Behold, the very principles you've been waiting for.

The second conference on Golf & The Environment, held at Pinehurst in mid-March, was not the unprecedented meeting of minds the first incarnation was. From all accounts (the press was not invited to last year's conference at Pebble Beach), the inaugural Golf & The Environment seminar was no less than an epiphany, whereby conference at Pebble Beach), the inaugural Golf & The Environment seminar was no less than an epiphany, whereby the first incarnation was.

The Golf & The Environment seminar was no less than an epiphany, whereby the first incarnation was. The very principles that the person in charge of Golf Digest's Best Course polls has apparently remained in the good graces of every architect on this planet. You'd think he would have to wear a flak jacket to dodge bullets at AGSGA meetings, rather than a dinner jacket to receive the society's top award.

Yet, there Whitten stood March 28, accepting the Ross plaque. And perhaps more is owed him than we at first think. This例行 of new golf industry books may be directly related to the success of last year's innovative efforts with Architect Geoffrey Cornish: The Golf Course and the Architects of Golf. Now, there is no more sitting around helplessly waiting five years for Whitten and Cornish's next update. A sampling of what's on the book menu is revealing. Hold the salo, for me, but here goes:

- Looking for course reviews? Confidential Guide to Golf Courses by Tom Doak is both witty and dense as well as insightful. You might say, full of wisdom.
- Interested in biography? Check out Sid Matthew's Life of a Billionaire.

Continued on page 45

Chase after wisdom via new batch of golf books

The Book of Proverbs urges us to chase after wisdom. Well, what do you know, all of a sudden, the heavens have opened in a deluge of wisdom in the form informational books. We've published for the golfs in the form informational books. We've published for the golfs in the form informational books. You don't mind what your appetite, it seems there is something hot off the press (or due out soon) meant just for your consumption.

So, it's fitting in this year of the book that "Infomeister" Ron Whitten is honored by the American Society of Golf Course Architects as the recipient of its Donald Ross Award. A man of integrity, esteemed by the entire industry, Whitten walked away from a career as a district attorney to work in the pine needles. Golf, especially those implications about course design, have been indecipherable ever since to this architectural editor of Golf Digest and Golf World. It certainly seems advisable that the person in charge of Golf Digest's Best Course polls has apparently remained in the good graces of every architect on this planet. You'd think he would have to wear a flak jacket to dodge bullets at AGSGA meetings, rather than a dinner jacket to receive the society's top award.

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Continued on page 45

Letters

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
RESPONDS TO NICKLAUS

To the Editor:

Title: "Nicklaus: Public-access now driving the market, as golf comes full circle" (GCN Feb. 1996, Guest Commentary). This golf course exposed a void between the upscale private golf clubs and the public courses with low greens fees and limited entry fees, which was changing the dynamics of the industry.

As designers or developers, we are able to do golf courses which will attract the general public, ranging in age from 35 to 80 dark ages of public golf.

3. Public course golfers are insisting on value. Today's players will pay $25, even $50, to play championship golf courses. view that a golfer who plays 10 times a year only spends $2,000 compared to a private golfer who plays 40 times a year and spends $25,000.

The muni courses of back then were, they especially those regarding superintendents and their work. It's my feeling a goodly portion of course managers already abide by most of the ideas spelled out in the maintenance section. Of course, the principles weren't designed to be specific and (note how many times the document uses the word "should")

Continued on page 35

From the Editor

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Publisher
Charles E. von Brecht
Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG
Managing Editor
Mark A. Leslie
Associate Editor
Peter Blais
Contributing Editors
Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG
Western Sales:
Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG
buchen@csu.idaho.edu
Advertising Office
National Sales:
Charles E. von Brecht
Golf Course News
Box 997, 38 Lafayette Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096
207-846-0600; Fax: 207-846-0657
jphillips@csu.idaho.edu
Marketing Assistant
Brenda Boothby
Editorial Office
Golf Course News
Box 997, 38 Lafayette Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096
207-846-0600; Fax: 207-846-0657
Western Sales:
Robert Sanner
Western Territory Manager
2141 West Lawrence, KS 66046
913-842-3999; fax: 913-842-3403
Marketplace Sales:
Diana Costello-Leu
Golf Course Expo Sales
Douglas Oakford
207-846-0600; fax: 207-846-0657
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Golf Course News
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Leslie comment: Chasing wisdom

Continued from page 10

and Times of Bobby Jones. Here is a true American hero, not one of these 1990s-style persona-non-integrity types.

• Want to know the down-to-earth particulars of design and construction? Golf Course Architecture by Dr. Michael Hurdzan and Guide to Golf Course Irrigation System Design and Drainage by Edward Pira will leave few questions unanswered.

• The latest in maintenance techniques and research? Dr. J.M. Vargas has released his long-awaited Management of Turfgrass Diseases and Dr. James B. Beard and Toshikazu Tani have co-authored Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases. Any further questions, class? Then you might find them in a book about the secrets of greenkeeping by former GCSCA President Mike Bavier and former Canadian GSA President Gordon Witteveen, or Beard's upcoming Fundamentals of Golf Course Maintenance. Both are due out in early 1997.

• Want to read the greats? Books are coming from even beyond the grave. The Spirit of St. Andrews by Alister Mackenzie is a full diet of design, with a morsel of playing tips tossed in. And due out this spring is Golf Has Never Failed Me, the lost commentaries of Donald Ross compiled by (guess who?) Whitten.

All this adds up to one thing: wisdom. So, pursue it, eh? • • •

Right now, like an older professor, Robert Trent Jones Sr. wants to add more "use" into the game of golf. Thus he is enthusiastic about his collaboration with son Bob on a course in the Disney Co.'s town of Celebration outside Orlando, Fla. (see story page 37). This short, par-3 course is geared to children as well as adults. Jones Sr. wants children to play the game. How does he intend to draw them in? Far-forward tees, even to the extent of building tees up on the doglegs of par-4s.

"This way, youngsters can play the course without being embarrassed," said Bob.

Morrish comment: Designing it for the whole family

Continued from page 11

the architect determines that six water features fit the strategy, he probably will design those holes so that the water is on the left in four instances and on the right on the other two. The reason for this is simple. When good players miss a shot, it is usually hooked to the left, whereas poor players will slice to the right seven out of eight times when missing a shot.

The last, but very important item concerning family-friendly design is maintenance. Archi-

tects and superintendents should work hand in hand to make the courses play fair. One problem constantly encountered is the length of roughs. For everyday play, roughs should be mowed at a height that will help players. This means that it is short enough so you can easily find your ball, but long enough to keep balls from rolling into a worse lie. In other words, the rough should "help," not "hurt."

Golf courses afford one of the best chances for families to spend time together and experience the great outdoors. No, strolling a beautiful fairway is not the same as hiking a wilderness area. But then again you can't chase a little white ball in the wilderness that is, unless you're really wild off the tee.