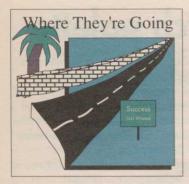
MAINTENANCE



Jack Archer, the man behind the greens at Marcus Pointe Golf Club in Pensacola, Fla., has accepted the head superintendent's position at TimberCreek, a residential golf community under construction in

Palmer Maples

Continued from previous page

Over that time, he has seen immense changes in the expertise of superintendents and the tools at their disposal.

He particularly pointed to improved chemicals, an array of much-advanced machinery, and a wide selection of grasses that are more tolerant to drought, heat, cold and wear.

"The education of superintendents has grown a lot," he said. "When I came in in the late '50s, maybe one-third had a college education. Through the '60s and '70s more universities started offering training. Today, maybe four-fifths have an education."

The availability of chemicals, he said, has had the greatest impact "raising the level of maintenance at every course."

"We used to have 2,4-D for weed control. That was all," he said. "But, now you have all the post- and pre-emergent chemicals, and you can just about select any one particular grass you'd like to clean out of another. One of the improvements that brought bentgrass to the South was controlling the diseases."

Advancement of equipment, particularly the riding greensmower, was another breakthrough, Palmer said.

Suddenly, one man could cut all the greens in the time it used to take four men. You could use less men on the course, or use those men for additional maintenance procedures.

"We have many, many more tools at our disposal."

Maples had two suggestions for would-be sup-erintendents:

Know as much about how the turfgrass plant grows as you can.
Have patience — with people,

with equipment, with the organization you're working for.

"The superintendent has to realize that he's working with nature. He has to grow it. He can't go out, put up 2-by-4s and sheet rock and paint it. He has to put seed in the ground, have it come up, mow it, treat it tenderly.

"And in due time it will be a good turf to play golf on. For the owner who says, 'Let's get that grass out there now, we want to open now,' you're going to have to have patience." Baldwin County, Ala. Ground was broken at TimberCreek in May 1992, and the 18-hole course is scheduled to open in the fall of 1993. "They're taking their time and trying not to rush the construction," Archer said. "It's going to be a great facility and I'm looking forward to getting in on the project early."

When it comes to changing scenery, **John Farley** doesn't mess around. "I'm going to Guam," he writes. Farley recently left Bidwell Park Golf Course, an 18-hole facility in Chico, Calif., for Guam's Leo Palace Country Club, where he will be assistant superintendent. **Russ Krok** replaced Farley as head superintendent at Bidwell Park.

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Gary Grigg, a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America board of directors, is now at Naples (Fla.) National Golf Club. Grigg was formerly superintendent at Genoa Lakes Golf Club in Genoa, Nev.

Darren J. Davis has been named superintendent at the Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla. Davis, a Penn State grad, had previously been assistant superintendent at The Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter, Fla., and a spray technician at Augusta National and G o 1 d e n Eagle Country Club in Tallahassee. Olde Florida,

Tallahassee. Darren Davis Olde Florida, a Rees Jones design, is scheduled to open for play in mid-1993.

Personnel changes in the state of Georgia are coming fast and furious. **Michael Hammonds** has joined Newnan Country Club in Newnan under head superintendent

Jim Miller.

Meanwhile, **Andy Troutner** has been named assistant superintendentunder **Steven Sellen** at River's Edge Golf Course in Fayetteville.

Finally, **Matt Jones**, head super at the new Stone Creek Golf Club in Valdosta, has hired two new assistants, **Bryan Griffin** and **Ivey Dyal**.

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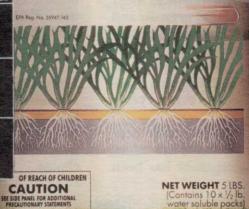
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