ARCHITECTS GO ONLINE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DesignNetwork, the online information system of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), now gives members the ability to interface with Internet. Linking architects, contractors, designers, engineers, planners and the environmental industry, the service now has 1,000 regular users interfacing on issues ranging from design to specification, new projects and employment. More information is available from John Stump or Regina Travers at 202-686-2752.

LOHMANN DESIGN OPENS
MOSINEE, Wis. — Nine new holes and three reconstructed holes on the old nine have given a brand-new look to Indianhead Golf and Recreation, which opened here June 4. Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc. and Midwest Golf Development, Inc. provided design/build services for the project. Three new holes were routed on the existing nine and all new greens and tees were constructed. The new nine makes it an 18-hole par 72 track. A new automatic irrigation system and pump station were added. Mature forest, rolling topography, and wetland pockets provide scenic views and excellent playability. Continued on next page

TEXAS HALL OF FAME OPEN
THE WOODLANDS, Texas — The new Texas Golf Hall of Fame, which opened April 26 at The Woodlands, honors the people who build and maintain golf courses as well as the players. An eight-panel exhibit, titled "Where We Play," tells the history of course design itself, as well as that of the four courses at The Woodlands. The course designer is all represented — Joe Lee, Arnold Palmer, Robert von Hagge and Carlton Gipson. The Hall is open, free of charge, every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OAK GROVE ISLAND is a golden egg for Golden Isles?
By SALLY LEE
BRUNSWICK, Ga. — As shelved lagoons and natural brush habitat have kept environmentalists satisfied, owners hope reasonable prices will keep Golden Isles area golfers happy at the new championship daily-fee Oak Grove Island Club.

"We wanted to give the Golden Isles a plush, resort-type golf course offering year-round affordability, and I feel we've done exactly that," said Mike Evans, president of Oak Grove Island Plantation, Inc., which owns the course. "This is a championship-quality course where a round of golf, including cart, costs $25 to $30. It's something that did not exist in this area before and it's something the people here can be very proud of.

Design-wise, during design and construction architect Mike Young received input from the Audubon Society on protecting and managing native wildlife. He incorporated such things as natural brush habitats for birds, bluebird houses and shelves in all lagoons.

The shelved lagoons ensure that native vegetation will continue to flourish by eliminating the steep banks common to many golf course ponds. The shallow shelves, approximately six inches deep, extend from the edge of the pond about six or eight feet. The habitat is ideal for the reeds and cattails found in the area.

The club was developed in conjunction with a residential community offering more than 500 building sites with waterfront, marsh or golf course views. Accessible by boat or causeway, it also features a full-service deep water marina. All this offered opportunity as well as challenge to Young, of Watkinsville, who designed and built the 18-hole layout taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by the 300-acre primeval site. Situated on a 700-acre interior marsh island fronted by the Buffalo and Turtle rivers, and offering direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway, the course is not only surrounded by winding waterways, Continued on page 32

ASGCA's outgoing president: Banks seeing light of golf's success

Knott: Onus for change is on architects

Don Knott, chief designer for Robert Trent Jones II in Palo Alto, Calif., is responsible for nearly 20 top-rated courses in the United States, Japan and Australia. He owns a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and master's degree in architecture from the University of California-Berkeley. Managing Editor Mark Leslie spoke with Knott when he took the gavel as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Golf Course News: What are your biggest challenges during your presidency?

Don Knott: I don't think they will be significantly different than what the golf world has been facing over the last several years. Ongoing environmental issues which will be critical. You've got what seems to be a fairly negative perception of the game, particularly by non-golfers. This is directly related in some ways to the environment. Although we're not directly involved, the golf world is facing continuous liability challenges involving liability and equipment.

But what I'd like to push from a golf architectural point of view is a broadening of the scope of what I call an "acceptable" golf course. Over time, since the game started, the definition of what is acceptable in the eyes of the public and the golfer has continued to narrow. We started with an obstacle course over natural, raw terrain. We continue to become a bowling alley — a very narrowly defined concept of what is an acceptable course.

GCN: Would the ASGCA membership want to take a stance on the issue?

DK: I think it's mainly public relations. It's guys like Pete Dye, for example, standing up and saying, "We've got to go back and put some old courses out in the field somewhere, and just hit the ball around." Condition is a factor. Always seeing [on television] perfectly conditioned golf courses has been an issue for years. Augusta National is in perfect condition, and it has become the standard. There are things you can do, but it's going to be a hard issue to sell to the general public.

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Accessibility issues face designers

Continued from previous page

maximum distances of every 75 yards from
golf car paths if terrain permits.

Special recommendations for altered courses include:
• Existing practice areas at courses or
stand-alone practice areas, if altered, shall be
made accessible.
• Up-grade bunkers or greens are provided
at practice areas, they would not have to be
altered just because the practice tee area is
altered.
• Repair of existing golf car paths would
not constitute alterations.

• If an existing teeing ground is altered on
one or more holes, one tee on that hole shall
be made accessible.
• Alteration of a teeing ground means
changing the physical dimensions — length,
width or elevation.
• Regrading, reseeding, changing grass types or adding sprinklers on tees are not
considered alterations.
• Altering the tee or green on one hole
does not require altering tees or greens on all
other holes.
• There should not be any alteration design
issues for rebuilding putting surfaces on
existing greens.

Banks seeing the light

Continued from page 27

Bond financing also will continue
to be an important source of new
capital for public courses, according
to Matthews. This will happen for
two reasons. First, cities and
counties have access to land that
private developers cannot afford to
buy. Second, yield requirements
from the projects are typically lower
for a public body than a private
investor because the venture is not
profit-driven.

Another source of new capital is the
"mezzanine" or "second-tier"
corporate lenders, said Matthews.
Large corporations, such as Textron
and GATX, established financial
units that provide many of the same
services as banks, but are not bound
by the same regulations. These
financial arms can function as debt
lenders or equity partners, or both.

These corporate lenders are also
creating new programs that actually
participate with banks, insurance
companies and other financial
institutions to fund mortgages for
golf courses.

Lower returns from traditional
sources have encouraged pension
fund managers to re-think their
investment philosophies, Matthews
said.

Currently, most long-term
investments are not providing fund
managers with acceptable returns.
Thus, he said, some state pension
funds are considering other
investments.

Large golf projects, such as the
Robert Trent Jones Trail in Alabama,
may become attractive to more fund
managers in the future.

Oak Grove Island

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but laced with creeks, marshes
and lagoons.

Ten acres of the golf course
site were officially designated as
"wetland" areas.

Every hole offers marsh and
trellis views, and on many holes
the water comes directly into play.

The fact that the site offered
more above-sea-level acres to work
with than most locations of its
kind gave Young the leeway
necessary to create a course that
is flowing rather than flat.

Most holes have four sets of
tees and at its longest, the par-72
course will play 7,050 yards.

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