Benefit Tourney Set For Crooked Stick

The first annual GCSAA Turfgrass Research Benefit Golf Championship will be played at Crooked Stick Golf Club, a Pete Dye course usually rated among the country's top 50 layouts, on September 24 in conjunction with the GCSAA Mid-Year Turfgrass Conference. Open to anyone wishing to participate, the tournament has an entry fee of $120, which includes golf car and green fees for the championship, range balls, and bag storage. Practice on the 23rd is free, but the $10 golf car rental must be paid. The field is limited to 144 participants, who must have a USG4 handicap and register before August 19. Format is 18-holes of stroke-play with prizes for three places in both gross and net. Prizes and trophies will be awarded at a cocktail reception at the Crooked Stick clubhouse at 5:30 p.m. following the round. Proceeds of the tournament will go to further turfgrass research.

GCSAA Gives $12,000 For Turf Research

On behalf of the GCSAA, new president Eugene D. Baston presented a check for $12,000 to the United States Golf Association to be used for turfgrass research. The check represents GCSAA's commitment to the two organizations' objectives of developing improved turfgrasses that use 50% less water, require 50% less maintenance, and yet remain green and pleasing to the eye.

In accepting the contribution at the USGA's annual Golf Writers Dinner at the 1985 U.S. Open in Birmingham, Michigan, USGA President Jim Hand said, "We look forward to continued success in our working relationship with our good friends at the GCSAA. On behalf of the USGA, I pledge our continued commitment to achieving the joint objectives of the Turfgrass Research Program."

The underlying reasons for the research program are the increasing demands for ever more scarce potable water and the rising cost of maintaining golf courses.

Managing a Forest to Build a Golf Course

A new Rees Jones-designed golf course is being built on Daufuskie Island, which unlike nearby Hilton Head has no bridge or car ferry from the South Carolina mainland, by the International Paper Realty Corporation of South Carolina. A subsidiary of the International Paper Company, it bought over 1,000 acres at Haig Point as the site of a golf-oriented "retreat community" on this isolated island, best known in the past because of a movie about a white schoolteacher at the two-room schoolhouse maintained for children of the 60 full-time residents of Daufuskie.

International Paper Company's knowledge and experience with trees has been extremely useful in the construction of the golf course. Daufuskie has an abundance of trees, many of them ancient, moss-draped live oaks, but a number of these must be removed to make room for the greens and fairways. The usual solution is bulldozing and burning, but this has not been so at Haig Point.

All trees in the area have been inventoried and divided into five categories. One group will be transplanted, three will be harvested and utilized, and only one will be burned in the field. Transplantable trees, those that can be used in landscape nurseries and in areas needing forestation, are being moved with hydraulic tree spades in line with the company's concept of resource management and utilization. A second classification, marketable pine, includes trees that are removed, stockpiled, and then barged to the Georgia Pacific plant in Savannah to be converted to plywood, lumber, or paper. Profits from this operation will be shared with the Daufuskie Island Cooperative in the restoration of historic ruins and other sites on Haig Point.

A third classification of trees is the hardwoods, which are also to be removed and barged to Savannah to become commercial grade building lumber, which will then be sent back to Daufuskie to be used in restoring the 1873 Haig Point lighthouse and to build the Great House Inn and other projects in connection with the development.

Trees too small to be marketed and too large to transplant make up the fourth category, firewood. These will be cut up and given to the islanders for use in heating their homes. The final group, "slash," includes brush, stumps, limbs, and other unusable vegetation and will be burned.

Building a new golf course on a remote island is a tough job, since all equipment, supplies, and fuel must be brought in by boat. When asked why the International Paper Realty Corporation is doing things its way instead of just bulldozing and burning, company president Mike Ross said, "Because it's the right thing to do. If you were to walk in the woods of Haig Point as I have, you wouldn't want to do it any other way either. I wouldn't be a part of anything less."