Arkansas golf development hot

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The golf boom continues in the Razorback State, with several new courses sprouting in 1997.

- In Little Rock, Eagle Hill Golf and Athletic Club, a new 6,900-yard, par-72 layout, is scheduled to open in 1998. The course's signature hole will be an island green, built in the shape of the state of Arkansas. Other amenities include a clubhouse, pro shop, snack bar, exercise room, junior Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis courts and basketball and volleyball courts.
- Marion Lakes Golf and Athletic Club is currently under construction in the heart of the Arkansas Delta. The links-style, 6,817-yard, par-72 course is being built on an old bean field. Described as a “family paradise,” the facilities include a clubhouse and pro shop, exercise room, junior Olympic size swimming pool, tennis courts and basketball and sand volleyball courts.
- Petit Jean Country Club in Danville, Ark., recently opened with an 18-hole championship course. It offers a 16,000-square-foot clubhouse, pool and pavilion, driving range, putting green and lakes.
- Mallard Point Country Club is planning to open in the spring of 1998 in Lonoke, Ark. The course is being designed and built by Fairway Golf Course Development. The course will be a daily-fee facility.

Popular Calgary links to start major facelift this summer

CALGARY, Alberta — The 80-year-old Shaganappi Point Golf Course — the most popular of the city's six city-operated courses — is beginning a $3.9 million overhaul this summer.

The renovation, which will take place over the next five years, will include a new driving range and clubhouse, 18-hole putting green, routing changes on several holes, new greens and tees, added water and additional parking.

The designers, GPEC Consulting, say the renovations will make the 27-hole facility one of the premier public golf complexes in Western Canada. During the renovations, 18 holes will always remain open.

An average 55,000 rounds are played every year at Shaganappi.

Fort Ben redo nearly finished

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The highly-anticipated renovation of the public Fort Benjamin Harrison Golf Course by Pete Dye is almost complete as a July opening approaches.

Dye and project manager Tim Liddy opened site lines, widened landing areas, upgraded green sites and bunkering and looked at issues of playability, safety and pace of play. Dye, an Indiana native, donated his architectural fee and he and Liddy will serve as unpaid consultants to the course.

The new “Fort Ben” will be a more expensive round of golf, with greens fees projected in the $40 to $50 range, but the improvements have transformed the long underrealized 18-hole gem into a true, first-class beauty.

New Fort Ben head golf professional Scott Larson told the Indianapolis Star, “Even before I applied for the job I heard people talking about it, people in the golf business who couldn’t wait to see it.”

Randy Brehmer is Fort Benjamin Harrison’s new superintendent. Brehmer, a former three-term president of the Indiana Golf Course Superintendents Association, was the superintendent for the past five years at Bear Slide Golf Course in Cicero.

Along with improvements to the golf course, a new driving range is also under construction and a former officers club building and four residences on the property will be rented out as part of golfing packages.

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Superintendents tell why they rely on Eagle to prevent stubborn turf diseases.

“We go into the season with really nice greens,” says Mike Jones, superintendent at Valley High Country Club in Elk Grove, CA. “Then about July, the decline starts and it’s a constant battle all through September.”

Mike’s solution was to intensify his preventative fungicide program with Eagle® while raising fertility levels.

“Last year,” says Rich, “I applied Eagle preventative in April and again in September and didn’t see dollar spot all summer.”

Dollar spot was also Dave Anderson’s problem, as well as brown patch on his ryegrass fairways.

Tackling dollar spot and brown patch

Rich Hardebeck is superintendent at Eagle Lake Golf Club in Farmington, MO. When he first came to Eagle Lake, he experienced extremely heavy dollar spot on his ryegrass and bluegrass fairways.

“Then about July, the decline starts and it’s a constant battle all through September.”

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