Pioneers of public-access

We pay a great deal of attention to the public-access golf course market in the pages of this publication. Indeed, Golf Course News coined the phrase "public access" so we wouldn't have to say "daily-fee, municipal, semi-private and resort" every time we referred to the largest portion of this country's 15,000-plus golf facilities.

Five years ago when the boom in public-access development was evident, Golf Course News decided to create an educational forum for the owners, superintendents and developers of these facilities. Why? Because even then, back in 1990, while public-access courses accounted for half the new course建造, the term "public-access" served two purposes: it identified the owners of these facilities and trade and show that served this vibrant market segment.

That was five years ago. During the ensuing five years more than 2,000 golf courses have opened nationwide — a full 80 percent of them public-access. Today daily-fee, municipal, semi-private and resort facilities account for more than two-thirds of American golf courses. Ninety percent of those courses now under construction are public-access, so don't expect the trend to change anytime soon.

In the fifth Public Golf Forum scheduled for October 27-29, in Chicago, I want to take time here to salute the public-access course leaders...