

## BRIEFS



## FOSTER BUSY IN TEXAS

HOUSTON, Texas — Following on The Quarry in San Antonio, which opened in 1993, Keith Foster has secured another design opportunity within the state of Texas. The latest, Cypresswood Golf Complex here, has retained Foster to design its third 18-hole course. The site has stands of pines and magnolias, as well as ground "perfectly suited for an outstanding golf course," Foster said.

## ART HILLS TRACK OPENING

PETOSKEY, Mich. — The first nine holes, named The Links, at Boyne USA's Bay Harbor Community is scheduled to open July 1.



Art Hills

Art Hills designed all 27 holes at the facility. The second nine (The Preserve) will open in September and the third nine (The Quarry) next year.

CMS Energy Corp. of Dearborn and Victor International of Southfield are developing Bay Harbor. tes.

## HARBOTTLE RENOVATIONS UNDER WAY

LOS ANGELES — Ground has broken on two major renovations by golf architect John Harbottle: The Log Angeles Country Club North Course, a George Thomas original design, is being restored with the help of Landscapes Unlimited; and the remodeling of Stockton Country Club, credited in part to Alister McKenzie, will be completed by Flint Golf.

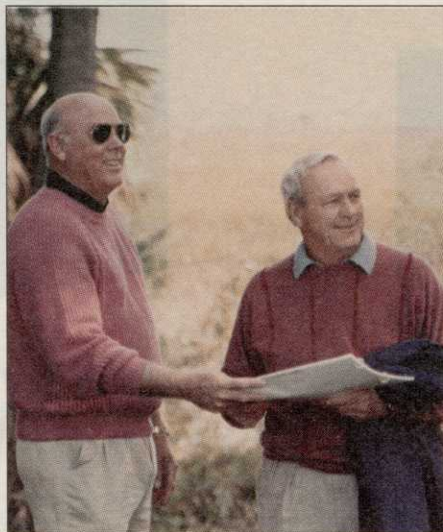
## REES JONES ON THE CAPE

NANTUCKET, Mass. — The planning board has approved plans for a private, 18-hole golf course on 250 acres of prime island real estate known as the Coffin Farm. The Nantucket Golf Club will feature a par-72 course designed by golf course architect Rees Jones. The proposed course will cover 87 acres of the parcel. Construction of the club on former farmland will cost an estimated \$21 million.

## ASGCA ON LINE

CHICAGO — The American Society of Golf Course Architects expects to have its web site on line by early June. The address is [www.golfdesign.org](http://www.golfdesign.org). Information will include association history, addresses and phone numbers of members, environmental case studies and a developer handbook. The handbook will assist in selecting an architect, provide information on course redesign and lend insights into developing municipal courses.

## Palmer-Seay team: A time-honored tradition



Ed Seay (left) and Arnold Palmer look over plans on the Spring Island, S.C., property that they turned into the highly acclaimed 18-hole Old Tabby Links.

Twenty-six years ago golfing legend Arnold Palmer linked up with architect Ed Seay to design a golf course. More than 125 courses later, they are still together and among the most sought-after architects in the world: Palmer, 66, the golf icon, winner of 60 PGA Tour events; Seay, 58, the consummate course architect and former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Catching them at a rare time when they both were in one place, we asked them these questions.

GCN: Outside of America, things are so varied in regards to regulations. Is there one country you enjoy working in more than the others?

Seay: I've enjoyed Ireland, Japan and Australia. Only in Australia and Ireland was English spoken when we first started. I started working in Japan with Arnold in

Q &amp; A

1971 and there was very, very little English spoken. We were never without an interpreter. That has changed a lot.

GCN: You are very popular over there.

Seay: Arnold is popular anywhere. If you want to leap into just about anywhere in the world, everybody knows him.

GCN: Any memorable stories showing the uniqueness of working in another culture?

Seay: You wander through a fish hatchery outside Bangkok and along this strip of land down by the fish ponds. It's about a foot wide and a foot above water. In front of us about 30 guys are beating on straw baskets with sticks. I ask what they were doing, and I'm told, "They're just

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## Better relations, products are GCBAA's new goal

By MARK LESLIE

PLAINFIELD, Ill. — With its finances stabilized and certification program fine-tuned, the Golf Course Builders Association of America's (GCBAA) new president is focusing on improved relationships with course architects and building a better product.

Paul Eldredge, president of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. headquartered here, said: "The next emphasis should be our alliance with the architects, finding ways to improve the quality of golf courses, working with the environmental issues that face us all, and assuring we don't do anything that would be negative to the continued expansion of golf."

"All the people in the industry — superintendents and allied associations — have begun to work together to identify those issues and come to grips with them before they become a major deterrent to golf."

The GCBAA will address some of these issues at its summer meeting, Aug. 8-10, in Louisville, Ky. A panel on

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Paul Eldredge

## Builders facing trouble collecting final payments

By MARK LESLIE

HAPEL HILL, N.C. — Retainage: the scourge of golf course builders. That's the definition painted by leaders of the Golf Course Builders Association of America.

Builders "have trouble collecting on about one of five jobs," said GCBAA President Paul Eldredge of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., which has offices across the United States including Hawaii. "At the margins we work at today, we can't afford that."

Retainage is the amount of money a developer holds back from a builder until the project is complete. GCBAA Executive Director Phil Arnold said: "That can be \$500,000, and it is often the builder's entire profit."

Even though retainage is a portion of the agreed-upon amount to be paid the builder, "some owners take the attitude that it is always going to be their money and they're not going to give it to you," Eldredge said.

What to do?

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Phil Wogan (below left), who has designed golf courses across New England alone since 1956, and George Sargent Jr. (below right) discuss construction plans on the site of a new project. The two have turned a designer-contractor relationship into a design team, one of the first fruits of which is an 18-hole track at Point Sebago Golf and Beach RV resort in Casco, Maine. Point Sebago's deceiving par-4 15th hole (right) measures from 285 to 325 yards, featuring an elevated tee and a short second shot over a long, narrow pond to a long, harrow green. The front nine at Point Sebago opened last year and ceremonies opening the second nine were held May 31.



## Wogan solo no more

By MARK LESLIE

TOPSFIELD, Mass. — Little did George Sargent Jr. know when he took his first job out of college working at the Phil Wogan-designed North Conway (N.H.) Country Club that one day he would be a partner with Wogan. But today that is true. Long-time golf course architect Wogan and superintendent-turned-contractor/project manager Sargent have incorporated as a new

design team, Wogan and Sargent, Inc.

Working out of headquarters here and in Franklin, N.H., Wogan and Sargent have several projects under construction and more in the works.

"I'm fortunate to be working with Phil," Sargent said. "His experience, along with my background in the business, makes a

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## Q&A: Palmer & Seay

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scaring the cobra out of the way."

There are all sorts of stories about animals and culture... sticking a live monkey's head up through the top of a table, a machete comes along and takes the top of the head off, and that's where you dip your spoon if you want monkey brains. There are some weird delicacies like live eel and turtle eyeball soup.

**GCN:** Arnold, how important was it to you to team with Ed Seay in your design career?

**Palmer:** It was very important. I was very busy and I didn't really know Ed very well, although I had heard of his reputation and knew he was very good. That turned out to be far better than I had anticipated. In a lot of areas where I am not as organized, he is extremely organized, and he picked up the ball on that note.

His ideas and knowledge of architecture are crucial, particularly in the greens area of design — by that I mean the agronomy and horticulture, the vegetation and trees, all of which he had a handle on.

He gave me a lot of his ideas, and I transferred a lot of mine to him. So the combination of my golf and his expertise has been very, very good. He has a tremendous feel for what we are doing. And everyone around him grasps that feeling.

**GCN:** Are you spending more time in design work now?

**Palmer:** As you know, over the past 26 years Ed and I have been together and we have spent thousands of hours together designing and building courses. Our business and company grew quite rapidly in the '70s and '80s, and we now have 17 very dedicated and talented pros in Palmer Course Design.

Each year I have become more and more active with every member of our team and with every project. And I will continue to increase my involvement in our designs as my tournament commitments become fewer.

**GCN:** What is the defining bottom line of a Palmer-Seay course design?

**Seay:** I'd love it if everybody just said our courses are fun. It has never been our intention to break somebody's back. We can make a golf course as difficult as you want it. That's easy. But we like people to have fun. We like them beautiful. The difficulty portion happens to be the last ingredient. We offer a specific challenge to the better player.

You can play in a 400-yard room with wooden walls, floor and ceiling straight away with a washtub at the end and somebody's going to make 6. It's difficult enough without having to make it that way. We've always been traditional designers. We've never tried to have a trademark, and don't want one.

**GCN:** You say Arnold brings the high-handicapper's perspective into the design, Ed. How's that?

**Seay:** A soft approach. Where can I hit it if I can't hit it like he [Arnold] would? What is strategic, or heroic, or penal? To a 20-handicapper, everything on that golf course is penal, including his swing. A bunker 220 yards out is not heroic for Arnold. He'll hit a 2-iron over it. John Daly will hit a 5-iron over it. But to a 15- or 20-handicapper, or a lady or senior golfer, 220 is very penal. It's not even part of the heroic thought process for that kind of player. Arnold makes sure that caliber of player has a place to hit the ball.



The 16th hole at Indian Ridge Country Club's The Grove Course in Palm Desert, Calif., designed by Palmer Course Design Co.

He is particularly aware and very sensitive about the contouring of the greens. We have, from time to time, designed a couple of bizarre greens, but for the most part they are very subtle.

**GCN:** Arnold, you have a project in the Philippines that will involve eight other major tournament winners. That's a very interesting concept. How's it coming together?

**Palmer:** The name of the project is Bonofacio and it will be located in the heart of metropolitan Manila. Palmer Course Design will be creating the master routing plan for the 18 holes and preparing and coordinating all specifications, instructions and construction inspection. There will be nine winners of major tournaments designing two holes each. I will be joined by Nick Faldo, Nick Price, John Daly, Ray Floyd, Fuzzy Zoeller, Fred Couples, Tom Kite and Steve Elkington.

Hopefully we will get underway very soon with the routing plan. Construction is scheduled for 1997.

**GCN:** Speaking of working with other guys, do you think some architects have gone overboard in recent years in "tricking up" golf courses?

**Seay:** I couldn't agree more. Not all architects, but some individuals have made golf courses entirely too difficult. Some are totally unplayable. But, keep in mind, in most cases they were asked to do that because they had done it once prior to [the new project] and had gotten notoriety by it.

A golf course on the moon makes the top 50 and the next guy who builds one wants it on the surface of Mars. The degree of difficulty on a lot of these courses was what received the notoriety.

**GCN:** What will drive the future of American golf?

**Seay:** You will see more public golf courses. Not necessarily city and county courses, but privately built pay-for-play. There may be development around them and resort courses, but they will be accessible to more people.

**GCN:** Do you have any concerns about

the industry?

**Seay:** I heard Jack Nicklaus say this, and I agree: We have to keep the ball where it is, or take 5 percent off it. That will take our courses back to 6,800 yards, what we were designing 15, 20 years ago. It's a wonderful idea.

Second, we have to be careful of pricing ourselves out of growth. There are not many more people who can afford \$100 green fees. We can saturate that market real quick. We're entering in the next 20 years where our kids are going to be less affluent than we are. Look at all the young people living with their parents.

Also, I think we can build some golf courses that don't have to conform to the Smithsonian Institution moral requirements, or USGA requirements.

Just push up some dirt; if you've got a few agronomic problems call up somebody to take care of them; and get on with it.

There's no reason a green shouldn't cost \$10,000 rather than \$50,000 to build. Go spend \$80,000 and you can have greens like Augusta National. But you don't have to do that.

There is too much stress on the maintenance of the golf course. No one can argue the beauty. But the cost!

**GCN:** Are we too enamored with "par"? A teaching pro once told me a golfer should consider his par on a hole the best score he has had on that hole down to actual par.

**Seay:** In Europe they play match play. Par doesn't mean Jack Squat to those people. If you make 13, all you hope is that your opponent makes 14. And you go on and enjoy the next hole. But an American who shoots par, par, triple-bogey wants to go to the clubhouse. His days is ruined because he is 3-over-par on one hole.

**GCN:** And we're losing something with that attitude.

**Seay:** Sure. We've got that almighty par staring us in the face, and it's just not that important. To me, it's not near as important as the game, as having fun, as you make a 6 and your opponent makes 7, you win.

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