LAFOY EXCITED ABOUT N.C. SITE


PLAYER DESIGN OPENS IN TEXAS

BAY CITY, Texas — Rio Colorado Golf Course, a new Gary Player-designed project here, has opened for play. The 18-hole, 6,824-yard, public golf course is operated by Houston-based Golf Services Group. Rio Colorado Golf Course challenges golfers with two types of golf scenery. The front nine holes of the course play through the native coastal prairies common to the Texas Gulf Coast. The second nine features Rio Colorado's signature holes which are situated among the wooded bluffs of the Colorado River.

GILMORE GRAVES ADDS FEICK

Dan Feick, landscape architect and irrigation specialist, has left the firm S.D.A., Inc of Fargo, N. Dak., to join Gilmore Graves Golf, Inc. (GGGI) of Spring Green, Wis. GGGI operates offices in Spring Green, Phoenix, Ariz., and Pierre, S.D. Feick has been designing and supervising irrigation projects throughout the Midwest and will be involved in expanding the golf services of GGGI nationwide.

WATER, WATER AT BARDOO NORTH

LARGO, Fla. — Bardmoor North Golf Club has added 3.1/2 acres of water on four holes of the front nine. A portion of the lake begins at the 6th fairway and 4th tee, wraps around the 3rd green and then extends along the other side of the 3rd and even dips into the fairway, creating a feeling of an island green for the 3rd hole.

SULIVAN, CORNHIS WORK TOGETHER

VALHALLA, N.Y. — Sullivan Architects of Valhalla has been retained by Westchester County as the project architect and Cornish and Silva Inc. as course architects for the expansion and rehabilitation of Mohanesk Golf Course. They are hoping to have golfers playing the expanded facility by the spring of 1997.

Environmentalists, golfers won over by Squaw Creek

Continued on page 36

Crenshaw, Coore team hot property

With the GCSAA tournament being played on Barton Creek, the PGA Tour having just played the Lincoln-Mercury Kapalua International on Princeville Kapalua, and the widely anticipated opening of Sand Hills golf course architects Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore are in the news. Managing editor Mark Leslie tracked them down in La Costa, Calif., where Crenshaw was competing in the Mercedes Championship.

Golf Course News: It seems the word is out. Do you get the sense you're a hot architect team and people are after your services more than before?

Crenshaw: No. We really don't think of ourselves that way. If anything, we try to stick to our original philosophy. We have a small organization and we want to remain that way. We enjoy spending time on our projects. I think we're always going to be an organization known for doing a few projects and doing them well and going at a pace at which we're comfortable.

Coore: Do we think we're a hot item? Certainly name recognition is of inordinate value from a business perspective. There is a philosophy that says, 'Do a great deal 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' design team won accolades in the Golf Course News'balloting. Between Don Knott and Bruce Charlton, the Jones International crew
Creating wetlands — a whole new ballgame

Continued from page 35

Ecoshores’ contribution to Spring Island’s success demonstrates the importance of companies that help golf course developers weed through the regulatory process by creating and preserving wetlands. 

“We don’t view environmentalists as stirring up the pot,” Seay said. “We want to preserve natural areas wherever possible. Sometimes we have to create wetlands that resemble natural areas. We want to reconstruct that natural look and function. I like what companies like that [Ecoshores] can do with us.”

Ecoshores President Steve Beaman said his firm has worked on more than 100 courses over the past 15 years. Projects have ranged from providing a course with a few hundred dollars worth of plant material to the $1.2 million of vegetation and labor invested at 36-hole Grand Harbor in Vero Beach.

The company is working on mitigation plans for the LPGA layout being built in Daytona Beach, Fla. Most of the plant material for that facility, and other projects in the five Southeastern states Ecoshores serves, comes from the 2,000-acre plant farm the company maintains in Central Florida.

Ecoshores guarantees its work, meaning it will replace vegetation that dies. Beaman is proud of the 89 percent success rate his plants enjoy. But since plant survival is dependent on the accuracy of engineering studies analyzing the rise and fall of water levels, Beaman works closely with architects and the wetlands engineers they employ. Williamsburg Environmental Group Inc. is such a company. The Williamsburg, Va.-based firm provides ecology, planning, regulatory support and engineering services to help architects and developers minimize impacts on existing wetlands.

“Basically you have two types of companies involved in the wetlands process,” said Williamsburg Vice President Mike Kelly. “There are firms, like ours, that work closely with architects to get the permits and do the preliminary and detailed drawings. Then there are the contractors who bid on the projects and do the actual construction.”

Kelly’s firm has worked on 50 golf projects over the past four years, including wetlands mitigation and regulatory permitting jobs at Ault, Clark-designed Kingsmill and Tom Fazio-designed Governor’s Land at Two Rivers, both in James City County, Va.

“The architects usually bring us in early,” Kelly said. “It’s very much a networking type of business.”

The American Society of Golf Course Architects noted the importance of wetlands preservation and creation in its guidebook An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development. Several case studies of golf projects included examples of wetlands issues.

Architect Don Knott of Robert Trent Jones II International credited Larry Seeman & Associates of Berkeley, Calif., with selecting the vegetation used in the creation of a six-acre wetland and several other smaller wetland areas at The Links at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Johnson, Johnson & Roy of Ann Arbor, Mich., assisted with wetland stabilization and creation efforts at Jones Orchards course north of Detroit, he added.

Jones’ construction firm performs the actual excavation work in constructing most wetland areas, Knott said, but leaves the revegetation work to companies like LSA and JJ&R who specialize in that area.

“IT’s getting more difficult to obtain permits all the time,” Knott said. “We try to find sites where we can avoid wetlands altogether. But that isn’t always possible. That’s when wetland firms can be a big help.”

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Graham, Panks start N.C. project for '95 opening

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Former U.S. Open and PGA Champion David Graham and partner Gary Panks, of Graham & Panks International, have begun construction on their 18-hole golf course design in Guilford County, part of an 1,100-acre master planned community under development by the May Corp.

The heavily forested and rolling terrain offered Graham/Panks natural contours, existing water courses and protected wetlands in situiting the course.

From the back tees, the 7,014-yard layout is a par 72.

Weather permitting, seeding should begin in June 1994. The grand opening will be held in late spring 1995.