Pesticides last hurdle for major Sherman Hollow project in Vermont

By Vern Putney
HUNTINGTON, Vt. — The proposed golf course at Sherman Hollow here, which since 1984 has suffered more rejections than 56 Atlanta Hawks guard Spike Webb attempting a scoop shot on basket-guarding Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks, tried for the umpteenth time to live up to the Tenth Commandment of the state Environmental Board.

The board held rigid to its dictum, "Thou shalt not permeate the ground with pesticides not meeting our standards."

Developer Paul Truax and Sherman Hollow Inc. associates, cleared on nine counts, have been relentless in pursuit of golf course approval, considered a necessary first phase to transform this chosen land into a destination resort, bedecked with a hotel, restaurant, conference center and swank condominiums.

The original project price tag was $22 million. Truax and partners, while declining to be specific on costs aimed at obtaining approval, won't quibble with a "hundreds of thousands of dollars" guessimate.

The current cross-country ski area can not survive unless allowed to expand, Truax ventured.

JAPAN CITES VON HAGE COURSE

Von Hagge Design Associates of Spring, Texas, has learned its Horai Country Club in Associate course, Golf Club National.

This year (the first trophy for the best golf course of the year) for France 1990 for the award for 1990.

Bordes" received the only new five-star rating in 20 years on the European continent.

Palmer and the Palmer Course Design Co. expected to reopen as the Marietta Munici-

al Golf Course early in the fall of 1991.

Civil War, when it housed the Georgia Mili-

Golf International "Les Bordes" received the only new five-star rating in 20 years on the European continent and will be the permanent home for the French Open.

PALMER PUTTING IMPRINT ON LAYOUT

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Arnold Palmer is adding his personal touch to Plantation Pointe here, with a 16-hole championship golf course carved from the woods along the shores of Lake Murray.

Palmer and the Palmer Course Design Co. team will master-plan the remainder of the more than 50-acre community surrounding the lakeside course.

INDIAN TRAILS NEARS OPENING

BUCK GROVE, Ill. — The back nine of the new 18-hole Indian Trails Golf Course should be ready for play in March, and the other nine playable by early to mid-summer.

Course superintendent Paul Perciell said he irrigation system is in place on the back nine and the holes needed.

The course is on 145 acres, five miles south of Mattoon. Lakes come into play on seven holes.

PGA professional Kelly Spaulding will be course director.

SEAVEY, CLASSIC GOLF ON PROJECT

MARETTA, Ga. — Mike Young Designs, of Watkinsville, Ga., and Classic Golf Management of Athens, Ga., will redesign and renovate the former Marietta Country Club.

Construction of the 18-hole layout is under way and the course, purchased by the city, is expected to reopen as the Marietta Municipal Golf Course early in the fall of 1991.

The clubhouse dates back to before the Civil War, when it housed the Georgia Military Academy.

GOLFSCAPES CHOSEN FOR COURSE

LINCOLN, Neb. — Golfscape of Arlington, Texas, will design the 18-hole Highlands golf course in the northwest section of the city.

The course is a major aspect of the develop- ment plan in the Highlunds, annexed into the city in December.

Construction is scheduled to start next fall, grass to be seeded in August 1992 and the course open in June 1993.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

By Mark Leslie

A million things can kill a green and there is no excuse for opting for the cheap choice in mixing soil, according to experts in the soil-blending industry.

"The top architects and the aggressive leaders in the industry are speculating the blending into contracts," said Troy McNell of Transamerican Soil Blenders in Lubbock, Texas. "The greens are the heartbeat of the golf course. If you don't have good greens, people won't play your course."

"A first-class green only costs two to three percent more than a third-class green. The money saved won't be saved a year later when you have to rebuild a green," said Tom Briddle of Tectonic, Inc. in Longmont, Colo. Briddle, who said he recently blended the soil for a 22-green facility for $18,000, could only question why a developer would choose to mix the soil with a front-end loader or rototiller.

Golf course architect and builder Jim Fazio of Juno Beach, Fla., agreed. Putting the cost of blending for 19 holes at $30,000, he said: "On a $3 million golf course that's only one-tenth of one percent. The average cost of buying the materials and building 19 greens is $275,000 to $300,000, and no one's going to take a chance with that kind of money of not having it right."

Though there are only a handful of blend- ers in North America, the field is expected to grow, since, as Briddle said: "Anything that's successful always attracts more players."

Christine Faulks, president of Greensmix of Waupaca, Wis., explained the rising im- portance of blending: "In the past five years or so the whole industry has become more sophisticated. And, in turn, a lot of contractors have been burned — gotten into lawsuits, and had jobs shut down — because their mix was not accurate."
The Canadian Golf Foundation was formed in 1979 and 10 years later the first Canadian Golf Summit held. The second summit will be held in 1991.

Canada has some of the best golf courses in the world, said to be the originators of the game. The Canadian Golf Summit was held in 1989 and since then, the number of golf courses has increased.

The summit is held every two years and attracts golfers from around the world. The summit provides an opportunity for golfers to network and learn about the latest trends in the industry.

The summit is also a platform for golf course designers to showcase their latest designs and technologies. The summit also provides a platform for golf course managers to discuss the challenges they face in managing their courses.

In addition to the summit, the Canadian Golf Foundation is also involved in promoting golf courses in Canada. The foundation has developed a number of programs to help golf courses attract more visitors and grow their membership.

The Canadian Golf Foundation has also played a key role in developing new golf courses in Canada. The foundation has provided funding to support the development of new courses and has also worked to encourage the development of golf courses in underserved areas.

The Canadian Golf Foundation is an important player in the golf industry and continues to play a key role in promoting and growing the game of golf in Canada.
planned in every corner of the world

forever, Gordon said. One need only look at Toronto to see the demand is still there.

A provincial study rated Toronto the third largest golf market in the world after San Diego and Chicago in rounds played annually per capita. The 5-million round demand is Asia, particularly in Singapore, Americans kept the facilities in world after San Diego and Chicago looked to Toronto to see the demand forever, Gordon said. One need only look at their own courses, although the Japanese were forbidden to play on them during the American occupation after World War II, the Japanese were forbidden to play on their own courses, although the Americans kept the facilities in good shape.

Golf has been a game for the rich in Asia, but is gaining popularity among ordinary people, Yorke said. There is a growth in Asia, particularly in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Thailand has 58 courses with 50 more in the works and memberships costing up to $30,000.

"While the boom is very good for golf as a whole, it has very little to do with the vast majority of Asian people for whom there are far more pressing problems, like survival," she said.

Other golf course development problems in Asia include lack of land, difficulties locating water, heat, monsoons, snakes, lack of knowledge, few professionals to educate the people and the difficulty in obtaining equipment, Yorke said.

On the plus side is a greater awareness of Asia as a golf market: upcoming Asia Golf 91 which will bring equipment manufacturers to Singapore in April; and the growth of professional golf. Japan's first course was built in 1901 by an English tea merchant. It is still there. The country is enjoying its third golf boom. The first was in 1957 when the Japanese won the Canada Cup, now the World Cup. From 1973 to 1976 when 100 new courses were added to the Japanese landscape.

The recent upswing has brought the course total to 1,700 with another 500 planned or under construction.

Many of the new courses are being designed by famous American architects. While the American presence has resulted in many beautiful facilities, it has also jacked up the price of golf course design, Yorke said.

Memberships in Japan are an investment generally made by corporations rather than a recreational expense incurred by an individual as in the West. Memberships are bought and sold on the stock market like stocks and bonds. The average membership price for newly built courses is $270,000.

The high prices are directly related to the high price of land. But the combined effects of the Middle East crisis, the high price of oil, the coming of winter and the general slowdown of the Japanese economy have led to a drop in the Japanese stock market and a 20 percent decrease in the cost of golf club memberships over the last few months. "We feel that the economy of the past few years is a bubble that will decrease in the near future," Yorke said. Yorke called this a positive development that could bring prices down to a more realistic level.

Yorke predicted the recent rise in interest rates for Japanese bank loans will slow golf course construction over the next few years. The tightening of regulations concerning golf course development, environmental restrictions, the movement against the use of agricultural chemicals on golf courses and the lack of land will also brake new development, she added.

But practice facilities should remain a hot commodity. Since the first driving range was built in 1922, the number of Japanese practice facilities has grown to 4,600. Many Japanese play only at driving ranges.

While the three-tiered ranges are well-known, most practice facilities are far smaller. The average driving range has 48.2 bays and a hitting distance of 169.3 yards.

The numbers of women golfers are growing in Japan. Of the 60,000 students enrolled in golf schools, 51 percent are women. Still, only 10 percent of the golfers at courses and 25 percent at practice ranges are women.

As for those interested in investing in Japan, Yorke said, "It is

Continued on page 52

Ringer will give your course a world of improvement.

Ringer Greens 6-1-3 Turf 10-2-6 and Greens Super 10-2-6 give you a whole new approach to greener greens, fairer fairways and tougher turf.

Natural protein, slow release nutrition. Ringer products use natural protein sources for slow-release nutrition without chemicals. Applied at recommended rates they will not burn.

More than a quick fix. Because they rely on a unique microbial action, Ringer products work by enhancing natural processes. Your course has a healthier environment. And it keeps getting better and better.

Scientifically formulated, environmentally sound. Greens 6-1-3 Turf 10-2-6 and Greens Super 10-2-6 were scientifically developed for professional use. They fit right in with your present program and strengthen your current disease control efforts.

Try Greens 6-1-3 Turf 10-2-6 and Greens Super 10-2-6 for a season on a problem green or fairway. You'll find that because they are environmentally sound, they improve the world a little as they improve your course a lot.

Call or write for details and the name of your distributor.

© Ringer Corporation, 1990

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Ringer Corporation, 9959 Valley View Road, Minneapolis, MN 55344, 612-941-1800

CIRCLE #154/GCSAA BOOTH #1322

February 1991 51
It's the pumping confidence that comes from providing quality pumping stations to satisfied customers for over 30 years. The evaluation of a proven design philosophy provides you with the most cost effective pumping station. The Childers design includes a pressure relief valve that protects the pumps from excess heat and low flow conditions. The longevity of our pumps are enhanced even further by assembling them with 416 stainless steel shafts and straightening them to stricter tolerances than the original manufacturer. We are dedicated to providing you with pumping confidence.

**PUMPING WITH CONFIDENCE**

CARROLL CHILDERS COMPANY

It's the pumping confidence that comes from providing quality pumping stations to satisfied customers for over 30 years. The evaluation of a proven design philosophy provides you with the most cost effective pumping station. The Childers design includes a pressure relief valve that protects the pumps from excess heat and low flow conditions. The longevity of our pumps are enhanced even further by assembling them with 416 stainless steel shafts and straightening them to stricter tolerances than the original manufacturer. We are dedicated to providing you with pumping confidence.

**For more information call:** 1-800-231-4012

4922 Almeda Genoa Rd. Post Office Box 750549 Houston, Texas 77275-0549
(713) 991-7501

**FAX:** (713) 991-5586

---

**SCANDINAVIA**

The recent success of Scandinavian golfers like 1988 Ladies' U.S. Open winner Liselotte Neumann and the four-man Swedish team that won this fall's world amateur championship in New Zealand is largely responsible for making Scandinavia one of the fastest growing golf markets in the world, Engebo said.

Sweden, Norway and Denmark make up Scandinavia. If golf is booming in the United States, it is exploding in those three countries. While the number of golfers is growing at seven percent annually here, it increased in Sweden and Finland, in Sweden, 4.7 percent of the population plays golf.

Approximately 460 courses are in operation in the Nordic countries with another 200 on the drawing board. Sweden has the most, 290, giving it an average of 1,900 people per hole.

Predictions call for an annual increase in golfers of 10 to 15 percent through 1992 and three to seven percent for the remainder of the 1990s. That would project out to 550,000 golfers and 600 courses by the year 2000.

There are barriers to reaching those goals, Engebo said. The primary ones are the lack of land, particularly near the cities. Lack of political will, environmental problems and lack of financing will also hinder growth. In Sweden, where most everything is government subsidized, only five of the country's 290 courses have received any government assistance.

Building a course in Scandinavia costs between $1.5 million and $6 million. Most new courses are coming in under $4 million, Engebo said.

"This is what we need, ordinary courses for the ordinary man," he said. "We would very much like to share the results of your research in the areas of new architecture, construction, environmental issues and how to run a course. We would also like you to continue to provide us with good golf equipment."

There are five things anyone interested in the Scandinavian golf market should know, Engebo said. They are:

- Organizing sports is done by local, non-profit organizations, creating commitment and many leaders at all levels. In Sweden you might find 200 to 300 volunteers picking stones to make way for grass on a new course.
- The Swedish Golf Federation is one of 62 members of the Scandinavian Golf Federation. Similar organizations exist in the other Nordic countries. Cooperation between countries is done within the Nordic Golf Union.
- To play on a Swedish course you must be a member of a golf club associated with the SGF and must have completed practical and theoretical tests to get a club handicap.
Sherman Hollow faces pesticide hurdles

Continued from page 29

selectmen have sent out another round of letters to Chittenden County's state senators, declaring that the controversial Act 250 process has let them down. They contend that "during the Sherman Hollow permitting debacle, several other (golf courses) are now operating with little or no opposition or scrutiny." Truax concedes, accusing the District Commission of holding Sherman Hollow to tougher environmental standards than other Vermont golf courses.

Michael O'Connor, serving as representative on the Vermont Industry Policy Board, an executive board under the Vermont Golf Association, strongly disagrees.

O'Connor, course superintendent at Basin Harbor CC, Vergennes, perhaps is the most knowledgeable and informed on the Sherman Hollow fighting. He's been president of the Vermont superintendents and prominent on area and state environmental boards. Said O'Connor: "Currently the industry, comprising 54 facilities in Vermont, has expended more than $50,000 just in meeting the current pesticide regulations adopted Oct. 25, 1990. The Vermont Industry Policy Board has raised an additional $25,000 just to comply with the industry's need to hire a turfgrass position within the Vermont Department of Agriculture." O'Connor is concerned with golf's good name in the wake of development. While it bothers him that Vermont is perceived by the rest of the country as the villain, he applauds the applicant's decision to appeal.

Decisions like this, left untouched, he said, set a precedent that others would have to overcome. He hopes for a settlement soon in a case that has become known as "Politics, Pesticides and a Permit."

Opponents contend they must come up with their own Stamp Act and propaganda campaign to counter "official" mailing: "They (town fathers) might as well have a franking privilege," commented one dissenter.

While project opponents lack the impressive array of scientists enlisted through the Vermont Supreme Court appears the next step. Or, Truax could start from scratch with a new set of hearings studying all potential impacts of the golf course.

This is no place for second best.

THE OPTIMUM CRABGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY IS ACCLAIM®

EARLY POSTEMERGENCE. All you need to control crabgrass safely, effectively and economically is postemergence Acclaim® Herbicide. Acclaim controls crabgrass, goosegrass and other annual grasses all season long in perennial ryegrass, fescues, bluegrass and zoysiagrass. It can be used on bentgrass fairways and tees. It suppresses bermudagrass. It won't build up in the soil, so you can reseed following an Acclaim application. • Acclaim controls crabgrass safely, effectively and economically is postemergence Acclaim® Herbicide. 

Hoechst AG.

Read and follow label directions carefully. Acclaim and the name and logo ROUSSEL are registered trademarks of Roussel Uclaf S.A. Marketed by Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet Company, Somerville, NJ 08876-1258.