Beljan leads IA planning group

JUPITER, Fla. — Members of the Irrigation Association (IA) have elected golf course architect Jan Beljan chairman of their Long-range Planning Council.

A design associate with JMP/Cottle Designers, Inc., here, Beljan is the first golf industry member of the IA. "We in the golf industry have a lot in common," he said. "Joining them seemed natural."

Beljan worked designing resort golf courses and has relocated its offices to One Ravinia Drive, Suite 1180, Atlanta, Georgia. One Ravinia Drive, Suite 1180, Atlanta, Georgia, is the site of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Beljan is a member of ASGCA and has been elected to the board of directors of the organization.

Johnson joins Cottle design

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. — Don Cottle Jr. has added Kevin Johnson to the Cottle Design team. A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Environmental Design, Johnson also holds a public relations degree from Florida State University. He has worked designing resort golf courses in Italy for the Hotel Forte chain.

Johnson will work with the Cottle Design team on projects throughout the United States and Asia. "It's not just a local profession," Johnson said. "Golf is a world sport, and we have the opportunity to work on projects around the globe." Johnson has also worked on projects in Europe and the Middle East.

Arthur Davis moves

ATLANTA, Ga. — Arthur L. Davis, Inc., golf course architects and planners, has relocated its offices to One Ravinia Drive, Suite 1180, Atlanta, Georgia. The new offices are located near the site of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) meeting in the United Kingdom every year.

Davis has been active in the golf course architecture industry for over 25 years. He has designed and built golf courses throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Davis is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) and the Florida Golf Course Builders Association (FGCBA).

ASGCA bound for Scotland

The 46th annual meeting of the American Society of Golf Course Architects will be held April 22-29 in Ireland and England. The meeting will include a tour of golf courses throughout the region, as well as seminars and meetings.

The meeting will be hosted by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, and will feature presentations by leading golf course architects from around the world. The meeting will also include a social event at the Fife Club, a historic golf club in Scotland.

Arthur Poellot

ARIZONA, Ariz. — Arthur Poellot has joined the development team of the newly announced Addison Reserve, a 653-acre, $500 million master-planned golf and country club community planned for south Palm Beach County, Florida.

Poellot, who has spent over 30 years working in the golf course architecture industry, has designed and built over 100 golf courses throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Poellot is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) and the Florida Golf Course Builders Association (FGCBA).

Foster busy renovating

ST. LOUIS — Westwood Country Club has hired Keith Foster Golf Course Design to refine its course here. The original 27-hole track was built in 1929, then reduced to 18 holes in 1933. Foster will also renovate Rio Verde Country Club's Quail Run and White Wing courses in Phoenix, Ariz.

J. Michael Poellot: The continents are his canvas

In the early 1970s, while working in Asia-Pacific for U.S. Army Intelligence, J. Michael Poellot happened to meet Robert Trent Jones II, whose Navateen Golf Club was then in the planning stages. Jones eventually hired Poellot to run his Asian office. By 1980, Poellot had worked on 22 KIT II projects and become vice president of the firm. Then he met Brad Benz, who convinced him to join Dick Phelps in forming Phelps, Benz and Poellot, Inc. After three years of work in the Colorado area, Benz and Poellot formed their own firm, capitalizing on JMP's contacts in Asia. In 1988, Poellot bought out Benz and formed J. Michael Poellot Golf Design Group based in Sarasota, Calif. Poellot has since taken on three principals in the firm: Brian Costello, Bob Moore and Mark Hollinger. All four took part in the following interview.

GCN: Do each of you have specific territories?

JMP: From a practical perspective, I guess we do have territories because, historically, the world has been our market. From a logical standpoint, it makes sense if someone handles Southeast Asia and someone handles Europe.

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Hills tapped for $500M project

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Arthur Hills has joined the development team of the newly announced Addison Reserve, a 653-acre, $500 million master-planned golf and country club community planned for south Palm Beach County, Florida.

Arthur Hills & Associates, with offices in Toledo, Ohio and Orlando, Florida, will design the 27 holes of golf planned for the Addison Reserve community, announced Project Director Craig Perna.

Hills & Associates have been very active in Florida with dozens of golf projects, including 19 courses in the Naples area, alone. The Addison Reserve, located on the last prime tract in the Boca Raton/Delray Country Club Mile corridor, is being developed by joint venture partners Taylor Woodrow Communities and Kenco Communities. In addition to the Arthur Hills designed 27 holes of championship golf, the Addison Reserve will feature an attractive mix of single-family homes, a Mizner-inspired multi-purpose clubhouse, and an extensive tennis complex.

Construction of the first 18 holes of the golf course is scheduled to begin in early 1995.

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Larry Packard leading Egyptians into — for them — the grand new world of golf

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turned nine holes into soccer fields, so there's just a single 9 left."

Enter Packard, whose first Egyptian design was a par-3 nine alongside the Paradiso Hotel in Hurghada, a Red Sea resort approximately 300 miles south of Cairo. Popular with German tourists, who fly directly from Munich, Hurghada needed a golf course to complement its fishing and extraordinary snorkeling, said Packard.

"The problem in Hurghada," he explained, "is the lack of water and topsoil. The only thing that will be green will be the greens. We'll be using [seashore] paspalum, the new hybrid, because what water there is will be slightly brackish."

Question: How did Packard, who designed such quality tracks as Innisbrook in Tarpon Springs, Fla., get involved in the Egyptian development market?

Answer: The International Executive Service Corps (IESC), an organization that sends teams of retired people to help Third World countries with new and existing business ventures. The IESC sent Packard to Egypt: All expenses paid, but no salary.

"Once he was there, word traveled fast. "After I finished the par-3, a group wanted a brand new 18-hole golf course in Cairo, out near the pyramids," said Packard. "It's in what they call 6th of October City. They're building all kinds of residences and buildings there. They have 16 million people in the Greater Cairo area, and they're trying to redistribute them."

"The layout in 6th of October City is all completed. They decided they wanted the course all in one piece. The housing is separate — on the outside. They're going to call it Dreamland Pyramids Golf Course."

The developer, Dr. Ahmed Bahgat, is president of Goldstar, the multinational electronics firm. Bahgat's development group will build the golf course, not to mention an accompanying amusement park, about 10 miles from the Nile River.

"All I knew was nothing if you didn't have the Nile there," said Packard. "They expect to drill some wells for irrigation."

"The site is gently rolling. You can see the Pyramids. It's an excellent site, but of course it has no trees or shrubs of any kind." He asked Dr. Baghat where he's going get the topsoil, and he said he can get it from an area near the mouth of the Nile. I think he'll need six inches over the entire site."

Packard said his work on the Dreamland facility led to his third project, on the opposite side of Cairo in Heliopolis. Packard explained there are not yet working drawings for the Heliopolis project. He left for Egypt early this month to complete the routing.

"The interesting thing about this second project is, they've already sold 100 houses at $250,000 a pop," he said. "When I first saw the site, it looked like a mountain of sand. It's a super site. There will a lot of grading, but it's a little more hilly than the other site."

Though it has never before built a golf course, Egyptian Engineers Co. for Dwellings (EECD) will construct the golf course. Packard explained that EECD engineers have visited Innisbrook three times to learn about golf course construction.

"I've got half a dozen guys who might be interested in going over there to be a superintendent of construction," said Packard. "That guy will have his hands full, that's for sure."

Blessing opens Emerald Course at Wailea GC

The Wailea Golf Club has officially opened its long-awaited Emerald Course. The opening began with a traditional Hawaiian blessing by Reverend Nani Saify. The blessing heralds the completion of the final phase of an ambitious expansion project which began six years ago under direction of architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr.

Sister to the resort's acclaimed Blue Course and the award-winning Golf Course, the new Emerald Course represents the final phase of an $80 million investment which included the addition of the Gold Course, a second clubhouse and a state-of-the-art training facility. The new 18-hole Emerald Course brings a total of 54 holes of championship golf to the 1,500-acre Wailea Resort.

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