BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Gary Roger Baird Design International, Ltd. has hired Todd Eckenerode as a design associate. Eckenerode’s responsibilities include primarily domestic design assignments, as well as production of the Robinson Bro. artistry presentations for the Baird organization’s overseas clients. 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 GARL
HAINES CITY, Fla. — Ron Garl of Lakeland has been awarded the International National of Golf Industry Honors for Golf Course Designer of the Year at the 5th Annual ING Fall Conference at Grenelefe Golf and Tennis Resort. Robert von Hagge, of being chosen for the award, which is named for a

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
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.

GOLF COURSE NEWS:

By MARK LESLIE

BY MARK LESLIE

DEVELOPMENT

A REAL-LIFE TEST

One course, 18 green types stir expectations

By MARK LESLIE

CITIUATE, Mass. — A land mark project for the golf industry — promising answers to all sorts of environmental questions — is being built here with the full blessing of townspeople and environmental organizations and agencies.

Widow’s Walk Golf Course “will have lots of ramifications,” said Dr. Michael Hurdzan, whom town officials chose to design the municipal course because of his history of concerns for the environment.

“Ther e was vir tually no oppo nition,” Town Administrator Richard Agnew said of the project. “It’s on an old gravel operation that looks like a strip mine. We’re going to turn something that is dead into something that is very environmentally pleasing and sensitive, building wildlife corridors and creating wetlands as opposed to destroying the

Any way you cut it, Widow’s Walk will be a winner, according to all interested parties. The town Conservation Commission, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Audubon International, Massachusetts Audubon and various other groups were involved in the project, all brought together by Roland Bates of Golf Realty Advisors in Hingham.

The townspeople are excited about

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Cornish chosen to receive Rossi Humanitarian Award

By MARK LESLIE

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Geoffrey Cornish, who has designed more golf courses in New England than anyone in history and co-authored the definitive history of golf architecture, will be presented the Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA)

The award will be presented at the GCBA banquet Feb. 9 during the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Fla.

“I am gratified and flattered,” said Cornish of being chosen for the award, which is named for a good friend and the late executive vice president of the GCBA. He noted that Rossi formed Cornish for Frosh to receive the NGF’s Outstanding Service Award when Rossi headed that organization.

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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Commins’s career

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 McConner (read: Mark McConner) Golf, has opened his own golf course design practice here.

Sunshine Design opened for business Jan. 1 amid “unbridled enthusiasm” on the part of Commins.

“This is something I’ve wanted to do for a long time,” he said. “Now, my wife and my personal situation makes it possible.”

Indeed, Commins’ firm sits under the same roof as his wife’s, Sunshine Marketing, which markets a

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Taking the plunge

By MARK LESLIE

OKEE\OS, 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

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La\zzari leaves Matthews

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A real-life greens test
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turning a gravel pit into a scenic golf course with views of the At-
lantic Ocean. They are excited for its golf course with views of the At-
Continental Ocean. They are excited about bringing an abandoned dump back to life, about unique
new areas of recycling such as recycled-asphalt cart paths and pelletized effluent from the Mass-
achusett State Water Resource Au-
thority for soil nutrients.

But for the golf world, Widow’s Walk is a showpiece of recycled-asphalt cart paths and pelletized effluent from the Mas-
achusett State Water Resource Au-
thority for soil nutrients.

Perhaps the most intriguing research involves the greens. "We're building nine different types of greens and duplicating each of those, so we can compare one side of the project area to another," said David Welchel, a designer for the Columbus, Ohio-based Hardzan Design Group. "We may build one green in a high, exposed spot and another one just like it in a low area with little air movement. It's an experimental process and you want extremes for comparison's sake."

Specifically, the contractor will build three different drainage systems on each of three different types of greens. One drainage system is the typical U.S. Golf Association (USGA) herringbone-type pattern. Another is a flat drain tile (ADS Advantage) system that is laid on the subgrade rather than trenched. Third is no drainage except a "smile" drain at the low point where the water will leave the green. "With each of these three types of drainage, we will build three types of green," Welchel said, including:

• a USGA-specified green with a 12-inch root-zone layer, intermediate layer, if required, and pea gravel layer;
• a California Method green, which is essentially 100-percent sand 12-inch profile on the subgrade and with a micronutri-
• a New England native sandy loam green, using the best avail-

able sand from the site as the greens matrix.

This gives us the opportunity to really say. The green built to a specific type in a certain location works or doesn't work," Welchel said. "It gives us a bar-
ometer. We're trying to max-
imize our resources and minimize the superintendent's headache in maintaining a given green.

"When we can show this type requires less fertilizer, chemi-
cals, etc., then we will accom-
plish our goal."

"First, it will allow us to really assess the impact of different con-
struction and management tech-
niques," said Hardzan. "Second, it can save construction money. If we find topsoil greens perform just as well in that area as 'technical' greens, we can cut costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"The third major benefit is that we're going to significantly im-
prove the wildlife potential and value of that site. Right now, it's biologically impoverished. We will enrich that manifold."

Wetland areas will be pre-
served or reestablished. Fair-
ways and tees will be seeded to
fescue grasses. Many out-of-play areas will be revegetated with native vegetation, coordinated by Bill Burbank of Abelline, Inc. in Worcester and East Sandwich. A turfgrass maintenance pro-
gress was submitted for Conser-
vation Commission review, con-
ment and approval. "This golf course will need the bare mini-
num in chemicals because of
less acreage [130 acres] than usual and because we are using fescues everywhere," Welchel said. "Except on the greens, we will use half or less of what a normal golf course uses."

Wax making Widow's Walk a guinea pig of sorts a hard sell to the community? "We held a town meeting to float a $4.7 million bond," Town Administrator Agnew said, "and the vote was 850 to 50 for it."

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products and services for the municipal Widow's Walk Golf Course being built here. The money value of the products they donate will be deposited into an ongoing research fund for the site, said course archi-
tect Dr. Michael Hardzan.

Scotts, which is donating $50,000 in turfgrass seed as well as its new Coconut Coir as a stable organic material for the greens," is the first environmental corporate sponsor of the course, he said.

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