

James B. Beard

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 6
JUNE 1992

INSIDE

USGA adds funding

Researchers rejoiced when informed that the USGA had doled out \$4.5 million 4

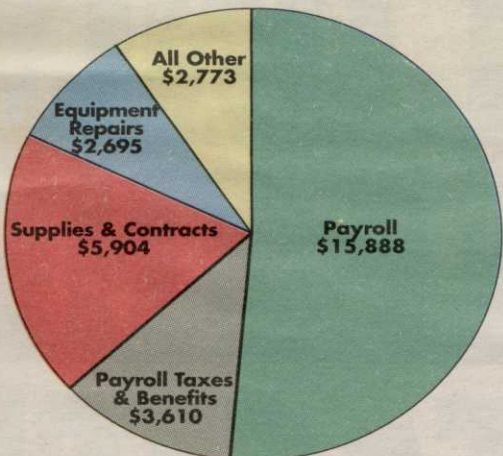
Rotary report

Superintendents and manufacturers discuss what's new with rotary mowers. 17

Ross now & forever

An architect, superintendent and playing professional keep the master's work alive 18

Maintenance breakdown per hole



Based on a 1991 survey of private country clubs in the United States. The average maintenance cost per hole is \$30,870. Source: Pannell Kerr Forster

COURSE MAINTENANCE

- Fescue and zoysia take center stage 11
- Ennio Latini in the spotlight 12
- Breakthrough in bunker maintenance 46

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- Loch Lomond: A rocky road in Scotland 3
- Clark out, Hills in at ASGCA helm 18
- NGF: The financing bonanza is over 20

COURSE MANAGEMENT

- Golf course appraisers get together 31
- Author of 'One-Minute Manager' brings suit 31
- Grand opening for National Golf Properties 31

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

- Mesh technology: Fact or fiction? 35
- Consensus reached at RISE conference 36
- What's new at the marketplace? 40

Michigan Homestead gets go-ahead

By Peter Blais

GLEN ARBOR, Mich. — The four-year battle apparently isn't over for the Homestead Resort's golf course project.

The national office of the Environmental Protection Agency May 8 approved the controversial northern Michigan course, including the filling in of 3 1/2 acres of wetlands.

EPA Director William Reilly's decision upheld the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's 1990 approval

Despite EPA approval, controversial project not out of the woods yet

and the wishes of Republican Gov. John Engler. But it conflicted with the recommendations of the regional EPA office and four other government agencies.

Three days later, project opponents — including Friends of the Crystal River, Sierra Club, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, National Wildlife Federation

and Trout Unlimited — filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court seeking to overturn the EPA ruling. A decision whether to issue a permit to the resort course near Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore isn't due until June 8.

"It's still a hot topic around here," said John Tune, editor of the Record Eagle in nearby Traverse City.

Homestead developer Bob Kuras is unsure when he will start construction,

Continued on page 43

Erosion control blankets fast proving their worth

By Mark Leslie

Erosion control has become a byword in the construction industry, transforming erosion control blankets from a secondary to a major tool of the trade.

"We used to only use them (blankets) from an engineering standpoint when you really had a problem," said Ron Boyd, president of Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. in Williamsburg, Va. "Now you've got more regulations — such as laws on cutting, d tilling on steep slopes — so that their use is sometimes mandatory."

Ken Starrett, vice president of marketing for American Excelsior Co. of Arlington,

"People see the quick growth and ask what kind of fertilizer we use. We don't use any."

— Ken Starrett

Texas, said over the last few years strong laws regulated by the Soil Conservation Service, Corps of Farming Engineers and highway departments have been adopted by communities.

"The number increases

Continued on page 37

Equal access: A tall order

By Hal Phillips

Equal access and fair hiring practices for the disabled used to be goals; now they're the law of the land.

With regard to accessibility for handicapped citizens, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) took effect in February, 1992. Come July 26 of this year, golf clubs with more than 24 employees will be subject to the ADA's employment provisions.

While tax-paying clubs with 15 to 24 employees needn't comply for another two years, golfing establishments nationwide — tax-paying or not, public or private — should study the ADA provisions. The law will

Continued on page 33



Emerald Dunes: Voted best new public course.

The envelopes please...

Architects, builders vote on the nation's top new courses

By Mark Leslie

Diamonds. Emeralds. Golf course architect Tom Fazio must be into gems. Two of his Florida jewels — Black Diamond in Lecanto and Emerald Dunes in West Palm Beach — have been selected by course architects and builders as the best private and public golf courses, respectively, to open in the last five years.

Fazio, who designed three of the top six private courses and two of the best seven public layouts, attributed the achievement to excellent sites and developers.

"It's the people involved that make a project happen," he said. "I've got a story for every course I've done. There's a

Continued on page 6

Fazio courses come out on top in architects survey

Continued from page 1

Stan Olson at Black Diamond, a Steve Wynn (at Shadow Creek) a William McKee (at Wade Hampton), a Mick Humphreys (at Vintage Club)... We get recognition that we design all these courses, but there are many people involved, and the owners are the key guys who deserve a lot more credit for the input and commitments they make."

The same might also be said for the developers of the other courses that received support in the voting. Spanish Bay Golf Links on the Monterey Peninsula of California, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., finished second in the balloting for best public course.

Roger Packard-designed Cantigny in Wheaton, Ill., placed third, followed by the Kiawah Island (S.C.) Ocean Course, designed by Pete Dye, in fourth. Three courses tied for fifth place — Mark McCumber and Associates' Osprey Cove in St. Mary's, Ga., Fazio's Pelican's Nest in Bonita Springs, Fla., and Arthur Hills' Walking Stick in Pueblo, Colo.

In the voting for best private course, Black Diamond was followed by another Fazio creation, Shadow Creek, in Las Vegas. The Golf Club of Georgia outside Atlanta, designed by Hills, and Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif., designed by Jack Nicklaus, tied for third.

Fifth place was a tie between Fazio's Eagle's Landing in Stockbridge, Ga., and the P.B. Dye-designed Loblolly Pines in Hobe Sound, Fla.

EMERALD DUNES — BEST PUBLIC

Ray Finch III, president and co-owner of Emerald Dunes with his father Raymon Jr., said the course "has exceeded our expectations."

"We maintain the course equal to any private course," Finch said. "Quite a few golfers come from private courses and say they'll send their superintendent here to see what their club ought to look like."

Speaking of Emerald Dunes superintendent Chip Fowkes, Fazio said: "Chip makes the difference. He's done a tremendous job."

"Everything is maintained at the highest-grade private-course setting, from the service at the clubhouse, to the pro shop, food and beverage operation, to maintenance of the course. This Emerald Dunes experience is the best you can get. It doesn't matter if you call it public or private."

Fazio said the major design challenge was "to create a world-grade course that is dramatic, sensational, strong, challenging, and fun to play and not make it too difficult, because you need to create a lot of land forms and movement. Usually in south Florida you have to do that with lakes, digging out the lakes and using the earth to create contours."

Finch said speed of play "was paramount" in the design.

"When you have people who don't know the golf course and you're in a tourist environment, to have a reputation of having five-hour rounds is death. We maintain play at under 4-1/2 hours, even in peak season."

He said the course has no hidden hazards or unfair rough, and water is placed where it is not penal.

The course is structured for the higher-handicap player but is still a challenge for low-handicappers, Finch said.

That statement was supported

by Gary Player, who called Emerald Dunes "challenging and playable" when he picked it number one.

Others agree. Finch said, "Since October we've been just about full."

BLACK DIAMOND — BEST PRIVATE

Black Diamond, a gem constructed partly through an abandoned rock quarry, won immediate acclaim when it opened in 1988.

"Spectacular scenery, nice terrain," said Scott Burns in choosing it number one in the *Golf Course*

News poll.

J. Chris Commins of Mark McCumber and Associates, picking it third, said Black Diamond is a "great design in totally unique site conditions."

Golf course builder Paul Clute of Clute and Associates alluded to the course's "contrast of colors," while architect Lester George singled out Fazio's "excellent use of terrain."

Fazio said when he first walked the Black Diamond site, with its rolling terrain, big oak trees and abandoned quarry, "I thought this

could be tremendous or the worst thing we'd ever done."

The result is a course that "could be ringing cash registers all day and all night," Fazio said, "but that's not the type of person (owner) Stan Olson is."

Olson, co-founder of Digital Equipment Co. with brother Ken, said: "I told Tom he was not to worry about locations of houses, but to build the best golf course possible. As a result there are no houses at all on 100 acres where the quarry holes are."

Continued on page 7



We've added another

Introducing the new John Deere 1800 Sprayer

The new John Deere 1800 Utility Vehicle covers a lot of new ground. Not only with its 3-foot wider swath, but with operation, production and durability advantages that leave others in its wake.

A 200-gallon tank and 21-foot boom allow you to cover more ground in less time. Plus, once



A single lever hydrostatically controls the 1800's direction and speed.

at work, omnijet tank agitation and minimal-drift Raindrop nozzles deliver your material

more precisely.

Hydrostatic drive gives you more consistent speed control and more uniform applications. Teamed with the 1800's liquid-cooled 18-hp engine, you get infinite speed choices up to 6 mph in the working range, 11 mph in transport.

Consider other standard

The 17th hole at Black Diamond in Lecanto, Fla., voted the best private course built in the last five years in a recent architects' survey.

Photo by Mike Klemme/Golfoto



Fazio's gems shine in poll

Continued from page 6

Fazio, who is building a second 18 holes at Black Diamond, said: "If you were to come to the course the first time, you're in shock with the quarry — the five holes (13th to 17th) around the quarry are so dramatic, sensational, bizarre and tremendous in terms of playability, they have so much individual character, the angles, the variety in the way they play, the wind direction.

"But when you talk to someone who has played the course a couple of times, they say the front nine may be as good or better than the back

nine. And I always thought that.

"We had a wonderful piece of land to work with in terms of being able to place the course on the land and flow the course through the contours. With the sand-base soil conditions, we were able to sculpture the golf holes into the ground and create some very interesting forms and features and a tremendous amount of variety in the land forms on the front nine."

Fazio said that when they knew the course would turn out well, they located the entry road along the edge of the quarry so visitors would see it as they drove in.

"What looked like the most negative thing on the site, something you'd want to hide, worked out to be the most positive," he said.

Asked to equate building Black Diamond to designing the world's first interactive, or personal computer, Olson said: "We had a vision of what the future of computing would be. We knew we really had hold of something. We knew it. We felt it. And it was our drive to accomplish it.

"The same thing with the golf course. We wanted an experience that appeals to the greatest number of senses. That's probably what we've accomplished."

Olson said golfing is "more than a sporting experience. It's a landscape experience. The more you can do to enhance the landscape part of the experience, the better the project will be."

ASGCA elects new officers and members

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — The American Society of Golf Architects voted in Mark McCumber and five other designers as associate members at the society's annual meeting here in May.

McCumber joined Jack Nicklaus as the only touring pros in the 112-member association.

Also accepted were Bobby Weed of Ponte Vedra, Fla., well known for his design work on Tournament Players Courses for the PGA Tour; McCumber associate J. Christopher Commins of Orange Park, Fla.; Dana Fry, a designer for Hurdzan Design Group in Columbus, Ohio; Brian Huntley of Arthur Hills and Associates in Toledo, Ohio; and John Harbottle III, who owns his own company in Greenbrae, Calif.

Arthur Hills was elected the president of the association, succeeding Tom Clark. Joining Hills for the 1992 term are Vice President Gerald Matthews of Lansing, Mich.; Secretary Donald Knott of Palo Alto, Calif.; and Treasurer Jeff Brauer of Arlington, Texas.

The board of governors includes Clark and Brian Ault, both of Kensington, Md.; John LaFoy of Greenville, S.C.; David Rainville, Tustin, Calif.; Bob Lohmann, Marengo, Ill.; Denis Griffiths of Braselton, Ga.; Alice Dye of Delray Beach, Fla.; Willard Byrd of Atlanta, Ga.; and Bob Mootte of Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

yard to our passes

advantages like a 2-person bench seat, power steering, wide stance and simple service access and you'll see that the 1800 is like no other utility vehicle you've seen before.

Call 1-800-544-2122 for

more information or write John Deere, Dept. 956, Moline, IL 61265.



CIRCLE #106



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®

