

# NEWS

## Pala Mesa captures Deere crown

A team from Pala Mesa Resort, Fallbrook, Calif., captured the recent fourth annual John Deere Team Championship at Missions Hills and the Dunes Course near Palm Springs, Calif.

The tournament is the only PGA-sanctioned competition that provides an opportunity for golf professionals and golf course superintendents to pair with other club officials in a national title event. It was inaugurated in 1987 to recognize those who help make America's golf facilities successful.

The Pala Mesa fivesome of Chris Starkjohann, Dale Hahn, Danna Campbell, Paul Slavik and John Deere golf and turf distributor Jim Davis beat 36 other sectional qualifying teams in the two-day, 36-hole event. Nearly 900 teams competed in sectional tournaments to determine finalists for the modified scramble event.

Winning team members received a personalized ring, and members of the first three teams glass trophies.

Starkjohann, pro on the winning team, received \$2,000. Hahn is Pala Mesa superintendent, Campbell club vice president and Slavik president.

Members of the runnerup team from Crag Burn GC, East Aurora, N. Y., were pro Lonnie Nielsen, super Ned Booth, manager Robert Battaglia, president James A. Smith and distributor Ed Shanahan of Empire Golf & Turf, Lafayette, N. Y.

Nielsen won \$1,500, pro Greg Natale of third place Foxfire CC, Baldwinsville, N. Y., \$1,000. Natale's teammates were Dick Perry, Joel FitzGerald, Jerry Passamonte and John Pogorzelski of Empire Golf & Turf.

## GCSAA tourney attracts 600 at Vegas event

More than 600 members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will play for their profession's Golf Championship on Feb. 4-5 in Scottsdale, Ariz. The GCSAA Championship is one of the largest association-sponsored tournaments in the nation.

Participants will contend for individual and chapter team honors. Last year's championship, held in Orlando, Fla., saw the Carolinas GCSA #1 team win the chapter team competition. Roger Null, superintendent at Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, Mo., will defend his title in the individual championship.

The championship will be played at Scottsdale area courses: McCormick Ranch Golf Club's Palm and Pine courses, Orange Tree golf Resort, Papago Golf Course and Stonecreek, The Golf Club.

## Full-service lab offers 'state-of-the-art' testing

A new full-service laboratory offering "state-of-the-art research and recommendations" has opened under President David Doherty and long-time K.W. Brown turf services director Chuck Dixon.

International Sports Turf Research Center, Inc. is located in Olathe, Kansas, near the headquarters of Golf Course Superintendents

Association of America.

Dixon, who ran operations at K.W. Brown in College Station, Texas, is the vice president of technical operations and has major plans for ISTRC.

"There's a lot of work out there to do," he said. "There are a lot of golf courses with environmental concerns but with only \$2,000 in their

budget for lab work. I think people will have to pay for it or shut down."

ISTRC's first goal is establishing its physical testing lab.

"That's our baseline," Dixon said. We're building that portion of our service first. I'll farm out the chemical and pesticide testing for now.

"We can do the NPK and lime testing in-house, get two-day turn-

around on fertility work-up, have ground water testing done outside. But I hope to have all that testing done in-house sometime next year.

ISTRC's board of technical advisers includes Dr. James Beard of Texas A&M, retired University of Rhode Island Professor Richard Skogley, The Toro Co. Vice President James Watson and others.

## Two families purchase Pine Forest GC in Texas

Mike Wedding and John Zech of Sunwest Investments have bought Pine Forest Golf Club in Bastrop, Texas.

The 18-hole course has five holes that border the Colorado River and covers about 150 acres in the subdi-

vision. The 3,000-square-foot clubhouse has a pro shop, offices and food and beverage service.

Golf cars have been replaced with new gas models. Major renovations and expansions have been made to the irrigation system to improve

turf conditions on the course and driving range.

Some new concrete car paths have been built and more are planned with more convenient routin. The interior of the clubhouse sports a fresh coat of paint.

Pine Forest is a semi-private golf club. The Tahitian Village Club, with lodging, swimming, tennis and clubhouse, remains under current ownership.

The families are actively involved in daily operations of Pine Forest.



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Samoset Golf Resort  
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**Gary Dalton and the Cushman Quick Aerator**  
San Diego Country Club  
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**Joe Hahn, CGCS, and the Vicon Spreader**  
Oak Hill Country Club  
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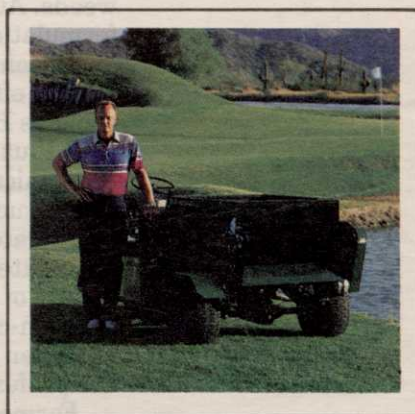
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