BAIRD HIRES DESIGNER
BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Gary Roger Baird Design International, Ltd., has hired Todd Ecknerode as a design associate. Ecknerode’s responsibilities include primarily domestic design assignments, as well as production of his work. Ecknerode’s presence 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 GARM
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 Greensleve Golf and Tennis Resort in Port St. Lucie, Fla. 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.

BEST RANGE OF THE YEAR
TUALATIN, Ore. — Golf Range Times has given Tualatin Island Greens near Portland its Best New Range Award. Tualatin Island, a 220-acre facility, opened last March by developers Chuck Thomas and Charlie Johnson.

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 non-profit 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.

BRIEFS

DEVELOPMENT

A REAL-LIFE TEST

One course, 18 green types stir expectations
BY MARK LESLIE
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CITUATE, 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.

"There was virtually no opposition," 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 them.

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 the project, all brought together by Roland Bates of Golf Realty Advisors in Hingham.

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, is being chosen for the 1996 Ross Award. Cornish is being chosen for the award, which is named for a good friend and the late executive vice president of the GCBAA. He noted that Rossi headed that organization.

The 81-year-old Cornish, of Amherst, Mass., has collaborated with associates William G. Robinson, Brian Silva and Mark Mungane on more than 240 courses in North America and Europe.

His crowning achievement? "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, which is better known as the Home of the Dunes. Cornish co-wrote The Architects of Golf, a survey of the best architects in the industry.

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.

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

Taking the plunge

Chris Commins Dave Lazzari

Lazzari leaves Matthews

BY MARK LESLIE

OKEMOS, 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
Anchors firmly in place. It’s easy to install; easy to move.

Continued from page 29

who didn’t obtain his college degree in urban planning/landscape architecture from Michigan State University until 1992, said he foresees working often with golf course architects on projects “where we may be able to provide more of a planning role.”

“It is so wet it is unplayable about one month a year,” he said, “so we will create retention ponds and wetlands to store 20 acre-feet of water. They are also looking at planting endangered species in the wetlands.”

Another exciting challenge, Lazzari said, is in Livingston County, where schools, a commercial district and housing are planned. “Eighteen very high-quality public golf holes are planned now and 18 more in the future,” he said of the temporarily named Livingston Highlands. “The first 18 include a practice facility and, potentially, nine executive-length holes for the growing market of women and juniors.” Terra-Links will upgrade a third project, Wicker Municipal Golf Course in Hammond, Ind. The 360-acre property is being master-planned to include commercial development as well.


Terra-Link can be reached at 517-347-2587.

Lazzari now Terra-Link

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