BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Gary Roger Baird Design International, Ltd., has hired Todd Eckenrode as a design associate. Eckenrode’s responsibilities include primarily domestic design assignments, as well as production of the Robinson Beach artistic presentations for the Baird organization’s overseas clients in Asia. He has a bachelor of arts degree in law and society from the University of California Santa Barbara, and a bachelor of science degree in landscape architecture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Calif.

INDUSTRY NETWORK CITES GARN
HAINES CITY, Fla. — Ron Garl of Lakeland has been awarded the International Network of Golf Industry Honors for Golf Course Designer of the Year at the 5th Annual ING Fall Conference at Greenslese Golf and Tennis Resort in Haines City. Garl’s creativity, environmental awareness, and talent for designing courses that are challenging and memorable for golfers of varying skills is his trademark.

PLAYERS ISLAND BREAKS GROUND
MESQUITE, Nev. — Construction of the Players Island Resort’s 18-hole golf course began Nov. 1. The $8.5 million facility, which is scheduled to open this fall, is being designed by architect Cal Olson.

ULI APPOINTS VON HAGGE
AMESHTE, Mass., has collaborated with various landscape architects, including Michael Hurdzan and Michael Keiser, to design the 18-hole course. The course is being built on land that was once a strip mine. We’re going to turn the existing environment into a new, environmentally sensitive course.

Commins chosen to receive Rossi Humanitarian Award

By MARK LESLIE
CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Geoffrey Cornish, who has designed more golf courses than anyone in history, has been chosen to receive the 1996 Rossi Humanitarian Award. Cornish has been recognized for his contributions to the community, particularly in the area of wetlands preservation.

Commins on his own

By MARK LESLIE
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — He cut his teeth working for one of the top “name” firms in the country. Now Chris Commins, senior vice president of McCumber (read: Mark McCumber) Golf, has opened his own golf course design practice here.

Taking the plunge

By MARK LESLIE
Golf Design International, Ltd., has formed Terra-Link Inc., a multi-disciplinary firm specializing in master planning golf course/multi-use projects in North America. Lazzari leaves Matthews

By MARK LESLIE
OKECHOS, Mich. — No sooner had he hung out his shingle as a golf course architect than Dave Lazzari was facing some unique — and major — challenges. Lazzari, a design associate with Matthews & Associates in Lansing since 1992, has formed Terra-Link Inc., a multi-disciplinary firm specializing in master planning golf course/multi-use projects in North America.

Cornish chosen to receive Rossi Humanitarian Award

By MARK LESLIE
SPRING, Texas — Golf course architect Robert von Hagge has been appointed to the Recreation Development Council for the Urban Land Institute. The council is a nonprofit group that acts as a clearinghouse in establishing and measuring quality in amenity developments. It also deals with related issues concerning the environment, marketing, forecasting trends and funding in order to help developers.

Q&A Variety spics Cupp’s career

Bob Cupp, 56, holds a bachelor’s degree in art, a master’s degree in fine arts and an associate’s degree in agronomy. He first started designing courses while a pro shop manager before joining Jack Nicklaus’ design firm as a senior designer in 1973. He opened his own firm in Atlanta 10 years ago. He has collaborated with many PGA Tour pros and designed such widely acclaimed layouts as Golf Digest’s best new course winners Crosswater in Suwanee, Ore. (1995’s best resort) and Pumpkin Ridge in Portland, Ore. (1992’s best public). Cupp has four children aged 31, 29, 4 and 4 months.

Golf Course News: What distinguishes Bob Cupp from other designers?

Bob Cupp: Two things. First, I don’t want all my courses to have a certain look. Pete Dye, Jack [Nicklaus], Tom Fazio, Rees Jones and many others basically do the same stuff on each course. That’s not necessarily bad. They’ve all built some wonderful courses. But life is too short to be doing the same thing all the time. It’s more fun to design courses in new ways.

Second is the variety of golf shots. A typical course has four par 3s, four par 5s and 10 par 4s. Each par 3, for instance, should play toward a different compass point; the prevailing wind should come from various directions; and they should vary greatly in length.

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"I am gratified and flattered," said Cornish of being chosen for the award, which is named for a master architect who has been instrumental in the design of some of the world’s most famous golf courses. "This is something I’ve wanted to do for a long time." Indeed, Commins’ firm sits under the same roof as the Golf Course Builders Association of America. The 81-year-old Cornish, of Amherst, Mass., has collaborated with associates William G. Robinson, Brian Silva and Mark Mungeam on more than 240 courses in North America and Europe.

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His crowning achievement? "If one has a large family, he shouldn’t mention his favorite child," Cornish said. But among his best are International Golf Club in Bolton, Mass., Summerlea Golf and Country Club in Montreal, Center Valley (Pa.) Club, The New Ashburn Golf Course in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada; and The Quechee (Vt.) Club, with Ron Whitten. Cornish co-wrote The Architects of Golf, a survey of the greatest course designers. Lazzari leaves Matthews

By MARK LESLIE
OKECHOS, Mich. — No sooner had he hung out his shingle as a golf course architect than Dave Lazzari was facing some unique — and major — challenges. Lazzari, a design associate with Matthews & Associates in Lansing since 1992, has formed Terra-Link Inc., a multi-disciplinary firm specializing in master planning golf course/multi-use projects in North America.

Starting a new business was “fairly daunting,” Lazzari said. “But I think I can look at a project from a unique perspective. Our focus will be on larger scope, more complex projects because I think I can..."