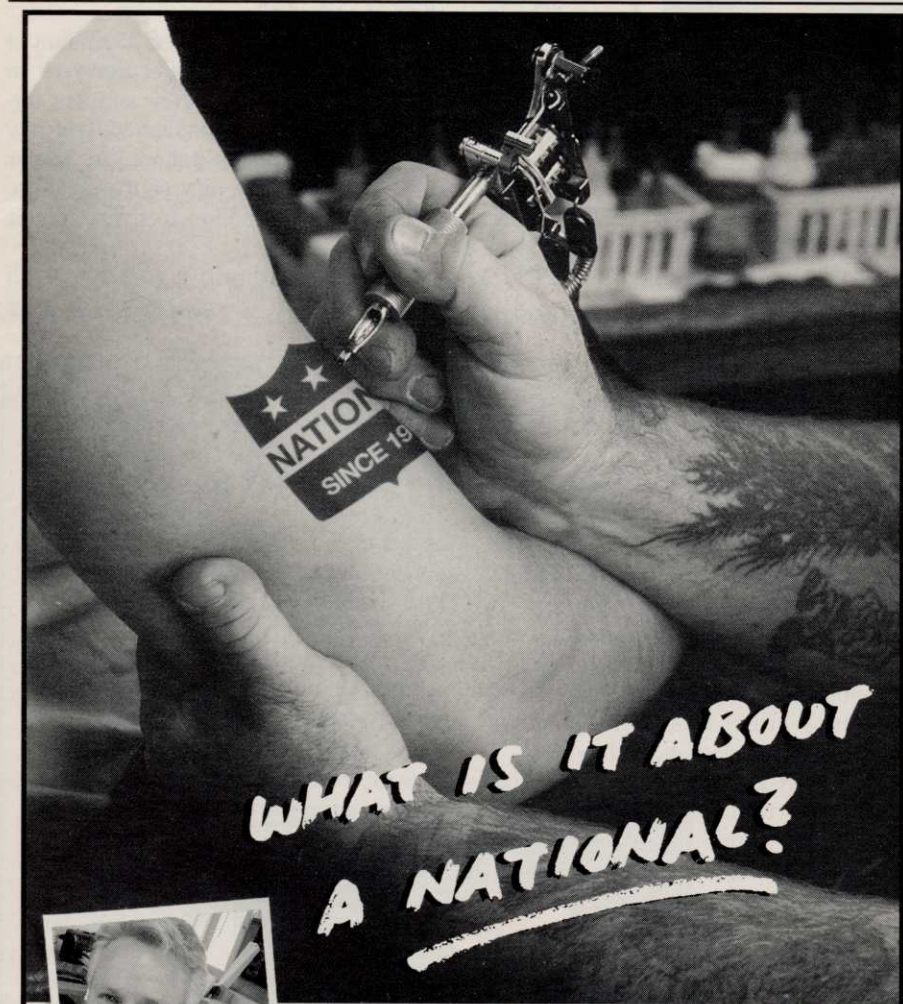
**Flagsticks:** Standard  
**Computer & accessories:** Pentium II  
**Primary herbicide:** Barricade 65WG  
**Primary insecticide:** Mach II  
**Primary fungicide:** Daconil Ultrex  
**Primary slow-release fertilizers:** Polyon

**Cannot live without:** My wife, Mary Lou, and sons, Ben and Christopher

**Oldest piece of equipment:** 1962 Cushman Turf-Truckster

**Total square footage of maintenance building(s):** 12,200 sq. ft.

**Annual rounds of golf:** Approximately 30,000



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Superintendent  
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## Hocutt creates free job-hunting Web site

By JOEL JOYNER

PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. — Tired of dishing 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. And best of all, it's free.

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 name was established in Janu-

ary. "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 a server, Hocutt developed the site in about seven days. "I put a sponsor form on the site for anyone interested in helping to keep the site up, and to keep it free." He said. After only a week, two companies showed interest in sponsorship — Smith Turf and Irrigation and Wilbro. Smith Turf and Irrigation is a Toro distributor and Wilbro is a distribu-

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## Canada geese

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Croson, a USDA technician.

The test was a first in an outdoor experiment. Caged herons at the USDA's National Wildlife Research Center in Sandusky, Ohio reacted in a similar fashion when the red dot of the laser struck them.

### READY, AIM, SPRAY

Manufactured by Bird-X, GooseChase is listed as an environmentally and ecologically safe product designed to render the birds' food unpalatable. "The geese came in flocks ranging from 20 to 50 birds," said Jay Smith, assistant superintendent at the Yankee Hill Country Club in Lincoln, Neb. "We tried blasting a shotgun over their heads, but it didn't deter them.

"With insufficient snow cover, we have problems with the geese during winter and early spring," he said. "They come in, peck at our short grass, and make ruts and holes in our greens."

GooseChase is a concentrate made from extracts of grapes, the same active ingredient that gives Concord grapes their characteristic flavor. "It worked quickly, and there was a very distinct line of effectiveness between where we sprayed and where we didn't," said Smith.

### A 'BIOLOGICAL FENCE'

FlightControl uses the same active ingredient as GooseChase, but with a different formulation and concentration rate. The strength of the formulation determines the length of time the substance remains effective on the grass.

The repellent is described as a "biological fence" to herd geese away from areas where they interfere with human activity. "It works, no doubt about it, but it's just another tool as far as I'm concerned," said Bob Ribbans, superintendent at the Forsgate Country Club in Jamesburg, N.J. "We also use noise makers. It's just like with people - if you annoy them long enough, they'll leave. But if you have water, you'll have geese."

FlightControl has an additional feature: a visual deterrent. Once applied to the turf, the solution absorbs ultraviolet light to make it appear spotted or unsightly, at least to a goose. The chemical apparently alters the visual attractiveness of the turf to discourage geese from stopping by for a snack or perhaps a long stay. If the treated site is not enough to dissuade the geese, the "harmless intestinal reaction" from feeding should dishearten them.

Some superintendents, however, are hesitant to recommend the products. "I don't know about

the practicality of it," said Brad Helms, superintendent at the Palatine Hills Golf Club in Palatine, Ill. "Come spring and fall you can't mow for two weeks, and that would be difficult.

"We gave it a try," he said, "and the geese would eat right up to the sprayed area, walk across the treated grass, and go in to the lake. The only cure would be to spray the entire area and that would be cost prohibitive." ■

## Sam Hocutt

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tor of fertilizers and chemicals.

Hocutt, a certified golf course superintendent, knows the difficulties of shuffling jobs. Before he situated himself at the Pawleys Plantation course, where he's been for eight years, he worked at numerous courses in the Carolinas, including Roanoke Country Club, Marsh

Harbour, Oyster Bay, Heritage Club, Carolina Pines and the Heritage Club.

### COMPUTER BUFF

Hocutt used an Apple computer in the early 1980s to track the inventory at a golf maintenance shop. "I moved up to the windows 3.1 as soon as it hit the market," he said. "My fascination led me to take the computer apart just to put it back together again. I crashed my

first IBM about a 100 times just to see if I could fix it. Fixing computers for my friends led me to getting a business license in 1998."

That same year, with a programmer's assistance, Hocutt created a program, Aquatrack, to complement the Sitepro Osmac irrigation program by Toro. It will log all the commands used by radio to let a superintendent view them on the computer. ■

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