Public golf in Germany: Time for the doors to open

BY THOMAS ADKISSON

A s more and more Germans are getting a taste for this great game of golf, either on holiday or through watching a certain Mr. Woods blast a 360-yard drive, their desire to play continues to grow. To many "would be" golfer, the opportunity to experience golf is a life-changing event. For this spark and we're going to hammer away at it in news and editorials.

Golf in Germany can not expand with the confines of the private golf club. There is a distinct need for better access to golf facilities which are both convenient and financially viable for the prospective player. The McLoughlin Group

How green are these greens?!

O K, here's the question: Does producing Audubon Magazine cause more impact on the environment than Augusta National Golf Club? How green are these greens?!

Of course you've done your reading and you all know that Audubon Magazine's July-August edition contained a feature story, "The Greens of Augusta," about golf courses and the environment. And you know it states on the front page of the story: "More than 700 new golf courses will open this year, paving this country with manicured grasses. The question is: How green are these greens?"

(Aside No. 1: If you can get by the use of "paving" and the glaring mistake forecasting 700 courses, please tell me what they mean by "How green are these greens?"

(Aside No. 2: I must say that despite a number of factual errors, this article sheds a far fairer light on golf than one might expect from such a novelty of past distortions.)

To the point of my original question, the article does pick on Augusta National Golf Club. A sidebar categorizes courses as The Good, The Bad and The Formerly Ugly. Collier's Reserve in Naples, Fla., Old Westbury (N.Y.) Golf and Country Club and Widow's Walk Golf Course (GC) in Scituate, Mass., are listed as The Good because they are so friendly to the wildlife and environment.

Bay Harbor (Mich.) GC, Coyote Hills GC in Fullerton, Calif., and Old Works GC in Anacoda, Mont., are named the Formerly Ugly because they reclaimed ugly land.

The McLoughlin Group selected the spectacularly manicured and much-maligned Augusta National; Shadow Creek Golf Club in North Las Vegas, which uses 1 million gallons of water a day; and Golf Club of Miami, which suffered a major fish kill a few years ago when an unexpected heavy rainfall followed a Nemicur application.

So, I ask again: Does producing Audubon Magazine cause more impact on the environment than Augusta National Golf Club? Before answering, let's consider the environmental impact of producing Audubon Magazine, which in March-April contains 122 pages produced on high-gloss paper and sent to 453,750 paid subscribers in North America.

Paper choice. Paper, of course, comes from trees. Gasoline and oil, among other things, were consumed to cut the trees and transport them to the paper mill. At the paper mill, various chemicals and power were used to transform the pulp into paper, and electrical power was used to operate the machinery. Was that power generated by a nuclear or coal-generated facility, or from the more environmentally friendly hydro plant? Continued on page 30

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