CARRICK'S ANGUS OLEN 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 Brian Evans Ltd., the 18-hole public facility is on 200 acres of Arthur Storlery'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 salable front nine, routed through the valley of Bruce Creek, traverses gently rolling land, while the back nine is more spacious and sports boulder 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 alignment from the various tees.

McCumber plans to introduce a variety of shapes and sizes to both the putting surfaces and greenside bunkers to add interest and challenge.

The Sea Pines Ocean Course is the second George Cobb design McCumber has been asked to remodel in the past two years. His firm recently completed the redesign and remodeling of Gainsville (Fla.) Golf & Country Club and plans to use the same comprehensive approach at Sea Pines, incorporating traditional and classical design principles into the context of the existing physical characteristics of the course.

McCumber lead designer J. Christopher Commins, will work with Cary Corbett, 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.

Casper, Nash collaborate in Arizona

NORTH SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Two-time U.S. Open winner and former Masters champion Billy Casper and course architect Greg Nash have been selected to design the new Terravita Golf Course, to be built on Del Webb's new 803-acre, master-planned golf and fitness community here.

"Greg Nash and Billy Casper can design a golf course that's challenging and difficult, or softer and easier, or something in between," said Anne Mariucci, Terravita general manager and Del Webb vice president. The 18-hole championship course is scheduled for completion in late 1994.

According to Nash, with the superb quality of golf courses already in existence in north Scottsdale, he and Casper are incorporating a theme into the facility giving it its own characteristics.

"While some of the finer golf courses in north 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 tee 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 Bermuda grass lines the fairways, tees and roughs; the greens feature bentgrass.

Proposed wetlands regulations could break stalemate

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The revolutionary aspect of the bill, Kelly said, is its concept of "mitigation banking." Endorsed by the Bush and Clinton administrations, a mitigation bank puts into motion a system of wetlands debts 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 intended to avoid and minimize impacts on wetlands to the greatest extent possible.

"Many times I've gotten a permit for a golf course development, and credit 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. Docking, 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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