Grass carp nears Calif. okay

The bill to expand superintendent use of the grass carp passed the California Senate by a vote of 31-1 reports the GCSAA. California GCSA and lobbyists were tireless in efforts to secure the vote. Fish and Wildlife officials have expressed concern about expanding grass carp use to the whole state at once but superintendents are optimistic about getting their bill through the Assembly and signed by the governor.

Alice Dye new ASGCA president

Alice Dye has helped make history for the American Society of Golf Course Architects by becoming the first woman president of the 51 year-old organization.

The selection of Dye is also the first time a husband and wife have served the Society as presidents. Designer Pete Dye served in the post in 1989.

Alice Dye has co-designed more than 40 golf courses in the U.S. and abroad, and is perhaps best known for her work as a promoter of women's golf, according to the Society. She has drawn attention to the need for courses that challenge the skills of women golfers through the placement of tees and hazards.

Dye holds more than 50 amateur titles.

The election of Dye was held at the ASGCA annual meeting in Toronto in May. Also elected officers were:

Vice president: Bob Lohmann, Marengo, Ill.;
Treasurer: John LaFoy, Greenville, S.C.;
Secretary: Brian Ault, Kensington, Md.
Immediate past president Denis Griffiths of Braselton, Ga., will serve as ex-officio member of the ASGCA Board of Governors.

Detroiters raise $20,000 for Special Olympics

The Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association recently raised $20,000 for the Special Olympics through a golf outing at Bald Mountain Golf Course, Lake Orion, Mich.

The tournament scramble was won by the team of Gerald and Jerry Pireskorn; Scott Barrows and Ron Adams. Second place team was Ted Kasel; Randy Miller; John Haney; and Craig Jach.

Do the best supers wear Etonics? They do now!

As a component of the three-year partnership, Etonic will market its Dri-Lite Series golf shoes as "GCSAA's Official Superintendent's Shoe."

"By working in conjunction with the people responsible for maintaining golf courses nationwide, Etonic will gain input that will allow the company to produce golf shoes that are best suited for today's golf courses, while also strengthening our stature as the industry leader in the alternative spike market," says Bill Kirkendall, president of Etonic Worldwide Corporation.

Etonic and GCSAA will share information in areas related to alternative spikes, focus group discussions, professional development and industry-client round table forums.

Bollig suggests that the information exchanged between the two groups would likely consist of turf research information.

"It's one of those things that if Etonic called and said 'we're trying to develop a product, what have you guys found,'" says Bollig.

"And from [Etonic's] standpoint, if they do any testing...they'd share with our membership."

Does GCSAA or does it not favor alternative spikes?

"From a strictly agronomic focus, I would say 'yes' says Jeff Bollig, spokesman for GCSAA.

"But knowing that the game of golf involves more than just [the superintendent's] area, we have to look at this on a wide-range basis.

For example, says Bollig, "There's bermuda-grass courses with very little traffic, and there's probably no reason to mandate some of these courses to go to alternative spikes. There's also some of our members who feel that because the alternative spike craze has hit, people are going to change automatically, and it's just a matter of time [before all courses mandate their use].

Etonic will help to fund the GCSAA's Development Series, and will also contribute to the GCSAA Foundation."