

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

# Workman manages course, spray field at Cateechee GC

By ANDREW OVERBECK

HARTWELL, Ga. — As water resources in Georgia are placed under increasing stress, Buck Workman is one superintendent who will never have to worry about drought restrictions or water shortages. Cateechee Golf Club sits on part of Hartwell's effluent spray field and is an example of how public and private interests can be mutually beneficial.

When the city announced plans to create an effluent spray field application site in the mid-1990s, local businessman Lee Barton came up with the idea to build a golf course on the property. In exchange for free land and water and tax abatements, Barton agreed to build the course and handle the effluent application at the 370-acre site. Barton pays a yearly lease to the city, but that cost is largely offset because the city shares in the maintenance of the spray field and irrigation equipment.

"The golf course encompasses 90 acres of the 370 acre site," said Workman. "We irrigate 273 of those acres and we have to use one million gallons of water a day."

With the extra acreage, the golf course is watered only when it needs to be. However, Workman was

skeptical at first.

"I thought, 'One million gallons a day, every day, 365 days a year, there's no way we can do that,'" he said.

With a water balance formulation in hand from the Georgia Department of Environmental Protection, however, the practice has proved to be a snap. The course has not had any problems with runoff or saturation. It has had some minor problems, however, with the smell.

"The first time we had any odor problems was this last summer when it got really hot and the retention pond had algae building up," Workman said. "But we increased the aeration and that solved the problem."

The use of effluent does require constant agronomic vigilance, said Workman, especially when it comes to the L-93 bentgrass greens.

"We have high sodium levels, that is our biggest problem," he said. "We have to do a lot of aeration and use a lot of calcium products to help adjust sodium levels in the soil. We also have to keep an eye on high pH because it causes take-all-patch. We changed our fertilizer to ammonium sulfate and that has helped lower the pH."

Another thing that gets eaten up by having to manage the effluent spray field is time. Since Workman devotes two hours a day to the effluent application process, he has two assistants to help manage the golf course.

Workman, however, said he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I enjoy it," he said. "You never think about where sewage water goes. We use it in a very beneficial way that is much better than dumping it in streams and lakes. The course is an excellent filter."

For these reasons, Cateechee was a natural fit for Audubon International's Certified Sanctuary Program. It gained Bronze Signature status in 1998.

"We worked with Audubon from the clearing stages so we would understand how to take care of a piece of property," said Workman. "Wildlife thrives here and it probably attracts people to the course that may not normally come."

There are now several more reasons to come to Cateechee. This fall, architect Mike Young came back to the course to add new tees and reposition several bunkers. The course now plays to 7,000 yards from the tips.

Additionally, the club just opened an \$8 million clubhouse, restaurant and 250-seat conference center.

With these changes, the club hopes to attract a major tournament.



Buck Workman

## WORKMAN'S TOOLS

### GREENS MOWERS:

7 John Deere 220 R

### TEE MOWERS:

7 Toro Greenmaster 1000

### FAIRWAY MOWERS:

1 John Deere 3235, 1 Toro 5500

### ROUGH MOWERS:

2 John Deere 2653, 2 Toro Reelmaster 2000

### IRRIGATION PUMP STATION:

Flowtronex, 2,100 gpm

### IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Toro Osmac

### GOLF CAR FLEET:

Yamaha, gas

### FLAGSTICKS:

Par-Aide

### COMPUTER & ACCESSORIES:

1 Dell



The fifth hole at Cateechee Golf Club

Photo: Mike Klemme

### RIDING BUNKER RAKE:

1 John Deere 1200 A, 1 Toro Sand Pro

### TURF UTILITY VEHICLES:

4 Yamaha G41, 3 John Deere Gators, 1 Toro Workman

### VERTI-CUT REELS:

1 Toro

### AERIFIERS:

1 Coremaster

### TOPDRESSERS:

1 John Deere

### REEL GRINDER:

1 Express Dual

### BEDKNIFE GRINDER:

1 Anglemaster

### PRIMARY HERBICIDE:

Ronstar

### PRIMARY INSECTICIDE:

Dursban

### PRIMARY FUNGICIDE:

Daconil

### PRIMARY SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER:

IBDU

### TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF MAINTENANCE BUILDING:

7,500 sq. ft.

### ANNUAL ROUNDS OF GOLF:

25,000

### NORMAL GREEN SPEED:

10.5'

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