Golfing public for an in-the-cup pitch on the second playoff hole against Greg Norman to decide who would win the 1989 Masters at Augusta (Ga.) National. Augusta is his birthplace.

He hopes to score solidly, if less spectacularly, with his first golf course design which stretches from 5,316 to 6,888 yards. It will be a resort facility with 107 golf professionals.

Mark Pepe asked the Dothan City Commission why funds are available to participate in a possible Alabama Retirement Systems drive for schools, recreation, roads and sewer treatment.

Tim Sherman asked who would be responsible for running the complex and who would be coordinating them. We just need to get it out and publicized.

"I'll be working with the Allied Associations of Golf, the GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America), USGA (United States Golf Association) and others to help expedite this," said Clark.

An ASGCA committee with members from a cross-section of North America will work with Co-chairmen Don Knott of Palo Alto, Calif., and Bill Love of Auk/Clark. Clark said the environmental panel's second feasibility study will be completed by year's-end.
Clark: Scientific documents will solve slowdowns in hearings

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The task is to build a database.

Members will monitor their regions, collecting information and resources, and sharing solutions from various projects, so the

'We are not going to be able to constantly groom our golf courses the way we have been.'

— Tom Clark

entire 111-member society can benefit.

"People are all willing to contribute because we will all benefit from this," Clark said. "Others have dealt with the desert tortoise in the Southwest, or woodpeckers in North Carolina. We have bog turtles in Delaware. Let's share that information."

Clark, who took the reins as ASGCA president from Dan Maples of Pinehurst, N.C., at April's annual meeting in England, said members will use ideas brought back from the United Kingdom.

"I think you'll see more people get back to the basics of good architecture and design and how we groom golf courses," he said. "When we went to Scotland it was in the heart of the water crisis (1980) as far as where to water and maintain a golf course, and some of the ideas we brought back worked nicely."

That works on large-scale sites. It doesn't work on nice grouped housing development.

"I think a lot of people have tried to get across that brown golf courses can make golf fun. But we continue to groom them to try to make them all look like Augusta National."

He said the industry needs to educate the public.

"Because we have this environmental situation and the water crisis, we are not going to be able to constantly groom our golf courses the way we have been... Also, they must be designed to work with the natural environment just like we see in England, Scotland and Ireland."

"For instance, Royal County Down in Ireland is absolutely beautiful and they maintain it for $30,000 a year, maximum. We spend $300,000 to $1 million to maintain a course in the U.S."

Clark said he was surprised to learn the United Kingdom and Europe face the same environmental concerns as the United States.

"There is concern that golf courses have done harm to the environment. We haven't. Agriculture has. They have the same concern over there... Any new project in Europe has to pass through the same extensive permitting process we do. We won't be building on linksland anywhere because it's all preserved. That's an international trend," he said.

Clark said the second biggest threat to golf course development in the United States is financing—another worldwide situation. He predicted the industry will see more companies packaging course design, construction, operation and maintenance, with much of the money being foreign.

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