

BRIEFS



KSL ADDS MANAGERS AT THE GAUNTLET

MANASSAS, Va. — KSL Fairways has added Brian Roudabush as superintendent and Jamie Loughan as general manager of The Gauntlet Golf Club. Roudabush is a native of Orange County, Va., and graduated from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg with a degree in Landscape & Turf Management. Earlier in his career, he worked as the assistant superintendent at Swan Point Yacht & Country Club and then transferred to The Gauntlet Golf Club in 1995. A native of Rutland, Vermont, Loughan moved to Fredericksburg in 1981, graduated from Mary Washington College in 1992 and received his Class A PGA certification in 1997. His experience spans 12 years in all facets of golf operations.

BERNARD NAMES CEO

LEDYARD, Conn. — Don Carpenter has been named president and chief executive officer of Bernard Golf, the managing entity for the joint venture golf courses, Foxwoods Golf & Country Club at Boulder Hills and Foxwoods Executive Golf Club in Lindbrook. Carpenter formerly served as senior vice president/director of operations during a 13-year tenure with American Golf Corp. and most recently was executive vice president/chief operating officer for National Fairways, a Connecticut-based golf management company. In addition to operating the two Foxwoods Resort golf properties, Bernard Golf will look for other golf-related opportunities including acquiring existing courses and constructing new golf facilities.



Don Carpenter

FAMILY GOLF DECLARES STOCK SPLIT

MELVILLE, N.Y. — Family Golf Centers, Inc. has declared a 3-for-2 stock split on its common stock to be paid as a 50-percent stock dividend on May 4 to shareholders of record as of April 20. As of March 26, Family Golf Centers had 12,997,846 shares of common stock outstanding. "The stock split was declared in recognition of Family Golf Centers' continued profitable growth and to allow for broader shareholder participation and improved liquidity in the trading of shares of Family Golf centers," said Dominic Chang, chairman and chief executive officer.



Environmental Golf's Sandpiper GC, also a management firm listing found on pages 54-58.

Environmental Golf purchases Sandpiper

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Environmental Golf has acquired Sandpiper Golf Course through an alliance between Environmental Golf, Golf Trust of America, Inc. and The Santa Barbara Club Resort and Spa. Golf Trust of America has purchased the property and Environmental Golf and The Santa Barbara Club Resort and Spa have entered into a long-term lease.

Sandpiper Golf Course is situated on the Santa Barbara coastline with commanding views of the Pacific Ocean and Santa Ynez Mountains. Designed by William Bell in 1972, Sandpiper is one of only four oceanfront golf courses along the coast of California.

"We believe the opportunity of combining Sandpiper Golf Course with our existing, neighboring golf course, Glen Annie Golf Club, will provide a unique destination of golf for players of all skill levels. It is our ultimate intention to provide a world-class golf experience in Santa Barbara," said Mike Dingman, EG's Director of golf.

MOVIN' ON UP

Rinzetti takes on new position

By PETER BLAIS

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — Wykagyl Golf Course's Stephen Rinzetti isn't the general manager. He's better. He's the director of sports and facilities, putting him in charge of everything to do with sports at Wykagyl — golf, bowling, paddle tennis, tennis, pool and outings.

"I never wanted to be a general manager," Rinzetti said. "I'm not interested in food and beverage. I'm not interested in being at the club for the New Year's Eve party or Thanksgiving Day dinner. I'd rather be home with my family [including wife, Angela and two boys aged 18 and 1 month]. The general manager and food and beverage manager have to be there... My goal was to be in a position that I had more control of what I was responsible for, putting out a quality product."

His position allows him to do just that. This year, for instance, Rinzetti decreased the number of outings from 28 to 15 while increasing the fee to outing organizers. The result will be that outing revenue remains the same, but the quality of the course will improve for members because there will be less outside play.

How did Rinzetti get to this something-better-than-GM position?

When Wykagyl's general manager resigned roughly a year ago, the board opted to look inside before opening the position to outside applicants. The board decided it had the talent in-house to operate the club and came up with a departure from the traditional general manager structure.

Rinzetti had aspirations to be more than a superintendent. The executive chef and club accountant also wanted more responsibility. So, Wykagyl gave Rinzetti the title director of sports and facilities, renegotiated a three-year contract and put him in charge. The executive chef became the director of food and beverage and the accountant director of administration. The three are equal in title, although, because of the scope of his activities, Rinzetti said his benefits exceed the other two.

Rinzetti's grandfather was a club pro for 60 years and always had the utmost respect for superintendents. "But he lured me to the maintenance side of the game," Rinzetti recalled.

Rinzetti's original goal was to become an agronomist with the U.S. Golf Association when he enrolled at the University of Rhode Island. He received a degree in agronomy in 1987 and did his internship at Quaker Ridge.

"I often joke that I got my bachelor's degree from Rhode Island and my master's from [Quaker Ridge Superintendent] Tony Savone," Rinzetti said. "He's been at Quaker Ridge 25 years."

Rinzetti spent 2 1/2 years as Savone's assistant before moving on to head superintendent at Burning Tree Club in Greenwich, Conn., at age 23. "There were a lot of qualified people interviewing for that job," Rinzetti said. "I just said the right thing to the right guy."

After three years at Burning Tree, Wykagyl came calling. Wykagyl, host of mid-July's LPGA JAL (Japan Air Lines)

Golden Bear, ESI strike club operation pact

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golden Bear Club Services, a full-service golf course management company, has entered into a licensing agreement with Executive Sports International (ESI), granting ESI the right to conduct business under the Golden Bear brand name.

ESI assumes responsibility for managing existing Golden Bear Club Services facilities, as well as procuring new business.

Golden Bear Club Services has nine facilities under management — Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio; Country Club at Muirfield Village in Dublin; Golf Club of Purchase in Purchase, N.Y.; Laurel Springs Golf Club in Atlanta; Golden Bear Golf Club at Hammock Creek in Palm City, Fla.; Old Works Golf Course in Anaconda, Mont.; Classic Golf Resort in New Delhi, India; and two Florida properties under construction — TwinEagles Golf & Country Club in Naples and the Golden Bear Club at Keene's Pointe in Orlando.

"This provides us the ideal platform on which to leverage the power of the Golden Bear name and grow our business," said Michael Zmetrovich, vice president of ESI and head of the new division.

Big Apple Classic, fulfilled one of Rinzetti's major goals, to be the head man at a professional tournament venue. "It gave me the opportunity to display what I could do on a national screen," he said. It also allows him to stay in touch with other professionals in the golf industry, including GOLF magazine, which is the presenting sponsor; JAL, which sent him to Japan to see how courses were maintained there last year; and the LPGA, whose administration descends on Wykagyl weeks before the event.



Stephen Rinzetti

Rinzetti has always taken a pro-active stance at his courses. "I always figured the more I knew about the total operation the more valuable I'd be to that club and the more marketable I'd be if I had to move on."

So he involved himself in clubhouse construction projects, pool activities and golf outings. "I made it known that I wanted to be invited to those activities. After awhile it became a matter of routine for others to ask me if I wanted to get involved in this or that or to ask my opinion. It made me more valuable to the club because I had a grasp of the entire operation. The more I understood about the finances of the club, the more I understood about the value of outings, increased play, the economic impact of the pro."

Contrary to what many believe, most superintendents welcome golfers to their courses and input from the club pro. "Why would a great chef cook a wonderful dish

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