SERAFIN WRAPS UP ADDITION

BUCYRUS, Ohio — Serafín Golf Course Design, Inc. is completing a nine-hole addition to the Bucyrus Country Club here. The builder for the project is Quality Golf, Inc. of Sunbury, Ohio. In addition, Serafín has begun construction on a nine-hole addition to Memorial Park Golf Course in Kenton, and The Links at Echo Springs, an 18-hole public course in Johnstown. Serafín Design also has been chosen by the city of Piqua to design a nine-hole addition to Echo Hills Golf Course. The Echo Hills project includes renovations to the existing nine holes as well as a new driving range and clubhouse.

WILLIAMSBURG GROUP MOVES

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc., has relocated to 516 South Henry St., Suite B, here. The consulting firm of President Ronald Boyd and Vice President Mike Kelly will continue to have the phone number 804-220-6869.

RIDGWOOD LAKES TOUGH SEMI-PRIVATE

POLK COUNTY, Fla. — Ridgwood Lakes Golf and Country Club, a master-planned community near Haines City, debuted as an 18-hole course in late November, 1993. “First and foremost, this new course promises to be lots of fun for golfers with challenge for all skill levels,” said designer Ted McAnlis. “Though not severe, Ridgwood is no pushover.” The 7,016-yards, par-72 layout stands as a semi-private club open for public play. Ridgwood is managed by GolfSouth, based in Greenville, S.C.

MUNI INDIAN PEAKS OPENS

LAFAYETTE, Colo. — Indian Peaks Golf Course, a Hale Irwin-designed municipal course, has opened for play. A 168-acre, 18-hole golf course located within a 650-acre residential community, Indian Peaks was built on the Beauprez and Pizek family farms. The development concept focused on outdoor living, sensitivity to the environment and a feeling of open space. “This is not going to be Colorado’s most difficult golf course. That’s not the intent,” said designer Ted McAnlis. “Though not severe, Ridgwood is no pushover.” The 7,016-yards, par-72 layout stands as a semi-private club open for public play. Ridgwood is managed by GolfSouth, based in Greenville, S.C.

Congress in action on environmental front

Endangered species expansion forecast

By JOE DYSART

While endangered eagles and butterflies have often scuttled golf course maintenance and development, it appears the industry has not seen anything yet. Newly proposed rules for the Endangered Species Act promise to create more headaches for those trying to build new golf courses, or maintain existing ones. Pro-business interests favoring more rules for endangered species protection will consider economic hardship before they rule on golf courses subject to endangered species protection. Moreover, the new rules also call for government regulators to step in earlier to prevent development in wetland areas.

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Wetlands regulations, revision gains support

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — While developers await National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recommendations on wetlands delineation, Congress may move forward on legislation that could revolutionize construction in wetland areas. The NAS study is due out by the end of 1994 and a new delineation manual might not be implemented until 1995 or beyond, according to Mike Kelly, vice president of Williamsburg Environmental Group in Williamsburg, Va. But the Congressional bill (H.R. 3465) awaits action. It was introduced in February and would implement the NAS recommendations.

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Golf Course News: You and Shunsuke Kato formed Japanese Society of Golf Course Architects partly to improve members’ skills and improve golf in your country. How will you do that?

Takeaki Kaneda: We want to contribute to the Japanese golf world through our activities. The biggest problem Japanese golf has is, golfing expenditures are so high. The number-one priority is to help the players to reduce the expenditures. Shopping, regulations — which are being revised. We want to contribute to the Japanese golf world through our activities. The biggest problem Japanese golf has is, golfing expenditures are so high. The number-one priority is to help the players to reduce the expenditures.

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January 1994
CARRICK’S ANGUS GLEN GREENING UP

The 10th hole at Angus Glen Golf Club in the Toronto, Ontario, suburb of Markham is expected to open in August. Designed by Doug Carrick of Don Mills, Ontario, and built by Bruce Evans Ltd., the 18-hole public facility is on 200 acres of Arthur Stellary’s 700-acre dairy and racetrack farm. The course stretches from 5,400 yards on the forward tees to 7,100 yards from championship tees. The subtle front nine, routed through the valley of Bruce Creek, traverses gently rolling land, while the back nine is more spacious and sports hilly features.

McCumber redesigning Sea Pines

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Sea Pines Co., Inc. has selected Mark McCumber & Associates to redesign the Sea Pines Resort Ocean Course here.

Originally designed by George Cobb and constructed in the early 1960s, the Ocean Course is one of four courses at the Sea Pines Resort which also boasts the famous Harbour Town Golf Links.

Proposed changes include upgrading the greens to U.S. Golf Association construction specifications, a new state-of-the-art irrigation system, and start-to-finish concrete cart paths.

Plans also call for enlarged tee boxes sculpted in a free form design to reinforce the desired context of the existing physical characteristics of the course.

McCumber lead designer J. Christopher Commins, will work with Cary Corbitt, Sea Pines Director of sports and retail, to implement the redesign and upgrade program which is scheduled to begin in December 1994. The owners plan to reopen the course by Labor Day 1995.

Scottsdale have a degree of elevation in their favor,” said Nash, “Terravita is positioned in the thick of lush, intense vegetation enabling us to interact and enhance the indigenous vegetation and desert wash experience into the design of our golf holes.

“We have taken full advantage of the many dry washes, majestic saguaros, native vegetation and rolling desert hills that will make Terravita a special course.”

Plans call for Terravita to be a par-72, 7,115-yard target-style desert course incorporating four teeing areas into each hole. With just one water hazard, Casper and Nash have integrated extensive grass, sand and waste bunkers along with lateral hazards throughout the location of existing desert washes on 13 of the 18 holes. Hybrid bermudagrass lines the fairways, tees and roughs; the greens feature bentgrass.

Proposed wetlands regulations could break stalemate

Continued from page 43


The revolutionary aspect of the bill, Kelly said, is it’s concept of “mitigation banking.” Endorsed by the Bush and Clinton administrations, a mitigation bank puts into motion a system of wetlands debits and credits. A developer who must fill an acre of wetland on his site and has no good place to build a new one, could “buy” one or two acres from the mitigation bank on another property. “It’s exciting,” said Kelly, a wetlands scientist who closely follows Congress. “Activist groups fear it is a way of buying a permit. But not if it’s done properly. You’d still have to go through the guidelines and demonstrate that you intend to avoid and minimize impacts on wetlands to the greatest extent possible.

“Many times I’ve gotten a permit for a golf course developer to fill in or drain four acres of wetlands and we have to create six or eight acres elsewhere on the site. But the wetlands won’t be as functional as you intended, or as valuable. So you have mitigation plans throughout the country and no one’s monitoring or maintaining them, and they’re not serving the function they were intended to. If you have a properly managed mitigation bank, you have a way to ensure the wetlands will be maintained, monitored and as functional as possible.”

The Army Corps of Engineers is studying mitigation banking and how it could be administered. Banks could be state by state or watershed by watershed.

The Studds-de la Garza bill would speed up development, mandating that the Corps makes wetland permit decisions within 60 days for areas less than one acre or the permit will be approved automatically. The Clinton Administration had proposed a 90-day period with no automatic issuance.

Under the bill, the Soil Conservation Service would be made the lead agency. Ditching, draining and other wetland activities that were exempt from the wetlands program would be regulated — supporting the administration’s regulations.

Kelly believes the final wetlands manual will stand somewhere between the restrictive 1989 manual and the less-restrictive 1987 manual. The 1987 regulations are now in effect, and Kelly said: “A lot of people feel this is a good time to move forward on projects and get them done. The new manual will encompass more land than the 1987 manual.


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