



The coquina shell sand at Kiawah Island resort's Ocean Course fits in as a natural substance, as well as one that compacts tightly, for the cart paths. The sand is available from a number of sand companies in the Carolinas.



ON THE GREEN

## A 'natural' solution to dusty cart paths

By MARK LESLIE

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C.— Superintendents on courses where golfers and the grounds crew eat dust while riding the cart paths have looked for a solution since oil-based products were outlawed.

Enter coquina shell sand.

The crushed-up shells, mixed with sand, are used extensively and effectively at The Ocean Course here.

"It was [course architect] Pete Dye's idea," recalled superintendent George Frye. "We wanted natural cart paths as one of the design features."

"Looking at this golf course, you couldn't imagine how you would put in cart paths because it seemed it would destroy the integrity of the course."

Although he hasn't seen it used

elsewhere on golf courses, Frye endorses coquina.

"For us, it packs in and fits the natural environment here and the overall presentation of the course. It also has aesthetic appeal," he said.

The only time Frye has experienced even "a little trouble" with his cart paths has been under extended, heavy rains — say, nine inches in 10 days. Then they must be regraded, he said.

Coquina shell sand is available, with varying quality, from sand companies. Frye said the price can vary depending on the supplier and trucking costs.

Though coquina might not "fit" the natural look of an inland or mountain course, "for a lot of people it can serve as a means of keeping dust down," Frye said.

## New York prepares for 50th-year expo

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), in cooperation with Cornell University, will celebrate its 50th year at the annual Turf and Grounds Exposition, on Nov. 9-11 at the OnCenter here.

The conference theme, "Committed to Excellence: Plants, People, The Environment, and You," exemplifies the overall commitment that NYSTA has made throughout its 50-year history.

The conference will feature more than 60 business and technical sessions addressing all aspects of the green industry — new product updates, golf turf,

lawn and landscape, grounds maintenance, sports turf, and equipment management.

The program has been restructured to provide interactive educational sessions.

Speakers from across the country will present the conference topics. Keynote speaker will be Brian Holloway, four-time All-Pro and holder of the NFL record for most consecutive plays from the line of scrimmage.

To obtain conference information, or exhibitor trade show material, people may call NYSTA at 800-873-8873.

## MSU mandates Spanish course for two-year students

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teaching students how to speak to Hispanics about the specific jobs they want them to do on the golf course; and learning the culture of the Spanish worker.

"I learned very quickly, visiting my students, that this [learning the culture] was extremely important," Rodgers said. "The superintendents who had good relationships were the ones who had understanding and respect for this culture."

The idea, he said, "is not so much that students are going to be able to speak Spanish, but they will have the confidence to initiate conversations because, obvi-

ously, they are going to learn it on the job."

The reputation of Hispanic workers is growing in the golf industry.

"I think it's categorical," Rodgers said. "Some superintendents will pointblank say that they will hire no one else but Hispanics for their crews."

MSU's turfgrass program contains slightly more than 200 students. Rodgers said two years ago 17 were enrolled in the Spanish class. That grew to 30 last year, and he expects 50 this fall.

It has been taught by Marco Dias, a PhD student in the Spanish Department.

