DEVELOPMENT

Environmentalists, golfers won over by Squaw Creek

by Mark Leslie

Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s track
Best New Mountain Course

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Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s "environmentally correct" Squaw Creek Golf Course in Olympic Valley, Calif., was named the Best Public Mountain Course to open in the last five years, according to the nation's golf course architects.

Tom Fazio's Champion Hills in Hendersonville, N.C., was voted the Best Private Mountain Course, in the poll, conducted by Golf Course News.

In other results, the poll illustrated the scarcity of large-scale public golf developers despite the high percentage of public facilities among openings the last few years. No single developer received more than a handful of votes — and, so, no winner was chosen. Even Sunbelt Corp., which over the past three years has opened the 18-course Robert Trent Jones Trail in Alabama, did not receive heavy support. Arvida, which last year was named Best Developer of Communities, and First Golf received similar support.

Perhaps the most memorable vote for Best Developer came from Maury Miller of Golf Resources, Inc., who causally cast his ballot for the Resolution Trust Corp., which took over the Landmark Land Co. properties and began auctioning them off.

Meanwhile, Jones's design team won accolades in the Golf Course News ballot. Between Don Knott and Bruce Charlton, the Jones International crew

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Wetlands creators point men for future

By Peter Blais

BEAUFORT, S.C. — Steve Beaneman's chest no doubt swelled a bit when Spring Island and Old Tabby Golf Links received the South Carolina Wildlife Federation of the Year Award in late January.

Beaneman's firm, Ecoshores of Port Orange, Fla., planted large stands of cordgrass, pickerelweed, duck potato, golden canna, arum and other native plants to develop and stabilize wetland areas around the Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay-designed layout.

That work helped Spring Island secure the coveted award, given by the local chapter of the National Wildlife Federation, according to Spring Island staff naturalist Bruce Lampright.

"We're very pleased with the work Ecoshores has done here," Lampright said. "The plants and grasses are doing very well."

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Weiskopf, Morrish ending partnership

By Mark Leslie

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Having generated a legacy of renowned golf courses from Arizona to Scotland, Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish are "winding down" their golf course design partnership.

"We're not splitting. We really are just phasing out," said Morrish, parrying any talk of a feud with Weiskopf, with whom he has designed 20 courses. Among their gems are Forest Highlands, Troon and Troon North in Arizona, Double Eagle in Ohio, and Loch Lomond Golf Club in Scotland.

In a statement, Weiskopf said: "Competition and design complement each other and after working on the design of 20 golf courses, I find that golf course design is just as stimulating for me as competition. I will continue to utilize my design expertise and competitive experiences to build and design outstanding golf courses, in addition to playing on the Senior Tour."

Weiskopf and Morrish are working on a handful of unfinished courses, along with some long-range projects. And Morrish added, "We will honor any agreements we've made with people with whom we have spoken, if they desire to press forward. In fact, we have not ruled out working together, say, five years from now. If a past client were to call and say, 'I..."