

# Tour of Duty

**THOMAS BATY**  
 Indian Wells Country Club  
 Indian Wells, Calif.  
**Bob Hope Chrysler Classic**  
 Feb. 16-20, ESPN/NBC

*How often does a turfgrass student fresh out of college get a chance to work on a major golf course project designed by a pre-eminent architect? Tom Baty did. A Michigan native who graduated from Michigan State University in 1986, Baty went straight to work on PGA West's (and Pete Dye's) Stadium Course in La Quinta, Calif. He was on the construction crew for two years. Receiving a promotion to assistant superintendent at the Stadium Course in 1989, Baty immediately picked up tournament experience by preparing the course for the Skins Game. He left for DeAnza Country Club in Parago Springs, Calif., in 1990, then joined Indian Wells in December 1992. It is both "exciting and fun" to gear up for a major tournament like this every year, he said.*

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** "Detail," Baty said. "Everything is detailed out — from the evenness of the cuts of the grass all the way down to the cracks in the sidewalk and the cart paths, which are cleaned out and edged. Tee markers are edged. It is the most immaculate you can get it." In October, Baty's crew overseeded the

Bermudagrass with perennial ryegrass — wall to wall.

A lot of extra time is spent to ensure the bunkers are "firm and tamped — not fluffy at all," he said. "They require a 1-1/2-inch lip so the players can't run a ball through it. They have to be hand-raked, not machine-raked."

For the turf, height of cut is the biggest difference from normal playing conditions. Greens must be cut to 1/8 inch and rolled so they Stimp at 11. Fairways are cut to below 1/2 inch and tees to 3/8 inch. Intermediate rough, normally 1-1/2 inches high, is cut to 3/4 inch, 60 inches wide. And the PGA Tour requires a walk path from tee box to the fairway, "so the players don't get their shoes wet," Baty said.

Crews roll the greens the days of the tournament and double-cut during the event. He is also trimming trees that would be in the way of play, "basically looking out from the tee."

And crews are taking a lot of extra filling of divots to make sure there are no holes in the fairway.

**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:** "I don't care about TVs. We're looking for ideal conditions for the players," Baty said.

He does, however, apply iron. Foliar applications were started in December, he said.

**THOMAS ALEX**  
 Grand Cypress' North-South Course  
 Orlando, Fla.  
**LPGA's Chrysler-Plymouth  
 Tournament of Champions**  
 March 2-5, Sunshine Network/NBC

*A 1981 graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School of Agriculture, Alex worked at the TPC of Jacksonville from 1981-83 as an irrigation technician, spray technician, assistant and acting superintendent. He not only got his feet wet, "I went swimming," he said. He joined Grand Cypress during construction of its first course in June 1983. Grand Cypress now boasts 45 holes.*



Tom Alex

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** The course will be overseeded with perennial ryegrass wall to wall — "not a practice huge in Florida," Alex said. "When it's as green and striped up as it is, superintendents will know."

Alex's crew, which will grow to 30 by drawing on groundskeepers from the other two courses, won't rake the bunkers. "We'll broom them," he said. The greenside bunkers will be hand-broomed so there will be no furrows. A broom attachment will be dragged over the fairway bunkers. This is another practice not widely done.

The championship tees and the practice facility the pros will use are protected from play a month before the tournament and the agronomic programs were in place. Green cutting heights will be reduced from 9/64th to 7/64 or 1/8, depending on green speed. The LPGA wants the greens to Stimp at 10 to 11.

"Our overseeding will be mature naturally. We'll have to push the ryegrass a little more. But densities, cutting heights and things of that nature are close," Alex

Continued on next page

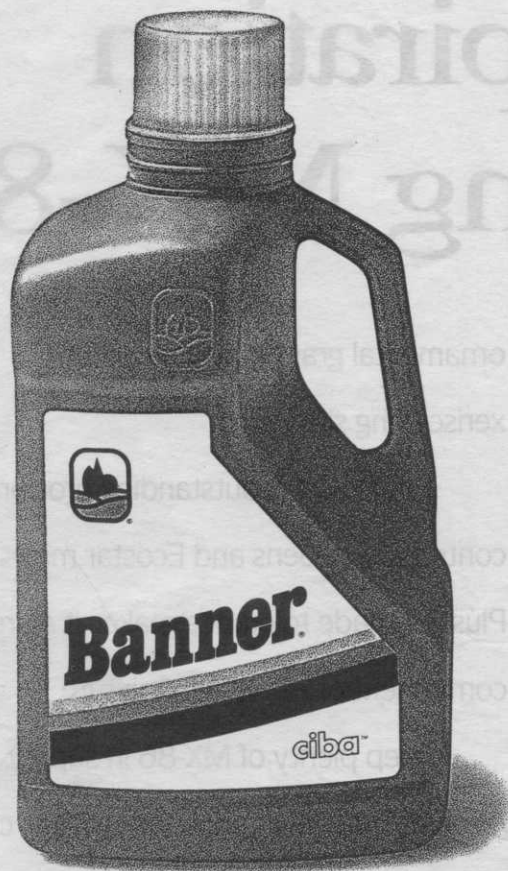
**DICK ANDERSON**  
 TPC at Tampa Bay  
 Tampa Bay, Fla.  
**Senior Tour's GTE  
 Suncoast Classic**  
 Feb. 10-13, ESPN

*If hosting 136,000 spectators and a group of demanding Senior Tour players can be "just another day at the office" for anybody, it is for Dick Anderson. Anderson, 49, and his crew keep TPC at Tampa Bay at tournament conditions year-round. "We have stringent guidelines for maintenance operations and we must exceed them daily. Members expect this from us," Anderson said. "Not that much crash work we have to do for the Classic." A Rhode Island native and 1964 graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School with a degree in turfgrass management, Anderson "grew in" TPC at Tampa in 1990 and has hosted two previous Suncoast Classics. The superintendent at Burning Tree Club in Maryland for 12 years, Anderson moved on to Indian Wells and prepared for three Bob Hope Classics from 1978-80. He grew in Jack Nicklaus' Pawleys Plantation Golf Course on Pawleys Island, S.C., in 1986 and remained there before leaving for Tampa Bay.*

"The tough part of this event is the nighttime maintenance," Anderson said, explaining that his course is one of few that has double shotgun (at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.) both Wednesday and Thursday for area executives and the touring pros. "Most of our maintenance those days is done at night," he said.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** Notice the severe mounding for spectators on every hole of this stadium course peppered with 16 lakes and 83 bunkers. Extremely cold weather in December and January pushed the roughs into totally dormancy, "making a striking contrast from the overseeded tees, greens and fairways," Anderson said. The

Continued on next page



**IT DOES A NUMBER  
 ON SUMMER PATCH. NOT  
 ON YOUR WATER BILL.**

Unlike some fungicides, Banner® needs no watering-in to be effective. So use it, and you won't get soaked.

©1994 Ciba-Geigy Corp., Turf and Ornamental Products. Banner is a registered trademark of Ciba-Geigy Corp. Always read and follow label directions.

**Introducing the new  
 TEKK T-20**

The TEKK T-20 is a hot new high power VHF 2 watt radio. It is perfectly suited to job sites, highway repair and other industrial communications tasks.

The T-20 has all the features and options of units costing twice as much. The T-20 is the lowest priced commercial radio you can buy with 2 watts, slide-in CTCSS option and remote speaker/mic jack.

**\$129<sup>00</sup> each**  
 (on stock frequencies)

**Call Nationwide Toll-Free  
 1-800-527-1670**

214-680-9750  
 Fax: 214-349-8950

**PAGE COM**

## Handbook on IPM for turf released

Lewis publishers has released *Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals*.

With more than 40 recognized experts, the book details the rationale and benefits of employing an IPM plan, as well as providing technical information on each aspect of plan development.

This handbook integrates research work on pest problems with information on the practical implementation of the tools, and provides case studies of successful operations. Topics covered include the dynamics of the urban landscape, preparation for a healthy landscape, blemishes on the perfect landscape, integrated management of weeds, insects and disease, biological controls (current and those under development), and new generation chemical controls. Additional areas include special considerations for golf courses, and combining the pieces to develop an integrated pest management plan.

It is available for \$95 from Lewis Publishers, 2000 Corporate Blvd., NW, Boca Raton, Fla. 33431: 800-272-7737.

## Off the Record

# UGa data makes aerification decisions easier

Continued from page 15

rates of up to 96 percent greater than the compacted control.

Precautions are advisable to avoid injury to existing roots from the vigorous action of the tines of these cultivation tools. From this information, it would appear timing of Verti-drain treatments on a cool-season turfgrass should be done in the early spring and mid-fall just prior to the times of maximum root growth. Warm-season cultivation timing is less critical, but two weeks after spring green-up would be ideal for the most vigorous



Patrick O'Brien

treatment. Summer Verti-drain treatments did reduce root density in the upper 12 inches on Bermudagrass, although Bermudagrass can still continue new root development at this time.

Turfgrass managers now have data from this University of Georgia study to help with aerification decisions on fine-textured soil sites with surface compaction.

A vigorous Verti-drain and core cultivation program can significantly improve turfgrass water use efficiency by enhancing water uptake from deeper soil zones.

## Tour of Duty

Continued from previous page

### Tom Alex

reported.

**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:** "This is our advertising," Alex said. "We want to make sure it's as pretty and playable as possible. We want it in some of the best conditions the LPGA will play on."

Since NBC will broadcast 3-1/2 hours of coverage, Alex expects "we'll have at least nine holes and cameras to worry about." In late January Alex had a walkthrough to discover where TV cameras would be set up. "We're going to be worried about TV angles — whether it be outside the course, or flowers. If a striping pattern is going toward a camera, we'll make sure it hits it right on."

### Dick Anderson

Bermudagrass was overseeded with ryegrass on tees and fairways and poa trivialis on greens. Poa trivialis is a hardy and fine-bladed grass plant that putts well. Also, the course has 11 miles of cart paths crews have to keep edged and 6-1/2 acres of landscape beds that must be edged and re-mulched.

After the event it takes four to six weeks "to get back to normal" agronomically, Anderson said. "We aerify the trampled areas and add fertilizer to get the grass growing vigorously again.

"But, the biggest thing is the Monday morning after. You come out to the course and no one is here. It's a big let-down. It's like putting on a circus, I guess," he said.

**MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:** Starting the first of the year, crews every two weeks treat the overseeded areas with chelated iron and liquid fertilizer for consistent color throughout the course.

Also six weeks out, they start burning in the fairway striping and begin rolling the greens every third day. On tournament week they double cut and roll daily.

# You probably never expected to think about shop towels today.

If you've ever had hydraulic motor problems, you know how dangerous a little piece of lint might be. That's why we worked with Johnson & Johnson® to create Gem Wipe™, a great new low-lint towel specifically made for golf course maintenance. ♦ Gem Wipes are remarkably strong and durable, thanks to their unique fiber structure and high-performance, non-woven construction. Since they're compatible with all industrial cleaners, they're perfect for heavy-duty cleaning and general maintenance around the shop. And because they can be used several times before discarding, they're economical, too. Best of all, Gem Wipes are non-abrasive and low-linting, so they're as safe as they are strong! ♦ If you're currently using laundry service towels or ordinary disposables, you owe it to your hydraulics to give Gem Wipes a try. For more information, contact your nearby Standard Golf distributor. We think you'll be very pleasantly surprised!

**Low-linting and non-abrasive, our new Gem Wipe™ is the perfect alternative to laundry service towels and ordinary disposables.**

**STANDARD GOLF Pro Line**

Standard Golf Company  
P.O. Box 68  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613  
U.S.A.  
319-266-2638  
FAX 319-266-9627

SG-183

CIRCLE #119/BOOTH #2932

