BRIEFS

LOHMANN BREAKS GROUND ON EVANSVILLE PROJECT

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Construction has begun here on Eagle Crossing Golf Club. The new 18-hole golf course and practice facility will be the focal point of the 270-acre Eagle Crossing subdivision. The golf course is being developed by BSH Development of Evansville and designed by Loehmann Golf Designs, Inc. of Marengo, Ill. Construction is being completed by BSH Development and Golf Creations of Marengo, Ill. The par-70 course will feature bentgrass greens with zoysiagrass collars, Bermudagrass tees and fairways, and fescue roughs. The golf course is scheduled for completion this fall, opening for play in the summer of 1998. The housing development began last summer and now features 84 of the 245 home sites for sale.

VIOLA TO ADD NINE AT PINE KNOB GC

CLARKSTON, Mich. — A new nine holes are under construction here at Pine Knob Golf Course. The additional holes were designed by West Bloomfield architect Lorrie Viola, whose first solo effort in Michigan, The Timbers near Frankenmuth, opened last summer. She’s also undertaking a renovation of Burning Tree Golf & Country Club in Macomb, two championship layouts in Ocala, Fla., and a nine-hole addition at Pine Knob Golf Club. The new nine holes will wind their way along Lake Fleming, while the other six will offer the wildness of an Irish links course, Viola said. Seeding is expected to take place in June. The new nine will be open for play in 1998.

C-D TO HANDLE MICH. RENOVATION

SHEPHERD, Mich. — The golf course design firm Conroy-Dewing Associates, Inc. will handle a renovation and extensive master plan here at Winding Brook Golf Club, according to President James R. Dewling. The renovation will continue this spring under the direction of head professional Tim Dawkins. Improvements will focus on the tees and drainage around a number of greens and fairways. Phase two, involving an updating and upgrading of the existing course, is expected launch this fall. The course will be available for play while improvements are underway.

DEVELOPMENT

Dye is cast for ASGCA

Alice takes gavel this month

When the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) meets in Toronto, May 12-18, Alice Dye will succeed Denis Griffiths as its first female president. A design partner with her husband, Pete, since 1959, Alice has been a storied amateur state and national golfer as well as prime champion afterward tees in course architecture. When son Perry was accepted by the ASGCA last year, it meant the Dyes and both sons were ASGCA members — younger son P.B. having joined several years ago.

Golf Course News: What do you want to focus on during your term in office?

Alice Dye: We will continue all of the programs that Denis [Griffiths] started: stressing low-cost golf courses and the President’s Award. We also want to improve speed of play and create a greater identity for the ASGCA Foundation so that the industry knows we are doing something in a special niche to help.

By building low-cost golf courses we can reduce the price of golf and keep it growing. The President's Award will be directed toward a specific project: this year Junior Golf. So many programs are so big that we can't make a particular contribution, so our foundation will center on some area that is of help to the golf industry, golfers, everyone. The Foundation has done some good work with research, and with a living history. We have videotaped about 20 old-time architects who are still living, telling their experiences and philosophies. People like Robert Trent Jones on tape, telling his philosophy — this will be invaluable 50 years from now.

The environmental book that [ASGCA member] Bill Love put together was wonderful. It required a lot of work and dedication, and it is information that only our organization can provide. But we're such

Q&A

Continued on page 48

Foster set to unveil the Texas Star

EULESS, Texas — Hurricane Creek meanders by while century-old oak trees and an assortment of native grasses outline the fairways here on the newest design from Keith Foster, the city of Eules' Texas Star Golf Course and Conference Center.

The facility, located in the heart of the Metroplex and 10 minutes from the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, opens for play May 22.

The constant feature of the 287-acre site is Hurricane Creek, which winds through a landscape of stacked rock ponds, waterfalls and hill country terrain.

The 7,000-yard track, constructed by Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., will play to a par of 71.

Sporting a spikeless golf shoe policy, the course will host The Collegiate Players Tour National Championship on Aug. 12-14.

The state-of-the-art conference center includes more than 5,000 square feet of divisible space.

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With irrigation and alcohol, hard part is knowing when to stop

By Dr. Michael Hurdzan

Recently I had a discussion with perhaps the dean of club professionals, from one of the most distinguished and exquisitely manicured golf courses in America. We talked about, what else, Tiger Woods' prodigious length off the tee, and my friend offered that maybe it was time to bring back fairway cross bunkers that make the classic courses of the 1920s so popular and a great test of golf. "Only then," he mused, "will par-5s stay three-shot holes and will 460-yard par-4s be more than a drive and short iron for the big hitters."

Personally, as a fan of cross bunkers, I applauded his observation, but we both realized that such hazards would most seriously frustrate the average and below-average golfer, make for slow play and add to maintenance costs. I suggested there might be another strategic solution, which would actually more fairly increase the challenge of a golf course for all golfers, speed up play, reduce maintenance costs and make golf courses better neighbors to their surrounding environments. That idea was also a 1920s classic, but it was a product of technological depravation, not intelligent decision-making.

This big idea was — to turn off fairway irrigation.

Now my dear Mom taught me "all

Continued on page 42
THEM'S E healthy — healthy. Nearly every
keep the turf healthy... not
if we do not turn off fairway
things in moderation," so even
minimum amount necessary to
irrigation, let's reduce it to the
Continued from page 39
perfectly green sward de-
excess only to provide that
turf. In many
cases this might be twice the
amount necessary to keep the
turf healthy, although not
verdant green and lush.

Hurdzan comment
Continued from page 39
of European golf.

The point is, the wetter the
playing condition, the greatest
advantage will always go to the
golfer who can carry the ball in
the air the furthest. In the wet,
just "grip and rip it." But in dry
conditions, length off the tee is
a combination of carry and roll,
and the drier the turf, the more
importance is placed on the
roll which will ultimately
determine the final stopping
place for the ball. In other
words, dry turf rewards the
golfer who factors in the world
atmospheric conditions and uses
them to his advantage, benefited. At

Rarely did the hole even play
fairway. Had the fairway and/
rough been fully irrigated
the hole would have probably
only varied a club or two over
the entire season.

Was golf less fun because the
turf turned brown in the
summer? Absolutely not— it
was more fun, a greater
challenge. With reduced
mowing and fertilizing, it had
less environmental impact. Dry
turf is one of the most charm-
ing elements of European golf.

Effluent and less water use
because the turf is one of the most charm-
ing elements of European golf.

The old adage of "Today's luxury is
the golfers who factors in the world
places himself or herself in
most advantageous
course. In other
words, dry turf rewards the
golfer who factors in the world
atmospheric conditions and uses
them to his advantage, benefited. At

Today it seems too easy to
over-water turf simply to
ensure green grass. And so, for
most golfers, it is expected but
not appreciated. The old adage
of "Today's luxury is
turbo-charged," is still
true.

Can American golf ever be
weaned from over-watering, or
is water use more addictive
than alcohol? I believe the
answer is that even now most
of us in the industry are taking
every opportunity to reduce
water use — because we know
it is in the long term best
interests of the game. We
begin by selecting appropri-
ately adapted turfgrass
cultivars and favoring those
that are most drought tolerant.

Irrigation systems are being
designed with water-saving
features such as low-pressure,
low-volume, low-angle heads
directed by computers pro-
grammed with water-saving
software. Site-specific irrigation
head location and nozzleing have
replaced the old standard
triangular or square spacing
systems and standard nozzles.

Soil amendments, both
organic and inorganic, offer
technological advances that,
when used properly, can

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Continued on next page
Hurdzan & Fry chosen for #2 at Coeur d’Alene

COEUR D’ALENE, Idaho — Until now the golf course here has been known for its trademark floating green, dreamed up and implemented by Scott Miller. But now a second course is planned.

There will be no floating greens, but the as yet unnamed golf course promises rock cliffs, huge trees and views from 250 feet above the lake. Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design will lay out the course for Arrow Point Development Co.

“I feel the site is one of the most spectacular in North America,” Fry said. “Given the location and the willingness of our clients to make the golf course the best it can be, Arrow Point at Coeur d’Alene has the potential to be ranked among the Top 100 in the U.S.”

Hurdzan comment

Continued from previous page

Conservation

Conserve root-zone water.

Design, construction and maintenance techniques such as modified target golf, zonal planting and plant growth regulators are all contributing to lessen the amount of water applied to turfgrass while keeping it in a healthy state. Our goal is total sustainability of using only recycled water. This goal may be as unobtainable as finding a perpetual motion device, but we must try. Currently we are just scratching the surface of genetic engineering, subsurface irrigation, improved root-zone amendments and even best-management practices. But it takes forward-thinking turfgrass managers and open-minded field experimentation to prove their applicability and economic viability.

The only serious limitation to continuing success is the cooperative understanding of golfers to tolerate less-than-green grass. Golfers in America are clearly addicted to playing conditions achievable only by using more water than is necessary for healthy turfgrass. The first step in breaking any bad habit is to recognize there is a problem, then change attitudes or lifestyles appropriately.

Let’s hope that breaking overindulgence of over-watering is easier than that for alcohol.

Michael Hurdzan is a Columbus, Ohio-based course architect and a member of the Golf Course News Editorial Advisory Board. The above column is his first in a semi-regular series.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

McCumber breaks ground on Jersey project

MANALAPAN, N.J. — McCumber Golf and the course design firm of Mark McCumber & Associates of Jacksonville, Fla., have undertaken the building of Knob Hill Golf Course here.

Construction is already underway at the 18-hole, par-70 facility. The upscale daily-fee development is expected to open a year from now, in July 1998.

McCumber, a PGA Tour player, has laid out a course with dramatic elevation changes that uses water on several holes. McCumber Golf is the construction manager and shaper for the course.

In other McCumber & Associates news, the firm is working on GreyStone Golf Cub in Dickson, Tenn. The project is under construction.

Its TPC at Heron Bay in Coral Springs, Fla. — another McCumber product — recently opened and is host of the PGA Tour’s 1997 Honda Classic.

In addition, McCumber’s firm is designing the second of four courses planned for Del Webb’s Sun City Hilton Head in Bluffton, S.C.

8 AM • TEMP 90° • HUMIDITY 95%
(and the mycelium is growing)

WHEN YOU HAVE TO SUIT UP AND SPRAY.
‘INFERNO’ WOULD BE THE NICEST WORD FOR A DAY LIKE THIS.
UNTIL NOW. The world’s best sprayer just became the coolest. The Toro Multi Pro® 5500 now comes with an optional air-conditioned cab and a charcoal filtering system that allows cleaner, cooler air to circulate throughout the cab. So spraying even in the worst heat and humidity is a breeze. You can even add the cab to a Multi Pro® 5500 you already have. For more information see your local Toro Distributor, or visit our website at www.toro.com.