

Builders add education and certification to conference

ST. LOUIS — Two days of educational sessions and a cocktail reception on the eve of the PGA Championship will highlight the annual membership meeting of the Golf Course Builders Association of America, Aug. 12-14 at Doubletree Hotel here.

The semi-annual conference of golf course construction contractors and specialists will be the first with a formal tie to the PGA of America's premier tournament.

"We held the meeting last summer at the PGA because the time and place — Crooked Stick in Carmel — were convenient. But the tie seemed so natural that we've formalized the relationship for the next three years," said Phil Arnold, GCGBAA executive vice president.

GCGBAA President Jerry Pierman added: "Our annual winter meeting is at the International Golf Course Conference and Show with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the people who maintain the courses our members build. So it seems fitting that we also meet regularly with golf professionals, the people who have the closest relationship with the ultimate users of golf courses."

Thursday morning's educational session will focus on the Allied Associations of Golf, featuring speakers from the PGA of America, United States Golf Association, Club Managers Association of America, GCSAA and the Society of Golf Course Architects.

"With the recent explosion of golf course construction, many of our members have been so busy building courses that they haven't had time to learn about the other professions that make up the golf industry, particularly those who move onto a course after it is built," Arnold said. "This session should bring them up date."

Already committed is Jim Snow, director of the USGA Green Section, who is expected to confer with the builders about revisions to the USGA's construction recommendations.

Friday's activities will feature educational sessions devoted to recent scientific and technological development affecting the construction industry. In addition to a presentation by noted agronomist Dr. J. Kevin Mathias of the University of Maryland, several of the GCBAA associate members will speak briefly.

Final item on the agenda is Friday afternoon's two-hour written certification examination for members who have completed all other steps in the application process to become a Certified Golf Course Builder.

Jack Nicklaus' addition to Reynolds Plantation opens

Great Waters GC hailed as challenging 18 for Georgia community on Lake Oconee

GREENSBORO, Ga. — The Jack Nicklaus-designed Great Waters Golf Club at Reynolds Plantation on Lake Oconee opened July 11.

Great Waters, which takes its name from the English translation of the Indian word "oconee," is a par-72 layout stretching 7,062 yards from the back tees. The course features nine holes directly along or across the waters of the 19,000-acre Lake Oconee. Great Waters began accepting non-member play on July 20.

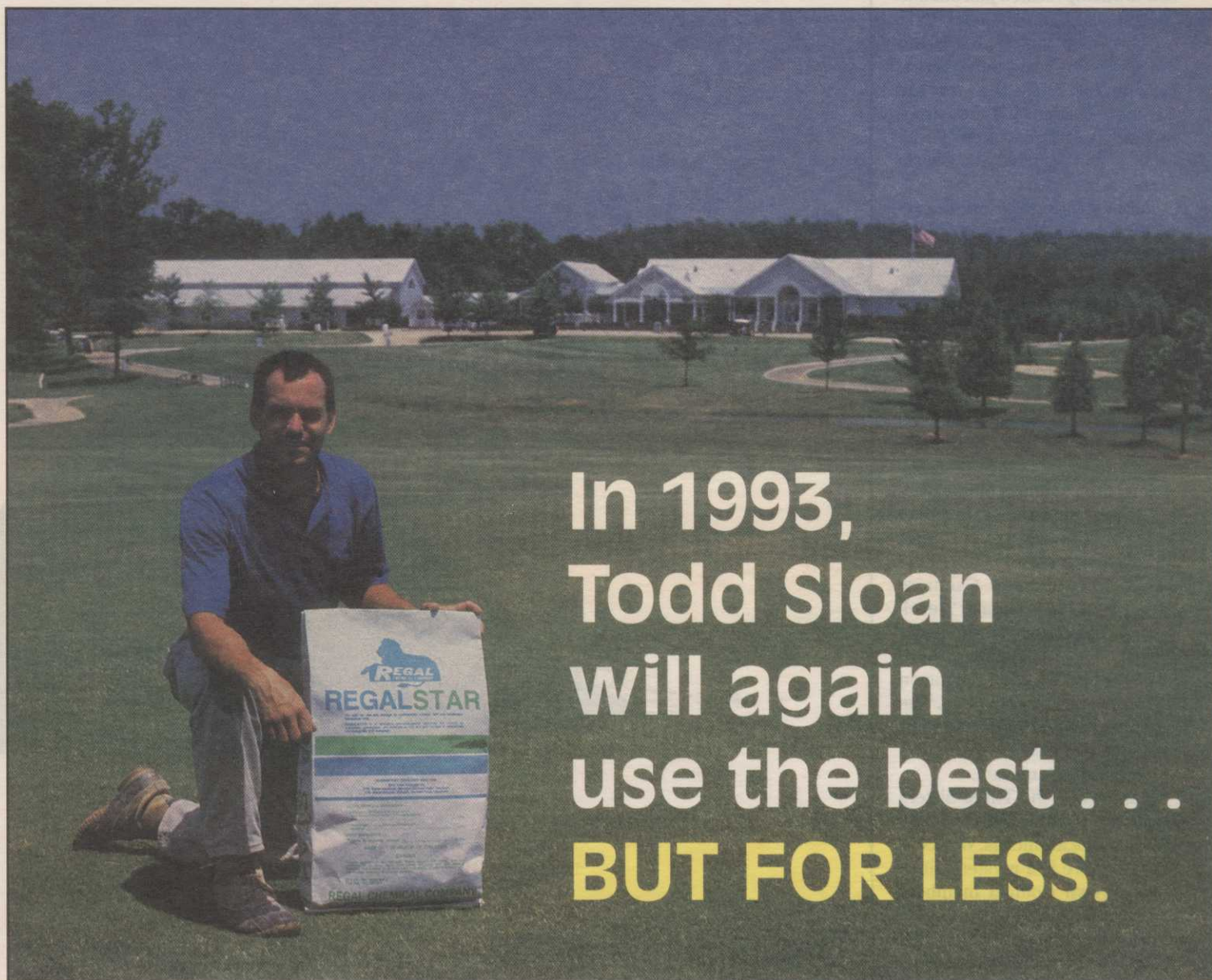
"All of us at Reynolds Plantation are ex-

tremely proud of what Jack Nicklaus has created at Great Waters," said community president William Peacher. "We gave him a spectacular piece of land and he turned it into an even more spectacular golf course."

Two holes in particular may claim more than their share of the accolades. One is the 11th, a par-4 of 358 yards from the back tees that plays downhill toward a green set on a peninsula. In fine-tuning the design, Nicklaus actually shortened the hole slightly in an effort to tempt the longer hitters to attempt the ultimate, driving the green.

The 18th, a 544-yard par-5 bordered along the left side by Lake Oconee, provides a dramatic finish. The long tee shot forces a decision whether to lay up to the right side, leaving a short third shot over a cove, or "go for it" in two in an attempt to score an eagle. For the bold player, however, getting home in two requires a long second shot that must carry the inlet of the lake as well as the distinctive grey stone wall that buttresses the green.

Complementing the course is an extensive practice area, complete with practice greens and bunkers.



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