Nicklaus designs public course

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill. — Responding to the demand for more high-quality daily-fee golf courses in the St. Louis area, Jack Nicklaus and Nicklaus Golf Management Inc. announced that Jack Nicklaus will design Stonewolf Golf & Residential Community. The course is targeted to open next September.

In addition to the Nicklaus signature course, this project will feature 188 homes scheduled to begin construction in September. The 6,900-yard, 18-hole course and 188 homes are to be constructed on 284 acres. The land is partially open but mostly wooded and has a number of sharp elevation changes which will make for interesting golf and unique residential development.

Sanford turns Sawmill negatives into positives

SAGINAW TWP., Mich. — Sanford Associates has unveiled design plans of the new Sawmill Golf Club, currently under construction here.

"The site constraints (wetlands, floodplains, creeks, upland forest) were viewed as a positive influence to incorporate the golf course and residential community into a natural setting," said course architect John Sanford.

The construction entails specialty clearing and grading to enhance the natural features of the property. Some 1 1/2 acres of the existing 20-acre wetlands will be impacted and that will be replaced with six acres of man-made wetlands strategically located throughout the course. Sanford Associates worked closely with R.C. Associates Environmental Engineering and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to formulate a plan that would work for everybody.

"We feel it is a win/win situation when the owners get the golf course and lot yield they need to make the project fly, and state environmental officials endorse a mitigation plan that will enhance the existing wetlands," Sanford said.

The course will play through three distinctly different settings. Eight holes are routed in and around the wetlands. Four holes will border a natural creek and floodplain area that will require accuracy and placement of each shot. Six holes are located in previously farmed fields and will offer several heroic shot-making opportunities.

The practice facility will boast 10 acres with target greens, chipping area, and an 18-hole putting course.

Sanford adds CAD designer

WATKINSVILLE, Ga. — Mike Young Designs has hired Thad Bell as a computer-aided designer. Bell, who holds a landscape architecture degree form the University of Georgia, most recently worked for Nicklaus Design.

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