If you go down to the woods today, you’re in for a big surprise. If you go down to the woods today, you won’t believe your eyes...

Those lyrics are from a song called The Teddy Bears’ Picnic and were part of the theme song for a 1950’s Saturday morning radio show.

Well, if you go down to the woods today on US Highway 98 between Brooksville and Homosassa Springs, you will be in for a nice surprise in the form of the World Woods Golf Club. You won’t believe your eyes as you ride through this beautiful golf course. It is another Fazio Design Group triumph located in West Central Florida just a hop, skip, and a John Daly drive from Fazio’s renowned Black Diamond Ranch golf course.

The World Woods Golf Club, like Black Diamond Ranch, is located in the limestone quarry district of Florida, but this time Mr. Fazio and company molded their designs to fit the rolling sandy hills, piney woods, and oak forests of the World Woods site. There are a few rocky outcrops accenting the landscape to remind you that the quarries are nearby.

What the golfing guests will find are two strikingly different 18-hole courses — Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks — and a 70-acre
World Woods
between
Brooksville and Homosassa Springs

Name: World Woods Golf Club
Location: Between Brooksville and Homosassa Springs, Florida
Owner: Mr. Yukihisa Inoue, Nagoya, Japan
Acting General Manager: Stan Cooke
Golf Professional: Mark Richards
Playing policies: Public play
Designed by: Fazio Golf Course Designers, Inc.
Construction: Pine Barrens Course by Central Florida Turf. Rolling Oaks Course and the Practice Facility by Wadsworth Golf Construction
Opened: February 1993

Two 18-hole championship courses, Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks. A state-of-the-art Practice Facility consisting of a 9-hole short course; 3 practice holes; a 22-acre, four-sided practice park; and a 55,000 sq. ft. putting green.

Total Acreage: Pine Barrens (105 with 20 acres in bahiagrass); Rolling Oaks (126 with 30 acres in bahiagrass); Practice Facility (60 with 7 acres in bahiagrass).

Tees: Pine Barrens (3.4 acres, 79 tee boxes); Rolling Oaks (5.8 acres); Practice Facility (5.7 acres). All tees are Tifway 419 hybrid bermuda. They are maintained at a height of 1/2 inch. All tees are overseeded with Lesco’s Eagle I Blend at a rate of 15 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Greens: Pine Barrens (2.8 acres, average 6,200 sq. ft.); Rolling Oaks (3.8 acres, average 6,400 sq. ft.); Practice Facility (Short Course and 3 hole Practice Course - 1.7 acres, average 6,010 sq. ft.); Putting Course (55,000 sq. ft.). All greens are Tifdwarf hybrid bermuda. They are maintained at a height of 5/32 - 9/64 inches. Green speeds range from 9.0 in the winter to 8.0 in the summer. All greens are overseeded in the fall with Pennlinks bentgrass at a rate of 6 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Fairways: Pine Barrens (55 acres); Rolling Oaks (38 acres); Practice Facility (29 acres). All fairways are Tifway 419 hybrid bermuda. They are cut at 1/2 inch. The 15-acre practice park fairway is not overseeded. The rest of the fairways are overseeded with Lesco’s Eagle I Blend at a rate of 300 lbs. per acre.

Roughs: Pine Barrens (25 acres); Rolling Oaks (50 acres); Practice Facility (13 acres). The rough areas are a combination of Tifway 419 bermuda mowed at 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches, and bahiagrass transitional areas (Pine Barrens - 20 acres) mowed at 3 - 4 inches in the summer. Rolling Oaks is the only course that overseeds its roughs using Transtar Intermediate at 250 lbs. per acre. There are approximately 40 acres of native sand “waste bunkers” on the Pine Barrens course. There is also approximately 3 acres of centipedegrass used to contrast the bermuda and bahia areas on the Short Course and Practice Course. It is mowed at 2 - 3 inches during the summer.

Irrigation System: Toro Network 8000 with 61 satellite boxes. Head to head coverage provided by 3,100 Toro 640, 650, and 680 heads. There is a dual head system around the greens so the putting surfaces can be watered individually according to USGA guidelines. There are over 350 quick couplervalves which were used heavily during landscape installation.

Pumping System: PSI Variable Frequency Drive @ 4,000 GPM.
Water Source: Three 10 inch wells.
Staff: 41, which includes:
Superintendents: Bob Wagner, Pine Barrens; Steve Hritsko, Rolling Oaks
Assistant Superintendents: Bob Roessing, Pine Barrens; Ryan Weaver, Rolling Oaks; John Hoffman, Practice Facility.
Head Equipment Technician - Brian Scull; Asst. Equipment Technicians - John Dottori; Brian Layle; Neil Pare'.
Spray Technicians: Brian Schaffer, Pine Barrens; Rory Mudge, Rolling Oaks; T. J. Orednick, Practice Facility.
Irrigation Manager, Mark Tooker, Rolling Oaks; Irr. Technician: Andrew Ryan, Pine Barrens.
Administrative Assistant: Valerie Omelian. “This lady does an outstanding job of coding and tracking expenses in our “Blue Book.” In addition, she is an expert at screening calls and unannounced visitors. We would be lost without her!” — Bob Wagner.
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parcel simply called the Practice Facility. This Practice Facility has every course owner/operator and teaching pro green with envy.

The Practice Facility consists of a 55,000-sq.-ft. putting green called the Putting Course; a three-hole Practice Course for lessons; a nine-hole Short Course made up mostly of par-3 holes with a couple of short par 4s mixed in for variety; and the piece de resistance is the four-sided, 22-acre Practice Park.

This park/range has clusters of tees around the perimeter. They are separated by landscaped beds and trees to break up the usual monster tee look. The landing areas of the park/range are also designed with target greens, sand bunkers, and trees. Additionally, there is an irons-only range located between the two first tees of each course, and a putting green at each of the first tees.

The total facility is well planned, well built, well equipped, and well staffed. The owner, Mr. Yukihsa Inoue, is to be commended, because he went to the “well” the right amount of times. It is refreshing to see an operation that has made the commitment to invest in total quality from the ground up. It will pay dividends in the future.

At Mr. Inoue’s insistence, there are no homesites along the courses. Future residential and guest areas will be located nearby, but out of sight from the course. Golfers who visit right now are served by a temporary pro shop and an open-air grill, but everyone seems to be charmed by the rustic “golf only” atmosphere for a

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Origin: Brooklyn, NY. Relocated to Pinellas County in 1981.
Family: Single. Faithful companion, Satchmo, an Italian Greyhound.
Education: A.S. Degree in Golf Course Operations from Lake City Community College.
Class of '87 ("The Stolons")
Goals: Become a certified superintendent in 1994/95. Become more involved in the Seven Rivers Chapter.
Memorable moments: (1) Member of the undefeated LCCC softball team, The Stolons, in 1987. "It was a good time in our lives. We still keep in touch and follow each other's progress in the industry." (2) Getting my first Asst. Supt. job upon graduation, and then realizing my education was just beginning! (3) Opening day from three clubs: Tampa Palms, Wentworth G.C., and World Woods. I have always had a sad feeling of loss the night before the openings. A special time is ending, but it is soon replaced with feelings of pride when you see players enjoying the fruits of your labor." (4) Being part of two very successful Envirotron Golf Classics.
Professional affiliations: Seven Rivers Chapter FGCSA; Florida Turfgrass Association; GCSAA

Water resource conservation was addressed in the design by using bahiagrass on tee slopes and transitional rough areas between the fairways and the surrounding woods. The unirrigated bahiagrass provides an appealing texture contrast and allows the tee tops to be watered with smaller heads.

change. A temporary clubhouse will be under construction soon.

Designed With Nature In Mind

 Portions of the 800 acres in Phase I are prime gopher tortoise habitat. World Woods has set aside 100 acres to be maintained exclusively for this Florida "species of special concern." During the clearing and construction phases, the World Woods staff held a voluntary tortoise roundup to move the reptiles out of harm's way. After construction was completed, they were returned to their old chomping grounds. World Woods will not use any pesticide with an LD50 rating of less than 200 to prevent any potential impact to the tortoise.

The maintenance staff will be challenged to keep nematode populations under manageable levels in the sandy soil areas. The staff will be checking the effectiveness of the new sesame seed-based nematicide, Nematrol, as an alternative product. Currently, the courses rotate being closed on
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Steve Hritsko
Ripon, Wis.

Family: Single
Hobbies and Interests: All sports, especially golf. Music. Aviation.
Goals: "To purchase a plot of land and design, build, and operate my own facility!"

Memorable moments: (1) The construction, grow-in, and opening of World Woods. (2) The day I was promoted to superintendent at Bardmoor’s Bayou Club. (3) The 1988 J. C. Penney LPGA/PGA Golf Classic. “Three days before the event a tropical storm destroyed the course, bleachers, tents, trees, and bunkers. Two days later, a long-time crew member committed suicide. Two days after that, my apartment was burglarized. After that, I became a believer in the adage that bad things come in threes!" (4) Hosting two successful Envirotron Golf Classics.
Professional Affiliations: Seven Rivers Chapter FGCSA; Florida Turfgrass Association; GCSAA.

Temporary signs locate tees and give directions. The staff is diligently looking for natural materials to use for permanent signage. The tee markers are similar to Augusta National’s — sawed-off tree limbs with a little dab of paint.
Environmental Leadership

Congratulations to the history making Tim Hiers and Matt Taylor of Collier’s Reserve Golf Course, WINDFOIL users that earned the first ever designation as an Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Course, and to WINDFOIL owners who earned a third of the GCSAA Environmental Stewardship Awards this year. Industry leaders choose the WINDFOIL to protect the environment, their operators, and to improve operational efficiency. Be a turf industry leader—use a WINDFOIL.

Management Leadership

GOLFCORP, a leading golf management company uses WINDFOIL Sprayers to protect the environment and their people while maximizing operational efficiency and management flexibility. Their Plantation Course, Frisco, Texas, earned a GCSAA Environmental Stewardship Award. GOLFCORP cared and GOLFCORP acted.

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Or place root zone pesticides, fertilizers, biologicals, soil amendments, separately or together and reduce surface exposure and runoff risk.
Pine Barrens

I had the pleasure of playing Pine Barrens and the Short Course during the Second Annual Envirotron Classic this past April. Pine Barrens is reminiscent of the pictures I have seen of the historic Pine Valley course in New Jersey. Superintendent Bob Wagner suggested that this design may have been Tom Fazio's testimony for his love of that course.

The 40 acres of native sandy “waste” bunkers offer a striking contrast of tan color to the green turf and trees. The bunkers also suggest a “target golf” feel to the design.

Intended to be low maintenance areas for labor, fuel, and water conservation, some of the bunkers have areas that wash out during heavy rainfall. Bob and his crew have addressed those problem areas with additional drains and reshaping and sodding of the bunker edges.

The Fazio people did comment that some erosion is not bad and alluded to erosion features and footpaths created at Pine Valley that have become unique characteristics of that course.

There is a concerted effort to minimize the use of anything artificial on the course. At first glance, I thought Bob and his staff had done such a great job grooming the course that I couldn’t imagine why they didn’t notice the grass and weeds growing in the cracks and crevices of the railroad-tie steps on some of the tees.

It turns out that the steps were seeded with centipede grass and the encroachment of vegetation is encouraged to help soften the angular look of the man-made steps.

Rolling Oaks

The Rolling Oaks course is more reminiscent of the classic designs of the Donald Ross era. There aren’t a lot of forced carries over hazards and the bunkering is more traditional with openings in front of the greens for run-up approach shots.

The eighth hole is the signature hole with a highly elevated tee on a hilltop overlooking a fairway that is bisected and...