

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

Canadian Report

Supertendents from north of the border gather in Halifax for their annual conference & trade show ...38

Golf Asia '93

Stephen Allen, organizer of the region's largest trade show, updates readers on the Asian marketplace ... 69

Confronting the Elements

A small tornado touches down on the Monterey Peninsula, while drought plagues the rest of the West 4



BEST OF THE BEST

In an exclusive *Golf Course News* poll, the Ocean Course at Kiawah, a Pete Dye creation, has been named the top public seaside course to open in the last five years. The *Golf Course News* 1992 awards section begins on page 56.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Spotlight on the superintendents' Tour of Duty25
New compost may render fungicides obsolete25
Keeping track: Where They're Going31

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

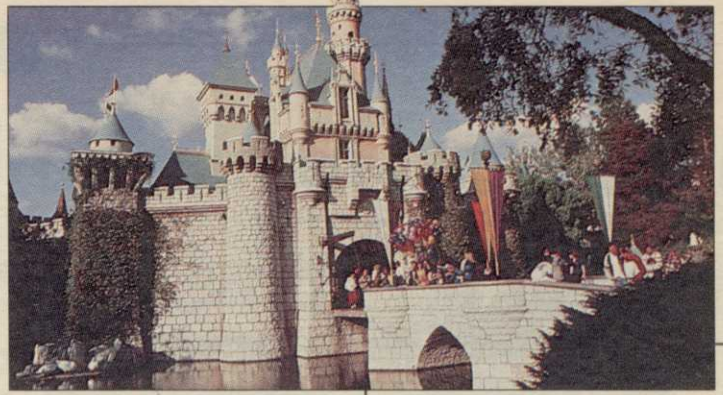
Focus on the Maples family41,30
Golf course development in Croatia? You bet41
New Literature: Combatting misinformation38,39

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Who cares for courses gone Chapter 11?61
A bizarre lawsuit settled in Anchorage61
Course managers & owners to meet in Feb.62,63

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Jake & Toro tackle retro-fit greens roller market...69
Issue Five takes a dive in Ohio70
Reorganization effort takes hold at Ransomes74



Special Show Section,
pages 17-24

Supers descend on Anaheim

By PETER BLAIS

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Guess what, folks. This year's winner of the GCSAA's highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award, will be there to receive her plaque.

Business kept last year's recipient, golfer Tom Watson, away from the New Orleans ceremony. Knowing he would not be able to personally receive the award, Watson requested the association give it to someone else.

But the group decided Watson was their man and honored him anyway. Although he taped an acceptance speech shown during the annual banquet, the five-time British Open champ's absence was definitely noticeable.

Continued on page 24

GCSAA faces opposition on proposed bylaw changes

By PETER BLAIS

This year's GCSAA annual meeting promises to be anything but a ho-hum affair. The proposed bylaw changes will see to that.

Recommendations to give the board of directors authority to set dues, get rid of delegate voting, change from a two-thirds to simple majority rule, and restructure membership classes have drawn fire and support from around the country.

The Organizational Study Committee recommended and the board of directors unanimously endorsed the changes, according to GCSAA President Bill Roberts.

Still, some board candidates, former association officers and members

have expressed reservations about the changes.

"Many people feel like these are being rammed down their throats," said board of director candidate George Renault of Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md. "They could all be voted down. It just stresses the need for better communication with the membership."

Board candidate Dave Fearis of Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., explained that the board has simply endorsed bringing the proposed changes before the membership for a vote rather than endorsing the actual changes themselves.

"Whether they pass or fail, they have the members interested and ac-

Continued on page 22



Revised green construction specs forthcoming

By MARK LESLIE

Major changes in the U.S. Golf Association greens construction specifications, to be unveiled this month, will save developers money and time, according to USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow.

New guidelines will be released in January following a "thorough, scientific" 18-month review of the

After an 18-month review, USGA to release new guidelines this month

USGA's controversial construction recommendations by agronomists, scientists, architects, industry personnel and soil laboratory personnel.

Snow believes golf course builders, architects and developers will be happy with the results,

which will be available in a rough version in January and in a booklet come late winter or early spring.

Central to the changes is the intermediate pea-gravel layer, known as the choker layer, which Snow termed "controversial, not in terms of agronomics, but in terms

of money."

"I believe most of the time the choker layer is left out of the construction," Snow said. "We have found good specs for determining when you need it or not" based on particle size distribution of the root-zone mix."

The recommendations place more stress on laboratory tests, especially in

Continued on page 52

Low Country courses take proactive environmental tack

By HAL PHILLIPS

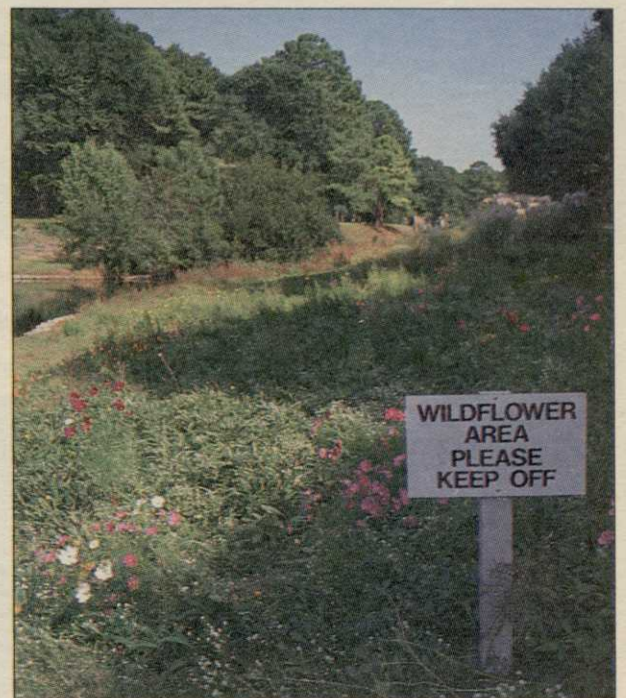
HILTON HEAD, S.C. — The words "coastal council" are enough to scare some golf course owners and developers half to death. However, a proactive approach taken in the Low Country of South Carolina has shown that regulators

and course owners can work together, to the benefit of all concerned.

Mike Tinkey is chief operating officer of Royal Golf & Tennis, Ltd. which manages 81 holes in and around Hilton Head. Since 1989, Tinkey has overseen a slew of environmental improvements: lagoon naturalization, bird sanctuaries, above-ground fuel storage, wildflower plantings, and conversion to irrigation using 100 percent effluent. All this was done with the active blessing of regulatory agencies.

"We went to the agencies and said, 'This is what we're

Continued on page 65



Wildflower beds on the 4th hole at the Barony Course are among 4.5 acres planted on the Port Royal/Shipyard courses on Hilton Head.