Designer Walker, pioneering scientist Hawkins link up in new firm

By MARK LESLIE

By operating on the belief that time to gain approvals can be "significantly shortened" by coordinating design, environmental and permitting disciplines in the planning process, scientist Larry K. Hawkins and former Gary Player Design Co. architect Tom Walker have formed a new company attempting just that.

Headquartered in Gainesville, Fla., U.S.A., Golf Design Studios, Inc. will offer course design, engineering and environmental management and permitting expertise. It draws on Hawkins' expertise in golf permitting and Walker's background in course design and construction.

They hope to make in-roads in Asia-Pacific, Hawkins said, adding: "I hear so much about their water-quality and environmental problems, and our concept works well in those situations. It's a common-sense approach, implementing design, water-quality and maintenance practices on the entire site plan."

Before forming their company, Hawkins and Walker worked well together on a couple of projects. "We have been able to manage project approvals in substantially less time compared to other projects in the same area," Hawkins said, "when we have provided wetlands, water-quality and habitat-management plans that were properly integrated into golf course design and site-planning elements. "This translates into hard dollar savings for our clients. Our experience in golf-related environmental issues has been very useful in expediting the approval process."

None of his plans, Hawkins said, has required expensive numerical model analysis for pesticide fate assessments. "Our experience," he said, "has been that there is a positive response from the political bodies and general public to projects that have been well planned and focused on environmental sensitivities from the outset."

Hawkins has integrated computer-simulation technology into the course and water management design plans to help developers and the public better visualize how the water system and golf hole function together.

Hawkins, president of GeoScience Inc., has been providing environmental management programs and helping gain permits for golf courses for more than two decades.

Walker has 20 years experience — the last six years as an architect with Player Design and five years before that with Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

Cascio, Stahnel form DesignlnOne

KENOSHA, Wis. — Steven Cascio and Joe Stahnel recently formed DesignlnOne, a multi-discipline design group exclusively concentrating in golf club and resort identity programs.

Cascio and Stahnel have more than 30 years of international marketing and corporate identity design experience.

"We created DesignlnOne to meet the specific needs of the leisure and entertainment market," Cascio said. "We start each project with an in-depth marketing/design analysis so we can pinpoint our client's needs, develop effective marketing tools to launch the development."

Burns' design to open in summer

MEDINA, Ohio — The golf course at Fox Meadow Golf & Country Club is scheduled to be completely open in mid-October, with play expected to commence in the summer of 1995.

The course, part of a 563-acre upscale real-estate development, was designed by Burns Golf Design, of Fernandina Beach, Fla, and built by Central Florida Turf, of Avon Park.