The First Tee program, an initiative of the World Golf Foundation, has become a major partner in teaching golfers, especially youths. "This is a perfect fit for the GBCAA," said Phil Arnold, executive vice president. "Our members build the best golf courses in the world and The First Tee program meshes with our own Sticks for Kids initiative." Sticks for Kids is a nationwide program to provide good quality golf clubs for children who otherwise could not afford them. The two-year partnership agreement calls for GBCAA members to construct facilities at or near cost whenever a participating builder can be matched with a local First Tee chapter. Participation by individual builders is voluntary. Common types of facilities will be three-hole courses, a pitch-and-putt courses, nine-hole executive courses and full-scale 18-hole courses. All will feature extensive teaching and practice areas and other facilities. "The saving in construction costs could really be significant — amounting to several million dollars, depending on how many facilities we can participate in," said Arnold.

The First Tee's goal is to develop 100 facilities by Dec. 31, 2000. "Four of the six official suppliers to the First Tee are GBCAA members," Arnold noted.

Some things that offer true performance and speed require special maintenance.

Like a fine sports car, PENN G-2 creeping bentgrass is at the top of its class for performance. But PENN G-2 won't drive up your maintenance budget or require excessive upkeep. In fact, when it comes to cost efficient management, PENN G-2 runs circles around most other grasses. Extremely fine, dense and upright, this grass delivers the truest putts imaginable when mowed at .125 to .100". And nothing beats it for practical maintenance because PENN G-2 prefers golfer-friendly grooming like light, frequent verticutting and topdressing and occasional spiking. Plus PENN G-2 can really take the heat and is so deep rooted that it requires moderate watering and little or no syringing. Those are benefits any superintendent can appreciate. Moderate fertility, disease resistance, reduced Poa annua invasion, outstanding wear tolerance, practically non-existent winter "purpling" and consistent year-round quality are some others. PENN G-2. True performance like a sports car, but with one very important exception. No special, high-cost maintenance required.

No wonder more than 400 golf courses are already using it. Find out more from your sales representative or call 800.321.5325.

Some things don't.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GBCAA) has become a major partner in the First Tee program, an initiative of the World Golf Foundation to provide affordable and accessible playing opportunities for beginning golfers, especially youths.

"This is a perfect fit for the GBCAA," said Phil Arnold, executive vice president. "Our members build the best golf facilities we can participate in," Leiweke said The First Tee is one of an ongoing series covering initiatives and projects developed to bring new golfers into the game, particularly youths and minorities. People wishing to submit projects for articles should contact the editorial department at Golf Course News, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096, e-mail: golfnews@topworld.com.

ASGCA members designing First Tee facilities

CHICAGO — The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) members are handling the design work on many of the community-based projects being created under the umbrella of The First Tee program.

According to ASGCA President John LaFoy, the involvement of the organization and its members is consistent with its efforts to promote the creation of affordable and accessible golf facilities. He estimates that ASGCA members will contribute several million dollars to The First Tee program in the short term in the form of pro bono work and special pricing.

"We have long believed in providing venues that welcome new golfers," LaFoy said. "We are delighted to participate with The First Tee, since it will introduce so many new players to the game."

The ASGCA has 141 members in the United States and Canada. Twelve members are active in projects already underway, while others are lending their expertise to projects still in the initial stages of development.

"We are delighted to receive the society's support," said Tod Leiweke, executive director of The First Tee. "Our mission is to create affordable and accessible golf facilities, with an emphasis on serving kids who have not had access or exposure to the game."

Leiweke said The First Tee is ahead of schedule in meeting its objectives. "We are on target to have 100 sites from small learning facilities to full length golf courses — in place by the end of the year 2000," he said.

Leiweke said he hopes The First Tee designs will demonstrate "best practices" because of the many challenges involved in working in smaller areas, especially inner-city sites. According to LaFoy, myriad factors are associated with the planning and ultimate creation of any golf facility, and these are compounded on some of the sites of The First Tee.