

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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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.

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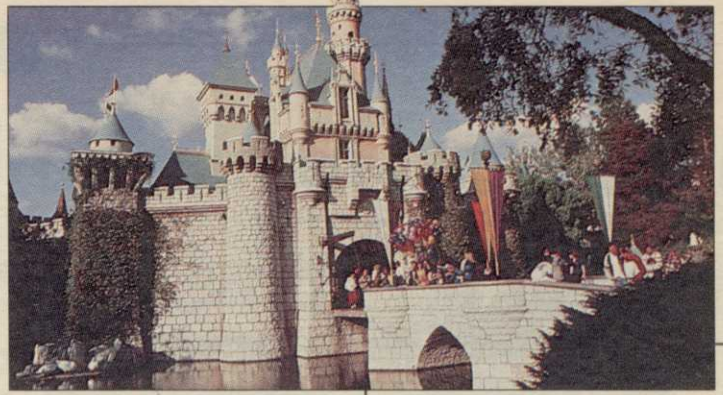
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Supers descend on Anaheim

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.

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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-

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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

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Low Country courses take proactive environmental tack

By HAL PHILLIPS

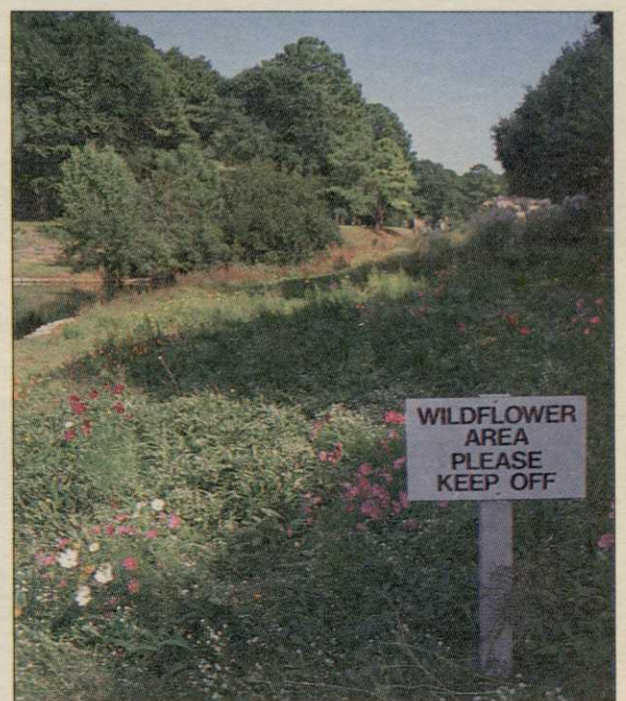
HILTON HEAD, S.C. — The words "coastal council" are enough to scare some golf course owners and developers half to death. However, a proactive approach taken in the Low Country of South Carolina has shown that regulators

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

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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.

USGA expect specs to save money and time

Continued from page 1

determining the size gravel "best suited for the soil mix you've got," Snow said. "That could save you a lot more in construction, particularly in parts of the country where this gravel is hard to find, and also the time of putting in the intermediate layer — usually by hand.

"Now we have very specific, well-developed recommendations based on engineering specs, that tell you exactly what you need to avoid infiltration into the gravel bed."

A second major change is the range for acceptable particle sizes in the choker layer has been expanded from between 1 and 2 millimeters to 1 and 4 millimeters.

This is a big money-saver, Snow said.

"Builders have had to pay

maybe \$50 a yard to have the gravel sieved. And sometimes it had to be trucked great distances. One to four millimeters should work just as well, and in some cases maybe better.

"Our studies show it's an improvement in terms of agronomics — and cost-wise it will be much easier to find that material."

A third major change creates common protocols in laboratory procedures.

"The consensus is that this is the way to go," Snow said. "The

labs will agree to abide by these protocols, so we will have procedures that are better. Labs will have to retool a little bit. But they should have similar results."

Dr. Norm Hummel, associate professor at Cornell University, spent the 1991-92 school year on sabbatical leave with the Green Section to determine the reasons for laboratory inconsistencies and update and standardize lab procedures; and to review scientific literature and recommend modifications to specifications on green

'Now we have very specific, well-developed recommendations based on engineering specs, that tell you exactly what you need to avoid infiltration into the gravel bed.'

— Jim Snow, USGA Green Section



construction and sand-based root-zone mixtures.

An Advisory Committee of American and British experts gave input throughout the process.

"We've tried to get the best

minds working on this, to get a consensus on the best scientific knowledge today," Snow said. "Not everyone agreed on every tiny detail. But, overall, it was remarkable how much agreement there was."

Construction adds dimensions to Pavilion Lakes

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Eight new holes, four new lakes and a stream have been added during the redesign and reconstruction of the newest championship golf course in the Valley, The Pavilion Lakes Golf Club and Learning Academy. Formerly Pima Golf Club, the 6,523-yard course is under new management and underwent extensive renovation for its November 1992 opening.

Vestar Development Corp. hired the golf management company of Vickers-Kopplin and Associates to manage the courses.

"Our goal is to provide the highest quality, most reasonably priced golf facilities found anywhere in the Valley," said Jeff Mongon, project director of Vestar Development Corp. "We contracted with Vickers-Kopplin because of their involvement with quality and service-oriented clubs like Desert Mountain and Desert Highlands. The customer will experience the benefits of their expertise at the golf course."

Niebur, Hurdzan work in Ohio, Ill.

ATLANTA — Niebur Golf, Inc. and Hurdzan Design Group have combined work on two projects.

The daily fee Ann Briar Golf Course, Waterloo, Ill., has been grassed. Steve Maas has been hired as grow-in superintendent. Opening is this summer.

Niebur and Hurdzan will build a daily-fee course in Ashville, Ohio. Construction began in June. Nine holes will be completed in October, with the second nine to be finished next summer.

Cook Creek will be owned by PGA Tour golfer John Cook and his family. Cook's father, Jim, is president of Championship Management Corp., which will manage the facility.

Comments like these:

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Dave Gilfoil, Superintendent,
HAYDEN LAKE COUNTRY CLUB,
Hayden Lake, ID

"Poly-S works great. We've eliminated one fairway application with it and plan on using it in the fall after a ryegrass overseeding."

John Hoofnagle, Superintendent,
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Aurora, CO

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Rob Stambaugh, Superintendent,
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Joe Fordin, Superintendent,
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The best thing about Poly-S is that it performs as promised. Its unique, patented multiple coating system assures higher nutrient efficiency (no unreleased nitrogen) and consistent, extended residual for better greening without surge growth. And because Poly-S offers

"We've been very impressed with the product's spreadability and uniformity."

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"I really like the color Poly-S gives my fairways and the even greening."

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"We have been very satisfied with Poly-S. It's given us consistently good performance with good, even color."

Pat Holt, Superintendent,
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"Excellent response and longevity. We're very pleased with Poly-S."

Thomas Schlick, Superintendent,
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Scott Venable, Superintendent,
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the capability for selecting specific release rates, it has proven its effectiveness under a variety of agronomic conditions in every region of the country.

Poly-S is making a difference on courses nationwide, but the only proof that really matters is on your own turf. For more information about Poly-S fertilizers, contact your Scott Tech Rep today. Or call 1-800-543-0006.

"It's working even better than we expected. With applications in late January and May, we're seeing a 65 to 75-day residual."

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"The new Poly-S fertilizers are more economical and have a higher nutrient availability"

William Twig, Superintendent,
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"Poly-S is a good product. It spreads real nice and holds color real well. The residual lasted three months for us."

Scott Fischer, Superintendent,
JUPITER ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB,
Hobe Sound, FL

"Poly-S spread so easily that our application rates required downsizing"

Brian Conklin, Superintendent,
GRAYLING COUNTRY CLUB,
Grayling, MI

"I really like Poly-S. It gives you slow, lengthy release and good greening. And the spreadability is great. No dust, no odor problem. It performs well with the extreme temperatures we get here in the desert."

Bill Rohret, Superintendent,
SUNRISE COUNTRY CLUB,
Las Vegas, NV



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