

# Mongoven takes over Everglades GCSA presidency

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — Mike Mongoven, assistant director of golf for the city of Fort Myers, has been elected president of the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association (EGCSA).

He heads a slate of officers that includes Vice President Tad Altman of Naples' Stonebridge Country Club, Treasurer Steve Durand of Quail Creek Country Club in Naples and Secretary Rick Tatum of

The Forest Country Club in Fort Myers.

Gary Grigg of Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples was elected external vice president; and Dale Walters of Naples' Royal Palm Country Club was elected EGCSA's delegate to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Elected to the board of directors and as committee chairmen were Walter Owisany

of Audubon Country Club in Naples, membership; Jerry Belyea of Cape Coral's Royal Tee Country Club, education/programs; Terry Wood of Naples' Royal Wood Golf & Country Club, past president/bylaws; Brad Walters, sales manager of Golf Ventures, Inc., of Fort Myers, social and special events; and Tim Denton, sales representative of Boynton Pump & Irrigation Supply in Naples, golf.

## Design/maintenance

Continued from previous page

Again, the designer and superintendent should talk about every detail of the planting specification.

Even grow-in procedures should be mutually agreed upon. If the contractor is responsible for more than planting the turf, a detailed maintenance specification would be appropriate. Usually the superintendent prefers to assume this responsibility rather than worry about if the contractor is following procedures to get the quickest maturation.

Sodding the entire course, or at least sodding all bluegrass (or ryegrass or fescue) areas, is becoming more common. The reason is that sodding answers many environmental concerns, reduces the grow-in period from months to weeks, produces a better finished product, and often makes the best economic sense to the owners. Large-scale sodding of fast-germinating varieties like bentgrass, is much harder to justify because of cost, but sodding tee or green surfaces can be reasonably affordable, especially late in the planting season.

The above process takes time, study and understanding if properly done. However, a wrong choice can be very costly and a right choice can make a golf course spectacular. Therefore, the designer should be very deliberate and methodical in choosing turfgrass seed blends, consulting with superintendents, breeders, researchers, suppliers and users.

My point is that there is a strong relationship between design and maintenance with many influencing factors. It makes the proper choices easier when one remembers that maintenance is more important than design.

I don't believe there will ever be a supergrass that works on every site, that provides awesome playing conditions with a minimum amount of maintenance. We are certainly closer than 20 or 30 years ago, but such a breakthrough is still a long way off. So the alternative is the old-fashion way of designer and superintendent working together to develop specifications and design concepts that support the maintenance objective of each particular site. If the owner is reluctant to hire a superintendent early in the development process, he should retain the services of an agronomic consultant to assist the designer.

Legend has it that when Moses brought down the Ten Commandments, there were actually 11. The last one was lost and never made it into the Bible, but designers and superintendents concerned about maintenance should know it well. It reads: "As ye sow, so shall ye mow," which means that what you plant will determine how you must care for it. Choose wisely.

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