South Africa is on the move
Larry Gould and Ted Johnson wire in the definitive snapshot of one of the hottest golf markets...51

GCSAA '99: It's a wrap
The GCN staff covered the big show from tee to green. Here's what you need to know...28-33

AGC/CCI to buy Cobblestone Golf
By PETER BLAIS
DEL MAR, Calif. — Two major players in the golf course management industry — American Golf Corporation and ClubCorp Inc. — have joined together to acquire Del Mar-based Cobblestone Golf Group from the Meditrust Companies for $395 million.

The new partnership, Golf Acquisitions LLC, is expected to close on the 45-course acquisition by March 31. Upon closing, the two companies will divide the Cobblestone portfolio.

Meditrust, a Massachusetts-based real estate investment trust (REIT), bought Cobblestone in late 1997 for $241 million. Cobblestone nearly doubled in size under the Meditrust banner. But the REIT experienced some...

Griffin walks the walk
By MARK LESLIE
ORLANDO, Fla. — Griffin Industries has become the first company to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, committing its 20-odd properties around the country to environmental stewardship.

Announcing the move at a press conference here, Audubon International President Ron Dodson said Griffin has "picked up the mantel of conservation activism at their plant sites and corporate facility. They are, indeed, walking the walk and talking the talk."

Audubon to open first course this fall
By MARK LESLIE
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — It was a different process but the same result: The first Audubon International Golf Course will open here this fall — the Jack Nicklaus-designed Spring Creek Ranch.

"This is not how we thought we’d get there," said Audubon International (AI) President Ron Dodson, "but it is truly the first Audubon International Golf Course."

AI courses, thought for the last year to be on the verge of reality, have been stalled for one reason or another — to a great extent because Dodson and AI-affiliated scientists are writing the "rules book" as they go. In fall 1997, the AI Golf and the...
Penn A-4 creeping bentgrass succeeds at Cypress Lakes

"We just couldn't keep grass on this green before. I'd worry about keeping the players happy, but now I sleep better at night with Penn A-4 bentgrass."

"We planted Penn A-4 in the fall of 1994, '95 and '96. We faced very poor grow-in conditions, including two hurricanes, and were still able to open for play eight weeks after seeding all three years. Willie and I have a very limited budget to work with, and have heard the hype about increased expense and labor involved with managing newer bent varieties. With Penn A-4, we've found this simply isn't true. The exceptional putting surface we have obtained here at Cypress Lakes more than outweighs any additional effort on our part. It's a relief to know we have superior heat tolerance working for us in the south, and on this green in particular where nothing seemed to grow next to our namesake cypress lake. We maintain a 0.125" cut throughout the summer, which makes for a truly consistent year-round putting surface with no adverse affect on plant health. We believe that Penn A-4 will continue to perform for our 18 greens here at Cypress Lakes, and we thank the team at Tee-2-Green for introducing it to us."
Dye course, learning center planned for World Golf Village

BY ANDREW OVERTON
PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — The PGA Village here, formerly known as "The Reserve," is expanding its golf offerings to include the first PGA learning center and an additional 18-hole, Pete Dye-designed course.

The PGA opened the original two Tom Fazio courses here in 1996. With this expansion, the PGA aims to create an international golfing, educational and training center.

According to Rick Martino, the learning center's director of instruction, the facility will be a unique educational and training center. It will have the standard swing analysis and teaching tools, but will also offer conditioning, wellness, and nutrition classes. The center, which is due to open in January 2000, will be aimed at everyone from beginners to professionals.

"The point of this center," said Martino, "is to mix all types of instruction with playing situations. The more you can make practice like a playing situation, the more you will improve."

And when it comes time to play, golfers at the PGA Village will have three different style courses to choose from. "You will be able to come out of the clubhouse and play a different course during a three-day stay," said Bill Cioffi, director of golf operations. "With the Dye course, I can get golfers to Scotland in two minutes."

The south course is a Florida wetlands type of facility, the north course offers a Carolina feel, and the new Dye course will be a links style layout.

Developer buys Va.'s Stumpy Lake

NORFOLK, Va. — The City of Norfolk has sold the Stumpy Lake Golf Course and more than 1,000 surrounding acres to a local developer who tentatively plans to build a retirement community and another golf course along the shores of Stumpy Lake.

Under the terms of the agreement with the city, Transamerica Services Inc. paid $6 million for the property and will pay an additional $2 million if it is able to develop up to 500 acres on the property.

The sale and development has riled local environmentalists who claim that the 1,440 acres of land at Stumpy Lake, 940 are wetlands. Activists are concerned that dredging and filling of wetlands will upset the delicate balance of the Stumpy Lake ecosystem, which, according to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, has 53 species of birds and six species of snakes within a mile of the property's center. Golfers report seeing deer, packs of foxes, blue herons and bald eagles around the course.

Transamerica Services is working to set up a pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers, which could take about one year.

Iowa layout named to National Register of Historic Places

CHARLES CITY, Iowa — Wildwood Park and Golf Course built in the late 1920s and early 1930s has been named to the National Register of Historic Places, according to the Charles City Press.

The course, parts of which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration during the New Deal of the 1930s, has long been the focal point of this small community and is the first course in Iowa to achieve such recognition.

"The architecture is old," said Wildwood Golf Club superintendent, Richard Wynn. "It features old push up greens, while Scottish in terms of design, the course will be a unique educational and training center. "Standing on the tee, it will be a well-defined golf course," Wynn said.

"There is no rough. Basically you see fairway into wetlands or fairway into transitional areas and sand and pine straw rough. There are also plenty of grass bunkers. It is a low-lying links style course."

While Scottish in terms of design, the course will not have a typically Scottish name. It has tentatively been dubbed "The Big Manu" after the 50-acre wetland that dominates the property.

The Audubon-certified golf course is already well into construction. Clearing began in January and the grass-in is slated to start early this summer. The course is scheduled to be opened in tandem with the learning center in January 2000.

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Golf Trust acquires Detroit layout

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Golf Trust of America (GTA), Inc., a self-administered real estate investment trust, has closed its acquisition of Brentwood Golf and Country Club, an 18-hole public facility located in suburban Detroit.

The $7 million purchase price includes the issuance of operating units in Golf Trust of America, LP. GTA also has an option to purchase Beacon Hill Golf Course, located across the street from Brentwood Golf and Country Club, for $2.5 million, the cost of construction of the facility. Beacon Hill is owned by the same group that developed Brentwood, and is scheduled to open in summer 1999.

The course will be leased to an affiliate of the prior owner and Total Golf, Inc. Total Golf, Inc. is run by Jim Dewling, the operator at Mystic Creek Golf Course, another GTA facility. The initial term of the lease will be 10 years with four 5-year extensions. The lease is structured to permit GTA to participate in increased golf, merchandise, and food and beverage revenues at the facility.

W. Bradley Blair, II, president and chief executive officer of GTA said, “The acquisition of this upscale facility, along with Mystic Creek Golf Course, another GTA facility, further strengthens our position in the Detroit suburban market.”

The company funded the acquisition with an advance from the $100 million bridge facility provided by NationsBank and Bank of America.

For the year, Golf Trust of America has acquired 20.5 (18-hole equivalent) courses for approximately $215 million. Since its Initial Public Offering in February 1997, the Company has acquired interests in 33 golf courses for approximately $343 million.

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Indiana track to start engine

PLYMOUTH, Ind.—Independent developer Gary Leeper is closer to building his dream course here. The remaining obstacle to Leeper's Turnwater Golf Course will be obtaining permission to build the course on property zoned for agriculture.

Leeper, a former pro at the Sprig-O-Mint Golf Course in Bremen, Ind., designed the course with help from course designer Tom Zimmermann. According to Leeper, Turnwater will be an 18-hole public course that will be friendly for all ages and abilities.

If Leeper is granted permission, construction on the course could begin later this spring and open by May 2000.

Course possible for Mich. landfill

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich.—City Council officials here have begun sorting through development bids for the construction of a nine-hole addition to the municipal San Marino Golf Club that is to be built on top of a former landfill.

The city is reportedly looking closely at each developer's plan for capping the landfill and situating of the course. Developers have submitted plans that range from a simple expansion of the course to the renovation of the existing nine holes and the construction of a new nine that would turn San Marino into a "premier" municipal course.

MORE GOLF PROPOSED FOR THE SMOKIES

LOUDEN, Tenn.—Developer Ed Loy has proposed an 853-acre, $350 million residential complex here in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. The development, Tellico Landing, will include golf courses, a marina, restaurants, campsites, condominiums and single-family homes along the banks of Tellico Lake. Loy is currently seeking approval from the Tennessee Valley Authority to purchase the property, which is designated for hunting and fishing.
Hudson, Mass. — Developer Fred Daley III, of Southborough, Mass., will be bringing the Boston area its first Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed golf course. Daley's latest golf course development, the exclusive Charter Oak Country Club, awaits final approval of the town of Hudson, but has already begun soliciting memberships.

The Trent Jones Jr. course, which will sit on a 220-acre wooded site adjacent to Goodale Farm, will be a 6,900-yard, par-71 course featuring rolling terrain and two small ponds. Construction is slated to begin in early summer and the course is due to open in spring 2001.

The Daley family owns several courses in Massachusetts and Vermont and recently completed the Wedgewood Pines Golf Club in Stow, Mass.

Virginia Beach TPC course humming

Virginia Beach, Va. — PGA Tour Properties has invested an additional $2 million in the Virginia Beach Tournament Players Club in order to increase the size of clubhouse facilities, install a computer-controlled irrigation system and make up for lost construction time.

Hurricane Bonnie slowed construction and knocked down hundreds of trees. As a result, the PGA Tour decided to sod the course instead of sprigging it to allow for a shorter grow-in time.

The PGA Tour has invested $10 million in the club and will pay the city $300,000 a year for 40 years to lease the 200-acre property.

The city, encouraged by this agreement, aims to turn the area into a golfing destination and is involved in the development of Heron Ridge Golf Course that will be designed by Arnold Palmer.

The Tournament Players Club is due to open May 28.

Irishman brings links to Montreal

Montreal — Montreal developer Denis Trancrède has teamed with Irish golf architect Pat Ruddy to build a 36-hole public golf facility on reclaimed land in the city's East End. The Montreal Island Golf Club will include construction of 800 housing units.

The two courses will cost $8.5 million and are to be built on land leased from the city of Montreal for 50 years. The North and South courses will be divided by Highway 40 and connected via a pedestrian tunnel. In the center of the two courses will be a clubhouse, golf school, and practice area.

Although Ruddy has designed more than 30 courses in his native country, the Montreal Island courses will be his first project outside of Ireland. Ruddy plans to work in many classic links features. The South course, for example, will feature three double greens.

Construction on Montreal Island is due to begin in October 1999 and the courses are slated to open in the summer of 2001.

Perot invests $40M with developer

New Albany, Ohio — Hillwood Development Corp., which is run by H. Ross Perot Jr., has invested $40 million in developer Landmark National to construct more courses.

"Landmark National will provide Hillwood a platform from which we can increase our investment in golf properties both nationally and internationally," Perot, whose father is Texas billionaire and two-time presidential candidate H. Ross Perot, said in a statement.

New Albany-based Landmark said the money from Hillwood will go towards projects in Los Angeles, Houston, Washington D.C., and Doonberg, Ireland.

Strangeley Enough, the part on the right is more expensive.

Look at tags alone, and you'll find plenty of alternatives to genuine Toro parts. But before you put them on your Toro equipment, consider the hidden costs. Many willfit parts simply don't meet Toro standards for form, fit and function. Get one that doesn't measure up, and you can end up replacing it early and often, and even risk damage to your equipment. In sharp contrast, authentic Toro parts come off the line in pairs. One goes into a new product, its "twin" becomes a service part. Plus, Toro donates a portion of every dollar you spend to industry organizations. Invest wisely. See your Toro distributor for Toro parts.

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**Turf Quality (Index 0 – 10)**

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Palmer Management takes over Washington facility

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash.—The Kayak Point Golf Course lease has been assigned to Arnold Palmer Golf Management.

Kayak Point is one of only two Western Washington courses named to Golf Digest's list of America's 50 Best Public Golf Courses. The course covers 250 acres of a 650-acre county park located on Puget Sound.

Along with the lease assignment and facility improvements, Palmer Golf also announced Rob Lindsey, a veteran general manager and PGA Class A Professional, as the new general manager.

Palmer has also reached a long-term agreement to operate Walden Golf Club, its third course in Maryland, and will immediately begin enhancement of the golf course and clubhouse facilities. Last month, Palmer Golf acquired Bay Hills Golf Club in nearby Arnold, Md.

"Walden solidifies our ever-growing presence in the market and is a wonderful addition to our growing network of Baltimore and Washington, DC area courses," said Joe Redling, Chief Operating Officer at Palmer Golf. "We are very interested in having the opportunity to bring a Robert Trent Jones design back to its original condition. Robert Trent Jones was a visionary and one of the premier designers of our time. Our plan is to make several improvements that will bring back the splendor and enhance his spectacular layout. Among the improvements planned, are additional maintenance equipment that will improve detailing and overall course conditions, drainage on the 12th tee, additional irrigation, fairway drainage and reconditioning over 50 bunkers."

In addition to course improvements, Palmer Golf's plans include refurbishment of the clubhouse such as exterior paint, roof repair, retail store updating, a new restaurant menu, signage, expanded pro shop and new interior decor.

Along with the purchase and facility improvements, Palmer Golf also announced Bob Foster, a 10-year golf management veteran and PGA Class A Professional, will be joining Walden Golf Club as the new general manager and director of golf.

Proposed Calif. links in limbo

HILL CANYON, Calif. — A proposed public course in the Thousand Oaks area has drawn sharp criticism from both residents and environmentalists and a Jan. 29 workshop failed to reach a compromise between city officials and their critics.

Environmentalists claim the project will require removing too many trees and endanger three acres of wetlands. The city claims the development will ease overcrowding at the city's Los Robles Golf Course and help preserve open land.

The City of Hill Canyon has teamed with the Conejo Recreation and Parks District to develop the 284-acre, $16.2 million project. The proposed development calls for a golf course, nature center, wetland preserve and hiking trails.

ICGM ADDS A PAIR OF ARIZONA LAYOUTS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.— In Celebration of Golf Management (ICGM), a golf course management company, recently secured management contracts for both the Legacy and Meadowbrook golf clubs. ICGM has signed a three-year management contract with each of the courses that will begin with the supervision of the construction process and will continue through the courses' opening. The Legacy will be a daily-fee, par-72 course designed by Gary Pank that is scheduled to open October 1999. Meadowbrook will be a daily-fee, par-71 Dick Bailey-design scheduled to open October 1999.

How to make the perfect core

Whoever said consistency is boring never aerated a green. With the John Deere line of Aercore® Aerialors, we've taken aeration to a new level of quality and quantity. A lot of the credit has to go to our unique "Flexi-Link" design. The Flexi-Link is attached to the rear of the tine leg and absorbs the forward motion of the aerator, allowing the tines to stay perpendicular while they are in the ground. As the tines come out of the ground, the Flexi-Link pushes the tine leg forward into position for the next downward stroke. The result is a very consistent, round hole with minimum tearing.
Better than Caddyshack II

BURBANK, Calif. — Caddyshack fans and putter-scolding golfers beware. Warner Home Video announced Feb. 9 it will be releasing a “Caddyshack Special Edition Video” on April 6—just in time for the Masters. In addition to the riotous comedy, the video will include a previously unavailable feature entitled “Caddyshack: The 19th Hole,” a documentary featuring outtakes, rare footage and interviews with Caddyshack stars Chevy Chase and the vivacious Cindy Morgan. Fans will also be treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of Bill Murray’s animated nemesis—the gopher. The added footage promises to offer more insight into how Bill Murray and his older brother Brian utilized their actual experiences as caddies and groundskeepers to craft this unparalleled golf comedy classic.

Myrtle Beach opens 100th course

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — The recently opened Tournament Players Club of Myrtle Beach has the distinction of being the 100th golf course along South Carolina’s famed Grand Strand. PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem, player design consultant Lanny Wadkins, and South Carolina Governor James Hodges joined officials from Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday for the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The TPC of Myrtle Beach, a high-end daily fee facility that will debut as the site of the Ingersoll-Rand Senior Tour Championship in November, is a joint venture between PGA TOUR Golf Course Properties and Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday (MBGH). MBGH is a nonprofit trade organization of 97 accommodations and 88 golf courses.

The TPC of Myrtle Beach joins the PGA TOUR’s prestigious network of facilities as the 16th Tournament Players Club. Seven more clubs are under development.

College officials set to OK Calif. links proposal

LAKE VIEW TERRACE, Calif. — Eddie Mulligan, a developer specializing in equestrian center developments, is one step closer to gaining permission for his next project—an 18-hole course on 200 acres of agricultural land owned by Pierce College in Woodland Hills, Calif. The campus governing council voted Jan. 26 to approve the plan to lease the land to Mulligan. College officials hope the course will help generate revenues for the troubled institution, where the enrollment has dropped sharply over the last several years. Mulligan has promised that the course will generate $1 million annually for the college.

The project, however, has created dissension among Pierce professors and students who object to the plan because it would reduce the college’s agricultural program and harm the environment. Mulligan has since proposed new agricultural facilities and pasture land as a part of the project.

The plan awaits approval of the Los Angeles Community College District trustees.

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW ORLANDO LAYOUT

ORLANDO, Fla. — Golf Communities of America, Inc. recently broke ground in Montverde for its Hillcrest Country Club golf community. The 18-hole, par-72 layout will feature rolling terrain. “The elements that make this a unique project for Central Florida are the very dramatic topography and the excellent soil conditions,” said course architect Steve Snyers. The highest point reaches nearly 180 feet above sea level, offering views of Lake Apopka.

March 1999 11
The golf industry's wild, wild ride

The question I was most frequently asked on the show floor was the exact same question we ask each other here in the GCA editorial office at least once a week — how long can the golf course industry continue on this wild development ride?

I answered with a shoulder shrug and a faint smile, "I don't see it ending any time soon."

Our office is bombarded daily basis by every form of media available with news of new projects, groundbreaking and plans "hot off the drawing board." At the show, which offers us once a week — how long can the golf course industry continue with this wild development ride?

One architect in particular told me that January was the biggest month for new business his office has ever seen...ever. When I posed the burning question he cocked his head and smiled, "I hope it goes forever."

- On a somewhat related note, I was happy to see a number of The First Tee banners fly high above the booths. It seems the organization hasn't wasted an opportunity to spread the word about its mission of bringing golf to the inner-city to grow participation. Granted, it has its naysayers, but that the organization hasn't wasted an opportunity to spread the word about its mission of bringing golf to the inner-city to grow participation. Granted, it has its naysayers, but...what do they know?

- High technology continues to creep its way into the superintendent's worklife. John Deere and Toro were proudly showcased. Don't be left out.

As you've read in this column before, I believe that this advanced technology is going to grind ahead ever so slowly, persistently, until it's sitting in the shed or on the desk of every superintendent in the country. What did I hear at the show? Robotic mowers? You bet. Integrated systems tying together every piece of equipment you have on the course downloading to your CPU in order to give you a minute-by-minute update of what it's costing you to maintain your course? It's being done. Never say never. High-tech is something that can't be ignored. Don't be left out.

- One last note: Many of you told us that we don't look a thing like our drawings (above). This might be the last time you'll see them.

Continued on page 26

Saving trees or kids?

If the feeling that superintendents are the true environmentalists and that some activists are either overzealous or mere pretenders — took voice in different, and sometimes surprising, venues at the GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show.

During the Environmental General Session, PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem mentioned a First Tee project that environmental activists are opposing in one city. "The mayor," Finchem related, "said to them, 'You're in here talking about saving a couple of trees. We're talking about saving lives.'"

And Rick Geise, director of marketing for Griffin Industries, which put its thousands of acres at more than 20 locations into the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, said: "Quite frankly, we've had trouble with environmental groups before. The Sierra Club and others say, basically, that all business is bad. We said, 'How can we be bad? We are, in simplest terms, recycling. We provide jobs and add to the economy, tax base, everything. But some people say, 'It's got to be bad; we saw steam coming out of your building.'"

On the other hand, Geise said Audubon International President Ron Dodson told him, "I drove a car to work today, too. Let's be realistic." Realism. Hum. Interesting thought.

Served up with gusto, here are some other post-partem morsels from the Environmental General Session:

- Executive Vice President Jim Singlering of the Club Managers Association of America said association intends to take the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program facilitywide.

- "We want to ensure that the whole facility is covered, not just the golf course," Singlering said. "We will be pushing that initiative over the next 18 months so the public sees the facility as an environmental asset."

- The superintendent is to the golf course what a chef is to a great restaurant, said LPGA Tour Commissioner Jim Ritts. To which USGA Executive Director David Fay told the audience of superintendents: "You are the chefs. Twenty years ago, too many considered the superintelligent order cook's."

Ritts added that the LPGA's members acknowledge superintendents' contributions, and tournament winners always thank the course's super. "We think this will raise the level of respect for your profession," he said.

- PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem said the public must be told that "agronomically, these are not courses that can be continually maintained. It is an enormous amount of pressure on the golf course."

- Asking what to do to provide affordable, accessible golf, PGA of America Executive Director and CEO Jim Awtrey said: "I cringe when I hear $20 to $25 green fees fits that criteria. I would not have been a successful superintendent in the U.S. without the $20 to $25 green fees fits that criteria."

- "Twelve dollars per round could create some real incremental growth."

- Fay extolled The First Tee program, saying: "The public has embraced the concept. The private sector is lining up. The golf

Continued on page 52

Thai 'fire sale' looks to sell off golf

BANGKOK, Thailand — In the wake of the failed "fire sale" of non-performing loans Dec. 15, Thailand's Financial Restructuring Authority (FRA) called for a second round of auctioning that is scheduled for March 10.

The Dec. 15 auction netted just 25.1 percent of the nominal value of assets valued at 156 billion baht ($4.3 billion) and the golf course tranche did not sell. According to Greg Green of the U.S.-based Pavilion Fund, there are many reasons why the golf courses did not move the first time around.

"The properties were not looking very profitable. And unless you can buy them very cheaply, you won't make your money back for a really, really long time," said Green. Prospective foreign investors realize that golf courses have negative value at the moment due to the cost of upkeep and the fact

Continued on page 32
Access for all: A 'golf court' could be coming to a green space near you

By TREVOR LEDGER

HERTFORDSHIRE, England—A revolutionary concept in golf course design, which has the potential to bring the game to a whole new section of society, has received a massive boost following the signing of a deal with the European Professional Golf Association (PGA).

A triumph of land use and organization has resulted in the invention of "golf courts," which allow for a full 18-hole, 6,500 yard, par 72 facility to be built on just 15 acres of land.

Bob Hunt, technical director of PGA Management, said he's delighted with the deal, in which he sees the formation of a new company, Golf Courts International of Barnet, Hertfordshire, to be headed by John Sale.

"We see golf courts as being an ideal opportunity for us to improve the accessibility of golf for beginners," said Hunt. "Golf courts can be built close to inner cities, they increase the opportunities for group teaching and provide an ideal transition from driving ranges to full blown golf courses. A golf court is like a giant academy. The PGA is being very active in promoting the concept and we are talking to contacts around the world: from China to South America to Norway. I have seen people try to develop small golf courses but I've never seen anything in the world like this."

Another first for golf courts is the fact that they are eligible for 100 percent funding from the National Lottery Sports Fund. For example, if a school wished to set aside some land for a golf court, entire funding from the Sports Council could be applied for — this in a time when golf is languishing near the foot of the grants awarded league table in the UK.

Golf courts were the brainchild of Farel Bradbury, a Gloucestershire systems analyst who became temporarily disabled following a mild stroke in 1988. Having had golf recommended as physiotherapy, he became hooked and wanted his own course, the only problem being that he was restricted to the 6 acres adjoining his home.

Not to be deterred, he devised a system of four greens and eight tees with which to produce a 3,000 yard par 60 course.

John Sale was aware of the potential golf courts held and would not let the idea rest: "It has taken nearly four years to sort things out; from meeting Farel to getting where we are today."

As part of the arrangement, the PGA will be giving each golf court design a safety certificate and they will also be involved in the design of each project.

"The complete PGA endorsement is as unique as the concept itself," said Sale. "No other product has gained such a recommendation. This gives us major credibility and will stop people from saying that it is a Mickey Mouse concept."

The game played on a golf court is exactly the same as that played on traditional layouts. It requires the use of all fourteen clubs, but it is the dimensions of the playing area that are different.

As opposed to paying for a round of golf, on a golf court the players book the court by the hour — as with a tennis court.

"Thus, the player has the option of playing 6 holes per hour (or any multiple thereof), giving flexibility of both cost and time — not an easy option on a traditional course."

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Access for all: A masterplan for a new 'golf court' concept. Could it be The First Tee's answer?

Continued on page 70

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March 1999 13
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Ryder Cup prep a battle of logistics for Spence

ROCKPORT, Maine — When golf course superintendents prepare their properties for major events, they consider turf-type issues: greens, tees, fairways and bunkers. Bill Spence’s day-planner is filled with meetings concerning building roads and parking lots, laying a 10,000-square-foot parking lot and a 40,000-square-foot slab for the caterer and bus terminal, putting down conduits to supply electricity to 57 corporate tents, and devising transportation for 30,000 or so spectators from the subway system of Boston to his property outside the city.

Spence is the superintendent at The Country Club in Brookline (Mass.), which on Sept. 24-26 will host the Ryder Cup, pitting America’s greatest golfers against Europe’s. “As I sit at these meetings, so little about it is golf — it’s puzzling some-

times,” Spence told an audience at the Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Samoset Resort here.

Spence said his grounds crew “has made my job almost comically easy.”

Continued on page 26

BRIEFS

IGCSA ANNOUNCES DIRECTORS
AMES, Iowa — The Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association has elected Dennis Watters, of the Fort Dodge Country Club in Fort Dodge, as president. He will be assisted by new directors Ron Stephan, Joyce Hamilton, John Ausen and Tom Verrips. Superintendent of the Year and Assistant Superintendent of the Year awards presented to two Cedar Rapids superintendents: Jeff Schmidt, of Twin Pines Golf Course, and Corey Shipman, of Ellis Park Golf Course, respectively.

USGA PLANS ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE
ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The USGA will be holding a regional conference here March 16 at the Old Warson Country Club. During the morning session, Dr. James Murphy of Rutgers University will speak on “Water Injection Technology” and new uses for the Toro Hydroject. Dr. Erik Ervin of the University of Missouri will also be presenting “Are Your Greens Suffocating?” a seminar on monitoring O2 and CO2 in the root zone. The highlight of the afternoon session includes a presentation by Mark Passey, USGA Regional Manager, entitled “What’s your golf IQ? Rules you need to know to manage the course.” For more information on the conference, contact Mark Passey at 801-265-8620.

Faucher undergoes ‘birthing’ of another kind in Bellaire

By PETER BLAIS

BELLAIRE, Mich. — Child birth and growing in a golf course. While admitting he has little experience in one of those areas, Shanty Creek Cedar River Golf Club grow-in superintendent David Faucher believes there are parallels between the two experiences.

“Someone said it was like having a baby,” said Faucher, who served as Shanty Creek’s The Legends course head superintendent for six years and will open the Tom Weiskopf-designed Cedar River layout on June 12.

“IT was painful as hell at times, but now I’m ready to have another one. I mostly remember the fun. I’ve been working on this for two years, and I’m still not doing any of the routine maintenance I was doing at The Legends. It will probably be another year before we’re just mowing and going. The work was hard, but the days didn’t seem long because you’re on your toes making decisions all the time.

“It was fun working with the contractors and the architect. I worked harder than I ever had before. It taxed every resource I had.”

Raised in Marine City north of Detroit, Faucher, 47, moved West after completing high school. He worked a variety of jobs, including stints on the grounds crews at courses in Spokane, Wash., and Twin Lakes, Idaho.

At age 35, married with two children, he decided to get back into the golf course business. He returned home and enrolled in Michigan State University’s two-year turfgrass management program, accumulating a 3.96 grade point average while earning the school’s Outstanding Student Award. While in school, he worked at three Michigan courses — St. Clair Shores, Walnut Hills in

Continued from page 18

WEED GENETICS

Getting at the root of weed control

By DOUGLAS PAGE

Science may finally be getting to the root of the weed problem. A group of geneticists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has isolated a plant gene that plays a critical role in the ability of roots to grow properly. The finding suggests that genetics could help scientists save time and money in developing effective, safe herbicides in the future.

As reported in the July 15, 1998 issue of Gene and Development, the work at MIT’s Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research has succeeded in cloning and characterizing the gene (called Ethylene Insensitive Root 1, or EIR1) in a tiny weed called Arabidopsis thaliana. The roots of mutant A. thaliana weeds lacking this gene lose their ability to respond to gravity and are thus unable to grow downward into the soil — hence they perish.

“These findings provide important new insights into age-old mysteries about root growth,” said Gerald R. Fink, director of the Whitehead Institute. “And they also may have tremendous implications for the agricultural and pharmaceutical industries. Currently, most herbicides are developed by trial and error. Compounds first are tested for their ability to kill weeds, and then later tested — often for years — to ensure their safety in animals. Often the most effective ones turn out, in hindsight, to be the compounds that act against genes present only in plants but not in animals.”

The Whitehead findings suggest that scientists can design new classes of compounds targeted at plant-specific genes like EIR1, so that they would automatically be harmful to plants but have no adverse effects on worms and soil micro-organisms, bees, birds or game animals.

The war against weeds never ends for golf course superintendents, especially as demands increase for perfect turfgrass. Aggressive competitors for sunlight, moisture and nutrients, and prolific multipliers even under adverse conditions, weeds such as dandelion, buckthorn plantain, and broadleaf plantain present a challenge for even the most experienced turfgrass managers. Just one dandelion plant generates up to 15,000 seeds, each of which can survive six years in the soil — each one capable of creating 15,000 more seeds when it sprouts and matures.

Broadleaf weeds grow in all turfgrass areas. Many weeds in turfgrass are controlled by mowing, fertilizing and irrigating, but herbicides are the primary method of broadleaf weed control for superintendents. Turfgrass specialists advise that the best deterrent to weeds is a vigorously growing turf that is adapted to the site. However, perennial weeds, once established, usually require a herbicide treatment for effective control.

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March 1999
Super weed, a case of genetics

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In the past 50 years, herbicides have revolutionized weed control in the developed world and are rapidly becoming popular in the Third World. A University of Nebraska study found the weed seed content on a typical acre of soil approached 200 million seeds and 19 species.

But there are drawbacks on relying on herbicides as the primary weapon. The toxicity issue aside, gradually over the past 30 years certain weeds have become resistant to herbicides, much the same as some bacteria have developed the ability to resist antibiotics.

The first case of herbicide resistance was reported in 1957, and involved spreading dayflower and wild carrot biotypes resistant to growth-regulator herbicides. As of 1998, 210 resistant biotypes have been reported in 44 countries to 15 classes of herbicides. Triazine herbicides have the largest number of resistant species (64), whereas the ALS herbicides are the second-leading family with 50 resistant species.

It is estimated more than three million hectares are infested with triazine-resistant weeds worldwide. Since the 1980s, about nine new resistant species have been reported annually. The United States leads the world in the number of resistant species with 60, followed by Australia with 26, and Canada and France with 24 resistant species apiece.

No figures exist for the incidence of herbicide-resistant weeds on golf courses, but there is little reason to believe that Bermudagrass and annual bluegrass creeping onto greens, fairways and tee boxes are in any way exempt from the phenomenon.

Resistance often becomes a problem because of high selection pressure exerted on a weed population over several years. This may be a result of repeated use of the same herbicide, or several herbicides with the same mode of action and is often associated with crop monoculture as well as reduced cultivation practices. Therefore, the key to resistance management is to reduce selection pressure by using some combination of long-term complex weed-control strategies using tillage, grazing animals, burning, cover crops, fallow and crop rotations.

Since these methods are available to superintendents, the Whitehead research could lead in that direction.

The Whitehead findings have additional implications. The genetic makeup of Arabidopsis is similar to that of food crops like rice and corn, so understanding genetic pathways that regulate the growth of this weed not only will lead to new approaches for weed control, but could provide insight leading to the genetic improvement of agriculturally important crops.

In addition to its implications for the agricultural industry, the Whitehead study provides important information about plant physiology, and, in particular, a phenomenon called tropism: the growth response by plants to external stimuli, such as light, temperature, water and gravity. For more than 200 years, scientists have tried to understand exactly how plants are able to direct roots to always grow downward in search of the earth, while sending their shoots upwards in search of the sun. So great is the plant’s directive that if a root is reoriented to lie horizontal to the surface of the earth — in other words, turned 90 degrees with respect to gravity — it responds by altering its direction of growth, curving downward again until it finds its way into the earth.

Scientists have known that during root growth, the redistribution of a plant hormone called indole acetic acid (IAA) to the root tip is responsible for gravitropism, the organism’s reflex in response to the stimulus of gravity. When the root tip is cut off, the plant no longer is able to grow downward. When roots are oriented horizontally, IAA accumulates along the lower side of the elongating zone. Cells on the top part of the root elongate, causing the downward

Continued on next page
TORONTO — The Royal Canadian Golf Association donated $230,000 at the annual general meeting to support three initiatives considered fundamental to the future of golf in Canada, RCGA Executive Director Stephen Ross announced.

The provincial golf associations received $125,000 to support the provincial Future Links Mobile Clinic Program; the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation received $75,000; and the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada received $30,000.

"There are three programs paying a vital role in supporting tomorrow's golfers, which is why the RCGA is supporting these groups today," said Ross. "Two of the association's primary mandates are to promote the game and protect the environment."

In 1998, Canadian PGA instructors traveling in Ford Windstar vans provided instruction to 9,675 juniors at 221 sites in seven provinces through the Future Links Mobile Clinic program. With the assistance of presenting sponsor Mackenzie Financial Corp. and the provincial associations, the mobile program is expected to eclipse those totals in 1999.

The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation donation will support turfgrass and environmental research conducted at various universities and research facilities across Canada. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada, which develops and administers programs to aid landowners in maximizing properties as wildlife sanctuaries, considers 13 golf courses in Canada as fully certified members. Another 216 courses are participating as cooperators, and the RCGA donation will assist in the ongoing environmental education of these courses.

TORONTO — Worden Teasdale of King City, Ont., was inducted as the 94th president of the Royal Canadian Golf Association during the organization's annual general meeting.

He said the association moves forward with its recently established long-range plan that includes establishing 45-hole RCGA golf complexes in Toronto, Montreal and Calgary. Each complex will feature a world-class stadium course; an 18-hole public course; a nine-hole Future Links course; a large range teaching facility; and an RCGA satellite office—all geared toward promoting and growing golf at the local and national level.

Super weed
Continued from previous page

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Faucher grows in Cedar River

Continued from page 17
Lansing and The Elks in Grand Rapids. "I got to work with three different superintendents and gained a little bit of knowledge from each," he said.
Shortly after graduating in 1990, he ventured to northern Michigan, where he became assistant superintendent at The Legends. Within a year he was named head superintendent. He also served briefly as interim grounds superintendent.

"I intended to go back out West when I graduated," Faucher recalled. "But I heard about this job and checked it out. I'm an outdoors guy and this had everything. There are hills, lakes and then having an Arnold Palmer golf course, it seemed like it would be fun."

The Legends and The Bear at Grand Traverse were the first two high-end resort courses in northwest Michigan, Faucher said. The Legends opened in the late 1980s. Several superintendents came and went.

Because it opened too early and the difficulty of working with the layout's pure sand greens, the course was in fairly rough shape when he first arrived in 1990, Faucher said.

"Few people have experience with sand greens," he explained. "But we kept working the greens, then the tees and fairways."

"It was also a drainage nightmare. We just tried to get things to where they should be for such a fine layout. In 1991-92 we started getting some awards and getting ranked in magazines. Now it's where it needs to be. People can pay $100 now and enjoy it."

Among the accolades, Golf Digest named The Legends the Best Resort Course in the Midwest (1992) and 19th Best Resort Course in the Country; Golf Digest again named it the third best course in the state behind Oakland Hills and Crystal Downs; Golf (1996) magazine named it the 4th best resort course in the country and 4th best in course condition.

Faucher also received his share of individual awards including the 1995 Club Corporation Superintendent of the Year Award and 1998 GCSCA Environmental Steward Award.

Shanty Creek officials started talking about building a fourth course in 1995 and hired Tom Weiskopf to design and H&D Construction of Petoskey to build Cedar River Golf Club.

"Things were getting a little mundane at The Legends," Faucher remembered. "We had solved all these problems and it wasn't challenging me the way I wanted it to. I approached them and they said I could move over there if things got going."

Of Weiskopf, Faucher said: "He was fun to be around and always accessible. He was very conscientious about maintenance and playability issues."

Faucher was also impressed with Weiskopf's flexibility. The original plan called for the layout to cross the Cedar River in the area of holes 13 through 15.

The courts blocked that plan and Weiskopf had to change his routing on the fly.

"He was standing there one day, looking around and said 'I think we have to take these trees out, move this over here and... And I could see it. He solved a lot of problems right out there in the field... He was presented with a difficult problem and he solved it."

Another problem occurred on a Saturday night last August when a 4 1/2-inch rainstorm flooded the site. The permanent drainage wasn't completed and some material moved toward the river, Faucher explained. An environmental group has taken the issue to court.

"It was pretty devastating," Faucher said. "We lost cart paths on every hole. The site starts up high and then works down toward 13 and 14. We did have material go in the river. How much is being determined in court right now... That's Mother Nature. You get bummed out for a day, then get back with it."

As for his own future? "I'm thinking I'd like to do another grow in," Faucher said. "If the right project came up, I might do it."

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As for his own future? "I'm thinking I'd like to do another grow in," Faucher said. "If the right project came up, I might do it. It was a lot of fun."

MRTF GIVES PURDUE $146K

INDIANAPOLIS—At the Midwest Turf Expo here, the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF) presented a check to the Purdue Department of Agronomy for $146,000 for annual support of the turfgrass program, and an additional check for $100,000 to help complete the W.H. Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center. Steve Frazier of the Links Group was given the 1999 Distin-

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at least one year before they can apply.

WHC biologists verify and guide enhancement efforts through a site visit and tour. Each certified site is entered into the International Registry of Accredited Wildlife Habitat Programs, which is published and distributed annually.

BOLIVIA, N.C. — Carolina National Golf Club at Winding River Plantation has achieved designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Carolina National Golf Club is the fourth in North Carolina and the 157th course in the world to receive the honor. The other three courses in North Carolina are Carmel Country Club and TPC at Piper Glen, both located in Charlotte, and the Wade Hampton Golf Club in Cashiers.

"With the ever-increasing destruction of plant and animal habitat, the need to preserve these areas becomes even more important. That is why I am so excited about the Audubon program here," said Matthew Mays, environmental specialist at Carolina National. "While benefiting the plant and animal species, it..."

Continued on page 22

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CIRCLE #126
INDOVER, Mass.— "Build-up of wet grass on the mower roller can easily change the height of cut, and that change of height can ultimately reflect on me," said Indian Ridge Country Club equipment mechanic Johnny "Jake" Parker. That impetus led to Parker's very simple, yet very effective solution: using car ice scrapers to clean the rollers.

"These scrapers work great," Parker said. "I use them on my triplex and fairway mowers and anything with a roller that collects grass clippings. Most mower manufacturers have scrapers on the front rollers, but scrapers on the back are optional. And often those on the back are ineffective," Parker said. "With back rollers, you get a big build-up and then a big clump drops out and you get clumping all across the fairway," he said.

"The biggest problem," he said, "was that operators weren't scraping their rollers off because their hands get such a mess. I wanted to try to make things easier for people and get them to do it more often. I found all the operators loved the idea and were actually doing it. They are more likely to do it if you're not asking them to get down there and get all wet."

"It makes a huge, huge difference in the cut," Parker added. "Now my height of cut is where it is supposed to be all the time. How often an operator hand-scrapes his rollers depends on how wet the turf is. I suggest they scrape the rollers off when they empty the buckets," Parker said. "It literally takes about 10 seconds."

The ice scrapers have a 10-inch handle, much more efficient than the short ice scrapers. Indian Ridge's mowers all have smooth rollers, Parker said, adding that the grooved and swirl-type rollers don't appear to have problems with clipping build-up.

Indian Ridge's Parker: Rollers no problem

CAROLINA NAT'L
Continued from page 21
also enhances the golfing and living experience. We will continue to improve on our program and try new projects to make Carolina National Golf Club a beautiful and nature-friendly golf course."

In 1997, Carolina National Golf Club joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

"Carolina National Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist for the Cooperative Sanctuary System.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Zeh. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Golf courses from the United States, Canada, and Europe have also achieved certification in the program.

"As far as I am concerned," said Dr. Terry L. Vassey, director of golf development at Bluegreen Golf and Carolina National Golf Club, "our achieving Sanctuary status is one of the highlights of my golf course management career. I truly believe we have added greatly to the planet. Our strongest contribution is the amount of wildlife habitat we have incorporated into the golf course, each including a vast diversity of plant material. We believe that we have increased the overall wildlife population here and plan to continue our efforts."
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Don Lewis, a superintendent for 35 years, has retired from Anaheim Hills Golf Course. Lewis, who has been the golf course superintendent at Anaheim Hills for 20 years, served the city of Anaheim for more than 35 years.

"Don Lewis has treated both the Dad Miller and then the Anaheim Hills courses as if they were his family," said Jack Kodron, Anaheim superintendent of parks and golf. "It has been a 24-hour, on-call, seven-day-a-week commitment to him and all of us are extremely grateful that he has been a part of our family for the past 35 years. What an accomplishment."

That commitment meant making sure the 26-year-old, 225-acre Hills course was playable after enduring the weather disasters such as wind and rain or potential problems due to fungus on the greens. It also meant overseeing the interaction of the course which is nestled in the rolling hills of the Nohl Ranch landscape.

"This has been a terrific job," said Lewis. "But it has been a team effort, to be sure. There are 12 people who are responsible for the maintenance of the course and it takes a team effort to build and maintain. Thinking back 26 years ago, we had an ugly chunk of coal. Now we have a diamond in the rough."

ANAHEIM Hills Golf Course. Lewis, a superintendent for 35 years. What an accomplishment." said Jack Kudron, the Dad Miller and then the Anaheim superintendent of parks and golf. "It has been a 24-hour, on-call, seven-day-a-week commitment to him and all of us are extremely grateful that he has been a part of our family for the past 35 years. What an accomplishment."

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The truth.

Of course, there’s still a lot more work to do. But rest assured, RISE is up to the task.

Because we know if we eliminate air pollution, the pesticide industry can breathe a lot easier.
**Swede’s work chart an effective quick reference**

**By TERRY BUCHEN**

VASTERAS, Sweden — Jan Stavas, course manager/greenkeeper at Fullero Golfklubb, and his equipment mechanic thrive on meticulous recording-keeping and communication with the maintenance staff for all their equipment.

One excellent example is a thorough “quick-reference chart,” which lists all the major equipment, along with specific motor oil and quantities, and oil filter used; hydraulic oil and quantities and hydraulic filter used; transmission oil used; front and rear axle oil types; anti-freeze/coolant and quantities; and front and rear tire-pressure information.

This chart is mostly used by the equipment mechanic, but also by other maintenance employees when assisting the mechanic during routine servicing and when checking tire pressures on their equipment.

“I loaded all of the pertinent information into my computer data base, which can be continually updated as our equipment inventory changes,” Stavas said. “We use a clear plastic report-type cover to protect our quick-reference chart from getting dirty. That works quite well.”

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**The Hills’ staff CPR training saves a life**

**IRVINE, Calif. —** Bert Altmann’s life hung in the balance. Ted Robles and Tim Daley were at the right place at the right time, putting their CPR training to good use and Altmann is alive today.

Altmann, who lives in Irvine, was driving into the parking lot at The Hills when he apparently passed out due to what was diagnosed as a heart attack. Startled golfers near the 9th hole saw Altmann’s car come to a rest on some rocks.

Robles, who has been a member of The Hills maintenance crew for the past 13 years, heard the commotion and immediately went to the car.

He found Altmann passed out with his eyes wide open. He got Altmann out of the car and on to the grass near the car. Just as he started the CPR procedure he was joined by Tim Daley, a bartender at the course.

“There was no pulse and the man wasn’t breathing,” recalled Robles, “I just started the procedure the way I was trained. He responded in a few seconds and I thought he was okay. But he stopped breathing again and we had to start over. The second time was a charm.”

Paramedics arrived shortly thereafter and transported the victim to Kaiser Hospital in Anaheim Hills.

Robles had renewed his CPR training one week before the incident and Daley had renewed his techniques through a West Covina Fire Department course a few months ago.

The city of Anaheim regularly schedules its employees to go through the CPR training. 

Robles had renewed his CPR training one week before the incident and Daley had renewed his techniques through a West Covina Fire Department course a few months ago.

The city of Anaheim regularly schedules its employees to go through the CPR training and all staff members for the Dad Miller and Anaheim Hills courses have completed the requirements for a CPR certificate.
Ryder Cup prep
Continued from page 17

singling out assistants Jeff Baker, who coordinates the 22-person staff and day-to-day operations on the course; Greg Barker, who is specializing in Ryder Cup projects and basically any maintenance work not directly associated with day-to-day operations; and Scott Lagana, who will be his liaison with all the vendors they have to deal with beginning in June.

"I'm sort of the 'front' guy," Spence said. "These people have applied themselves and are the nicest group of people and most competent I've ever worked with."

But this "front" guy has his hands full with meetings of the Ryder Cup Executive Committee, the Golf Committee, Grounds Committee and Landscape Committee as well as having to answer to people like Ryder Cup American captain Ben Crenshaw, on-site tournament director Dan Baker, and Kerry Haigh, senior director of tournaments for the PGA of America.

Spence, who saw The Country Club through a Rees Jones renovation and preparation for the 1988 U.S. Open, is facing new challenges this time around.

Transportation, for instance, is "the single biggest problem," he said. "We have no parking, yet we have 40,000-plus people who will be on site at some times."

With Ryder Cup tickets in hand (obtained through a PGA of America national drawing), the general public will have to park outside Boston, then take a commuter rail or subway to either Cleveland Circle or Forest Hill station, where they will board the five-minute ride to The Country Club when the gates open at 6 a.m.

Meanwhile, spectators affiliated with corporate tents or vendors will park 7,000 to 8,000 cars at either a neighboring golf course, a farm The Country Club is reconditioning, or town-owned Larz Andersen Park.

Ryder Cup play begins at about 7:45 a.m. "and everybody leaves at 5 o'clock when the event is over," Spence said.

"We have all these people coming in at once and leaving together, which stresses our abilities to get them in and out, or if we had to evacuate the golf course, or if we have a hurricane ... or lightning. So this is a very serious part of the program, and again not relating much to turf."

To deal with the crowds, he said: "We've had to open up roads that haven't been used since Francis Ouimet was 5 years old. We also have a crew clearing out gallery and entrance areas through the woods."

In addition to parking and transportation, the event incorporates "a huge amount of infrastructure," Spence said.

"The U.S. Open gallery winds around a golf course. That is not what we are dealing with this time. The preparation, as a result, is more construction-oriented to support this infrastructure."

Thus the conduits, corporate tents, Tables of Ten which will be set up inside the facility's tennis courts, and spectator areas.

"I spend a lot of time pretending I'm a spectator in order to find places for people to walk and watch the event," Spence said.

Also, Spence learned a lesson from superintendent Bob Alonzi at Winged Foot, who last year had to undergo a last-minute major tree-pruning to meet insurance demands before the PGA Championship.

"To move the gallery around, we have to put people in places we normally don't do anything, including tree pruning," he said. "Insurance is important today, and we entered a safety pruning program beginning last summer that will cost more than $100,000. We're going into all the gallery, tent and entrance areas to make sure deadwood is removed."
Ryder Cup prep
Continued from page 25

weigh heavily on Spence’s mind.

“Whether we acknowledge it or not, golfers always aspire to have their course be another Augusta National,” Spence said, referring to the Georgia course’s “perfect” conditioning. “But, you can play great golf and do a lot less manipulation than what we do now [for tournaments].”

“The nicest thing that has happened to us,” he added, “has been Ben Crenshaw’s selection as captain... Ben will be the first to tell you that you don’t need hand-mowed fairways, or greens rolling 13 on the Stimpmeter and rough that is 6 inches tall in order to identify the winning team of the Ryder Cup.

“So, we’re trying to keep it moderate.”

Spence’s crews have undertaken a bunker sand replacement program, restoring some bunkers that “had gotten pretty ornery” or had “lost their old character.”

But they will not hand-mow the fairways. Greens will roll 10-1/2 to 11 on the Stimpmeter, which is typical for a member-guest tournament at the club. Fairways will be cut a little lower than normal, but not much, perhaps 3/8 inch.

Tees will be cut about the same as usual. And the rough will be cut to 2-1/2 to 3 inches.

“The three of us [Crenshaw, Haigh and Spence] feel it will be best for everyone if we have a fair test, one that is not tricked up, and that no one feels we tricked up,” Spence said.

“Moreso for the spectators, who don’t really want to see a great player in rough where he can’t even see the golf ball just chop it back onto the fairway.

“The Country Club is a second-on-the-course with long par-4s. The second shot is the essence of the game — how close you get to the hole on our small greens, which average only 2,800 square feet. And, if we don’t give players a chance, from a spectator’s point of view, that’s going to take some of the fun out of the Ryder Cup.”

Whereas, Seve Ballesteros in Spain and Lanny Wadkins in America have in the past tried to create conditions for their teams to win, Spence said: “We feel that in the Ryder Cup, the site can’t be a factor. It can’t be any less neutral a site than a Final Four in college basketball, or a Super Bowl. In the U.S. Open it’s a big factor; the golf course is right in the middle of it all. In the Ryder Cup, you don’t want to be able to say the course affected the outcome, because this is team against team.”

While corporate tents are lifted up and fewer members of the general public than at other events cheer for their respective teams, Spence said that in one way the Ryder Cup will epitomize all that is right with golf.

“With all the money we have coming into this event,” he said, “these players don’t get anything. This is all about spirit, pride and winning.”

Leslie comment
Continued from page 12

associations have seized on something that can have a substantial impact.”

Elsewhere, in an engaging session by members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects:

• In a friendly debate with design partner Dana Fry about $1 million versus $10 million golf courses, Mike Hurdzan asked: “For every $1 million invested, you need to charge $10 in greens fees. Which is better for golf: 10 $1 million courses with $15 greens fees, or one $10 million course with $150 greens fees?

• Ed Seay, president of Arnold Palmer Golf Design, told the world who are the most important people in golf development, and it is none of any of the above names. Nor is it any of the great players, nor of anyone you and I know by name. Who is it?

“The person who decides permits,” Seay said.

• Course designer Damian Pascuzzo added: “Sometimes it costs hundreds of thousands of dollars just to find out if you have a viable project. That’s what environmental activism has done.”

But the clincher came from the ever-succinct Seay, who said that if you’re building in Arkansas “just lie about it and you’ll get away with it.”

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Spence’s ‘bunker wrap’ saves edges, hastens germination

By MARK LESLIE

BROOKLINE, Mass. — Employing the same theory as with putting green covers, Bill Spence has devised a “bunker wrap” that greatly protects bunker faces from desiccation while speeding up germination so the traps quickly return to play.

“We’ve been doing this for two years and have had great luck with it,” said the superintendent at Country Club in Brookline, which will host the Ryder Cup competition, Sept. 24-26.

The “bunker wrap” is actually old Typar covers that have outlived their usefulness, or a geotextile fabric that can be bought in big rolls. “We cut them up to fit the bunker lips,” Spence said, explaining that after the bunker is restored and the edging is seeded, the material is wrapped around the edging.

“We wrap as soon as we seed unless it’s the middle of the summer and the wrap would cause heat-related problems,” he said. “The warmer earth speeds up germination and rooting, and we get those bunkers in play very quickly. It stabilizes those high bunker faces a little earlier. So early play is less prone to do damage if folks walk over the high edge.”

A number of people who came to look at the bunkers couldn’t believe Spence’s crews had seeded them, he said.

He said that after sodding a number of bunker faces in 1984 and 1985, the sod began to decline in about five years. “The bunker faces are so steep,” he said, “that we can’t do what we need to do culturally to maintain sod over a long period of time. We couldn’t aerify it, so the thatch built up and it inhibited root and air movement. So we had to redo those bunkers in a major way. Since then, whenever we can, we seed the bunkers.”

He said he’s using the “wrap” on new bunkers to promote old-looking growth, and on older bunkers to protect the grass (which is growing in sand) from desiccation.

“Most of the bunker lips — anything that is questionable — are covered,” Spence said. Members of The Country Club, a 27-hole layout that includes the venerable old Willie Campbell-designed 18, have paid particular attention to maintaining the character, Spence said. In keeping with this is a desire to retain the integrity of the bunkers.

When golf course architect Rees Jones came to Brookline in 1984 to restore it for the U.S. Open, he was “very cognizant of what had happened at Pebble Beach,” where a bunker renovation made the course appear modern as opposed to the wind-blown Pebble of old, Spence said. “Very often if you do major restoration work on an old bunker, you come out with a bunker that doesn’t resemble the one you started with,” Spence said. “That old character is very, very hard to recreate once you undo it. It comes from years and years of wind and accumulated sand.”

The “bunker wraps,” he feels, help the rejuvenated edges grow into their old, wild look of the past.

All the bunker work of the past couple years has benefited The Country Club’s grounds crew.

“We’ve gotten better at it as we’ve gone along,” Spence said. “I’ve actually had a few architects call to ask how we did it.”

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The Most Effective Tool To Treat LDS From Tee To Green
President’s Award winner Horton hails environmental summits

By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO, Fla. — Citing him as a key contributor in building a coalition between the golf industry and environmental activists, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presented its President’s Award to Pebble Beach Co. Vice President of Resource Management Ted Horton.

Horton has been “a great help in bringing the golf industry and environmental advocacy groups closer together,” said GCSAA President George Renault III in presenting the award. “He has challenged our profession and industry to set and achieve the highest possible environmental standards. At the same time, he has held would-be environmental critics to the facts about golf course environmental impacts, including the many positives.

“Even beyond the Golf and the Environment summit process, Ted has tirelessly devoted himself to educating the public on the positive relationships between golf and the environment. He has also demonstrated a leadership in developing effective golf course recycling and efficient irrigation projects for his courses. He is an innovator and committed to improvement and environmental excellence.”

The President’s Award is based on exceptional environmental contributions to the game of golf. Instrumental in initiating the Golf and the Environment summit, Horton also oversees Pebble Beach Co.’s extensive holdings on perhaps the world’s most famous golf mecca, the Monterey Peninsula.

Saying he was sharing the award with his fellow employees at Pebble Beach Co., Horton noted: “Nothing is accomplished alone.”

He said he has come a long ways in understanding environmental philosophies since beginning his career as a golf course superintendent 30 years ago. At that time, he said, “I really concentrated primarily on maintaining the golf course at the highest standards.”

Then came the 1960s, a time of concern about water conservation, “and I recognized that a golf course superintendent dealt with drainage, impounding water in ponds, irrigation, and really had all the basic tools to make a very significant difference in handling a very precious resource,” Horton said. “I became involved in the Metropolitan New York distribution of water and was a member of the emergency task force, a task I enjoyed tremendously. I met environmentalists and clearly was able to, I think, make a difference in our profession.”

As the Golf and the Environment summits moved forward, he said, “we were able to meet environmentalists and become very familiar with some of their problems and understand very quickly that their problems were no different from ours, and that their goals were very similar to ours. With that understanding, it became a very simple process of coalition-building, block by block, understanding what our goals were and then accomplishing them together, rather than apart.

“It has been a wonderful, stimulating process — a process I have enjoyed every minute of, a process that I feel has been very productive for our company; for our business of turf management in general, and for golf course superintendents.”

In his opening remarks Renault said the GCSAA faces two major national challenges: the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The FQPA “makes sweeping changes in the way we apply pesticides,” he said. “The availability of many golf course maintenance products is in jeopardy. GCSAA is working with other pesticide user groups and industry to ensure that the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency]”

Continued on next page
Rossi Award winner Beard cites others

ORLANDO, Fla. — Cited as having "touched the lives of many people in this room and at this conference," Dr. James Beard received the 9th annual Don A. Rossi Award at the banquet of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) here Feb. 12.

Named for the late executive director of the GCBAA, the award is given to an individual who has made major contributions to the game of golf and its growth and who has inspired others by their example.

GCBAA President Bill Kubby of Landscapes Unlimited presented the award to Beard, a noted agronomist best known for his years as a professor of turfgrass science at Michigan State and Texas A&M universities. Beard is now the chief scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute in College Station, Texas, which he founded when he retired from Texas A&M.

In introducing his former professor, Dr. Bob Shearman of the University of Nebraska said of Beard: "There is no individual, from an agronomic standpoint and the agronomic sciences, who has had a greater impact on our industry than this man. He has trained an outstanding number of individuals who have gone on to have a great impact on the industry. And that legacy continues."

Beard, who has won such honors as Distinguished Service Awards from the International Turfgrass Society and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and is a former president of the Crop Sciences Society of America, accepted the award on behalf of his wife, Harriet, and himself.

"I have had an opportunity to work with great people in this industry," Beard said. "I’ve learned from them. I’ve learned from golf course superintendents, builders, architects and industry reps. I’ve tried to bring good scholarship and science to the field ... to advance the science of this industry. I’ve enjoyed the opportunity to work with a lot of good people in our research and educational programs at Michigan State and Texas A&M University.

"It starts with your fellow researchers and colleagues. Dr. Paul Rieke [sitting] here is an example of that. It starts with good research associates and technicians, like Sam Sifers, who is still working with me. It starts with mentors. As an assistant professor trying to figure our what to do, Dr. Jim Watson [sitting] here certainly was helpful in that regard for a long time. It takes good graduate students, because they do a lot of the really good basic research that your technicians can’t do, or you don’t have time to do. We have had over 40 of them and many of them are leaders around the country. Dr. Bob Shearman is an example of that."

Saying he has enjoyed his students, who number in the thousands, and their interaction, Beard added: "In a sense, probably a lot of you are students with the books I have written."

But most important, he said, is Harriet who, he said, was a key to his success, especially helping with his eight books and more than 600 articles.

"She worked with me as a team," he said, as well as raising two sons.

Ted Horton
Continued from previous page

bases its decisions on good science. The strength of our membership is critical in putting pressure on the EPA to ensure it listens to our concerns."

As the GCSAA’s representative on a national ADA panel, Renault said the association "has taken the lead in providing tools to help golf courses comply" with the new rules. A new draft of those rules was released late last year.

"GCSAA is also successfully leading a coalition of disabled and golf organizations trying to avoid litigation on play issues, such as cart path-only rules," Renault said. "We made progress by arranging meetings with the Department of Justice and to begin resolving these issues in a non-adversarial manner."
Niebur, Furness the Best Builders

ORLANDO, Fla. — Saying the annual honor has created a healthy competition in the industry, Niebur Golf President Joe Niebur accepted the 1998 Golf Course Builder of the Year Award here, during the banquet of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA).

Niebur’s Colorado Springs, Colo.-based firm received a 78.675 out of a possible 80 in ratings from the developers, architects and superintendents involved in projects that Niebur completed in 1998.

Meanwhile, Furness Golf Construction of Charlevoix, Mich., was named Golf Course Small Builder of the Year — among builders completing fewer than four 18-hole courses in 1998. Furness finished at 79.2 out of a possible 80.

Both awards are sponsored by Golf Course News.

“After we were notified about the award, a friend asked how important it is,” Niebur said. “To Niebur Golf, it is very important. It’s really important to me that we are considered one of the best builders. Secondly, I believe that with today’s accelerated schedules and the way that standards continually keep going up because of all you golf course designers and consultants, quality is at a premium more every year.”

Thanking the GCBAA and citing it for making “huge strides in growth every year,” Niebur said: “It’s an organization I’m proud to be a part of. I also want to thank the golf course designers, owners and superintendents we worked with this year for their vote of confidence.

Niebur also thanked his family as well as his employees, whom he said “are the most dedicated guys, and, I believe, the reason we have continually been successful.

“I truly believe the desire to produce quality exists in all our employees,” he added.

Tim Furness noted his gratitude to:
• Golf course architect Arthur Hills for having “the patience and confidence in us to allow us to get started in the earlier days.”
• Golf course architect Warren Henderson and Rick Smith Golf Course Design for “allowing us to build their great golf courses.”
• His family and employees.

“More than anything, I’d like to thank my people,” Furness said. “Without them, I would not be here. I have the best staff in the world.”

“I feel honored,” Furness added, “that the people we work for and with feel our work is the quality required to rate us high enough to receive this award. I am very humble to be here.”

Meanwhile, on behalf of Golf Course News, Publisher Charles von Brecht presented a plaque to GCBAA Executive Vice President Phil Arnold recognizing his support and that of the association for the builder awards program.

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Past GCSAA presidents speak out

By PETER BLAIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — This is the second installment of a story that first ran last month checking in on the whereabouts of past presidents of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and asking them two questions:

• What is the biggest change you've observed in the golf industry during your career?
• What single piece of advice would you give to incoming GCSAA President David Fearis?

Following are the responses of those who were available:

Biggest change: The chemicals, fertilizers and equipment have come a long way. The industry has supplied us with the latest and best methods of maintaining a golf course. The biggest change is the education and professionalism of the superintendent. Back when I graduated from Purdue in 1954, I was the first graduate of the turf school.
Advice for Dave: He's also a Purdue graduate. He should continue to expose the superintendent to the golfing public so we will eventually get recognized as the head of the leaders of the most important part of the golf course operation.


Biggest change: The certification program started in 1971 and the seminar program was just starting to grow when I became president in 1975. It has expanded to 80 to 100 courses now at the conference. It's a great means of fostering continuing education.
Advice for Dave: Don't get too big-headed. We came from the ground-up. We've grown tremendously as a profession — the amount of information, be it agronomic, employee, environment, government, computers, technology. But our basic job is still to keep grass on the course for the golfer's enjoyment.

Biggest change: The introduction of improved grasses that can withstand insects, disease, drought.
Advice for Dave: Step boldly. Don't be tentative. There are a lot of challenges facing the profession. Act in counsel with the board of directors.

Biggest change: The biggest changes have been in the modernization of chemicals and equipment and the demand by golfers for better courses.
Advice for Dave: The association is heading in the right direction. Just keep it on course.

Biggest change: Grasses, the height of cut and the adaptability...

Continued on page 32
Past presidents
Continued from page 31

Itty of turf are phenomenal today. Our research and grant work over the years has really paid off. They are fantastic the way they can hang in there in spite of bad weather, disease and close mowing. Trying to convert golf courses to the new grasses will be the big trick.

Advice for Dave. Make certain everything is fine at home with your family and job before you embark on too many things with GCSAA.


James Brandt — 1968 — Retired in 1988 from Danville (Ill.) CC. Operating a lawn-care consulting business and living in Danville.

Biggest change. The equipment is the biggest change, along with the design of the newer courses. The courses are a lot more challenging today.

Advice for Dave. Do the best you can for all the members regardless of the type of club they are at. Some of the people at lesser clubs are not being served as well as those at higher-echelon clubs. Concentrate on bringing the lower-income groups up.


Biggest change. Equipment, seeds, fertilizers are all much better. We now have parks out there instead of golf courses, with all the flowers and waterfalls. You never used to see that sort of thing. We just had plain golf courses back then. The association has changed markedly since I was president. There were 5,000 members back then, now there are something like 18,000. The job of president is more complicated than it used to be.

Advice for Dave. Emphasize the certification program. When you have golf courses that are multimillion-dollar facilities, you need to have someone in charge who knows what the score is. It's becoming more important that the superintendent is certified. More money should also be spent on research.


L.R. Shields Jr.


Biggest change. The equipment is the biggest change, along with the design of the newer courses. The courses are a lot more challenging today.

Advice for Dave. The climate has changed such that I'm really not in a position to give advice.


Biggest change. Superintendents are more educated today. Superintendents have so much more to work with in terms of equipment, but they have more environmental issues to contend with because of the chemicals they have to work with. And the budgets individual superintendents have to work with are much bigger. When I went to Winged Foot, my budget was $125,000 and when I left it was $600,000. Who knows what it is now.

Continued on next page

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Witt elected GCSAA sec’y/treasurer

ORLANDO, Fla. — Longtime board member Tommy Witt of StillWaters Resort in Dadeville, Ala., was elected secretary-treasurer of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, joining President David Fearis and Vice President Scott Woodhead as officers of the national organization, which held its elections during the Annual International Conference and Show here in early February.

Witt, a 20-year GCSAA member who has served on the GCSAA board of directors since 1994, bested Michael Wallace of Hop Meadow Country Club (CC) for the secretary-treasurer post, meaning Witt will likely be elected president in 2001.

Fearis of Blue Hills CC in Kansas City, Mo., and Woodhead of Valley View Golf Club (GC) in Bozeman, Mont., ran unopposed.

Wallace, who has served on the GCSAA board since 1995, was renominated as a director from the floor. Also elected directors were incumbent Samuel Snyder VII of Hercules CC in Nottingham, Pa., and new board member Mark Woodward of Dobson Ranch and Riverview golf courses in Mesa, Ariz.

In the race for the board of directors, Snyder and Woodward outpolled Joseph Emanuel of Hurstbourne CC in Lexington, Ky.; James Nicol of Hazeltine National GC in Chaska, Minn.; and Timothy O’Neill of the CC of Darien (Conn.).

Rounding out the 1999-2000 board of directors will be Immediate Past President George Renault of Eagles Creek CC in Naples, Fla.; Ken Mangum of Atlanta Athletic Club; and Jon Maddern of Elk Ridge GC in Gaylord, Mich.

Past presidents

Continued from previous page

Advice for Dave. Remain devoted to your work. You’ve got to like what you are doing to be a superintendent.

Elmer Border — 1959 — Deceased.

Biggest change. Construction costs for an 18-hole course have gone from perhaps $50,000 in the early 1900s up to several million dollars today.

Advice for Dave. Appropriate your time involvement with due consideration for your family, your job at the club and responsibility to GCSAA.

Paul Weiss — 1957 — Deceased.
William Johnson — 1951 — Deceased.

Carl Bretzlaff — 1949 — Deceased.
Chester Mendenhall — 1948 — Deceased.
Harold Stodola — 1941-45 — Deceased.
John Gray — 1940 — Deceased.
Frank Ermer — 1939 — Deceased.
Joseph Ryan — 1938 — Deceased.
John Quaill — 1937 — Deceased.
John Anderson — 1936 — Deceased.
Fred Burkhardt — 1935 — Deceased.
W.J. Sansom — 1934 — Deceased.
John MacGregor — 1933 — Deceased.
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**OGRIN DESIGNING FIRST TRACK**

HOUSTON, Texas — Community leaders and friends joined Ira Ogrin of Jack Frey Properties and PGA Tour professional David Ogrin to celebrate the groundbreaking for High Meadow Ranch Golf Club. The course, co-designed by Ogrin, sits on a rolling terrain of sandy soil and features more topographical differences than other courses in the area. This is the first golf course designed by Ogrin, a 15-year PGA Tour veteran and winner of the 1996 Texas Open Championship. He is co-designing the course with Nugent Golf Associates. The daily-fee golf club will feature an 18-hole course stretching to over 7,400 yards and routed in three loops of six over a unique rolling terrain highlighted by an abundance of native pine trees and dense hardwood vegetation.

**HARBOTTLE GETS WIS. DESIGN**

MADISON, Wis. — John F. Harbottle III is beginning a new golf course design at Hawk’s Landing, a 520-acre upscale real-estate development near Madison. The 7,000-square-foot layout sits on about 200 acres of gently rolling farmland, winding through hardwood groves and around three large ponds. Haen Real Estate of Madison is developing the project. Construction will be completed by Oliphant Golf Construction, Inc., also of Madison. A late summer/fall construction start is planned. Other new Harbottle projects include a new 27-hole course of the Ralph Ranch in Livermore, Calif., and another 27-hole facility, Hirao Country Club, near Nagoya, Japan.

**$1M PROJECT PLANNED IN FLA.**

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Fla. — Capital Golf Development Corp. has announced plans for a new golf club in Indian River County. The $14 million project, Southern Dunes Golf Club, will feature a course designed by Kenneth Kavanauagh. Southern Dunes is located on the natural sand dune parallel the Indian River Lagoon in Indian River County. Situated on more than 180 acres of land, the course provides 7,200 yards of golf from championship tees. It encompasses pine forests, water and sand dune topography. A special area of the course offers links-style golf. To accommodate golfers who enjoy walking, a caddie program will be in place. Construction is scheduled to begin in April. Course opening is set for January 2000.

**IN THE WAKE OF SPLIT**

Jones picket; KLC eye diversity

By MARK LESLIE

PALO ALTO, Calif. — In the wake of his lead architects’ departure, Robert Trent Jones Jr. said his golf course design firm will continue to work around the world, but on fewer projects. Jones’ statement came on the heels of an announcement that Don Knott, Gary Linn and Bruce Charlton have left the firm to form their own company, Knott, Linn, Charlton Design. The three had worked for 18 years or longer with Jones in designing many of his 200 projects from Canada to China and from Fiji to Russia. A fourth member of the new partnership, Steve Smith, will remain with Trent Jones II’s vice president of operations.

“From my perspective, it gives me the chance to do more hands-on work on quality middle-to upper-end projects,” Jones said. “We have had 10 to 12 projects a year and that’s a lot of golf courses because we had good people. I’d rather do six or eight projects a year that are very hands-on.”

The change — for Jones as well as Knott, Linn and Charlton — is “a

**COMMENTARY**

Golf’s future bright

By DR. MICHAEL HURDZAN

I disagree, often, with people in the golf business who fail to see the big picture — or if they see it, refused to believe or to present a balanced view. Call it “the cup is half empty, half full” syndrome you will. The fact is the damn cup is neither half empty or half full, rather it is both. Stick with me while I rebut an article from the sports section of the USA TODAY that appeared on Tuesday, January 19, 1990 titled “The cup is half empty”

The essence of the story was a gloom and doom report about how the supply of golf courses has exceeded demand, and how operators have had to resort to marketing gimmicks to pull in customers. They are the views of the “half-empty” crowd.

But in a side bar chart it showed the rounds of golf for 1997 (the last year reported) had reached a record high of 544 million rounds, 14% higher than the previous year, and 18% higher than any year in the last century. This is how “half-full” folks see golf.

I unabashedly, am one of the world’s great optimists (read half-full), that believe that golf can grow at a reasonably high, sustainable rate if — if, we remember three

**Continued on page 42**

**Lowry ‘builds’ true island green**

By MARK LESLIE

M. O. L. T., III. — A real island green will face golfers when the new front nine of Timber Lakes Golf Course opens in May here, halfway between St. Louis and Springfield.

“Yes, the island green is unique,” said Bill Lowry, owner of Professional Landscaping, Inc., who built the course and co-designed it with owner Mike Favre, “but it also has three peninsula greens, and I don’t think you’ll find that on any course, anywhere.”

To play the peninsula greens, golfers will have to wait until fall, when the back nine opens. But the island green stands ready to test them as they come to the clubhouse to finish the front nine.

The 15,000-square-foot island was not always an island, Lowry said. It was a horseshoe-shaped peninsula with a 6- to 8-foot-wide “moat” until Lowry widened the moat to 50 to 90 yards.

Lowry said the 6-acre lake was drained and then dug out in order to widen the moat. Water was 5 to 6 feet deep and now it is 10, he said.

Now the piece of land sits as an island, complete with trees and an 8,000-square-foot, three-level green for the 275- to 310-yard par-4 9th hole.

The approach shot from the landing area requires a 50-yard carry over the water. A 50-foot bridge takes golfers to and from the green, which can be seen from the clubhouse.

The back nine, Lowry said, is even more challenging than the front.

“The front nine is a 6 on a scale of 10 for difficulty. The back nine will be closer to an 8 or 9,” he said. “The front nine is links style, while the back nine is carved out of the woods, uses natural terrain and of

**Continued on page 42**

**Northwest Angle:**

Golf like nowhere else

By TIMOTHY LYON

The club scuffs the ground hard before impact and the ball bounces 20 yards down the recently mowed fairway. A soft course registers more amazement than anger. George Risser readily acknowledges that his golf game could be better. In any honesty, if he handled his chainsaw and hunting rifle with the same proficiency that he wields the clubscuffs the ground hard before impact and the ball bounces 20 yards down the recently mowed fairway. A soft course registers more amazement than anger. George Risser readily acknowledges that his golf game could be better. In any honesty, if he handled his chainsaw and hunting rifle with the same proficiency that he wields the gun, uses natural terrain and of

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Practice ranges: Varied, challenging future

By BOB SPIWAK

Eying the possibilities of millions of Americans who say they want to play more golf, National Golf Foundation President and CEO Joe Beditz feels that "enhancing the golf experience on the golf course or at the range is most important, because [these] are where first impressions about the game are formed."

Forty million Americans want to play more golf or take up the game, Beditz said, adding: "If..."

“...we can make our operation like ours compete with the big boys on the other side of town?"

He well may have been speaking of the biggest of those boys, the dynamic Dominic Chang, chairman of Family Golf Centers, Inc. FGCI has followed the merger-and-acquisition path to become the largest multisite operator of stand-alone facilities in the industry, according to di Costanzo.

Having acquired many smaller companies and merged with heavyweight Metro Golf, FGCI went on to absorb Eaglequest Golf Centers, a Canadian-based company.

Continued on next page

"Training up youths is a key to success for practice facilities of all stripes."
Ranges of future

Continued from previous page

equipped with 18 facilities. Then it spent a reported $31 million for the 14 facilities of financially troubled Golden Bear Golf.

Currently, FGCI owns or operates 116 golf centers.

Does this mean that small facilities will become extinct? Probably not. While metropolitan areas are the domain for mega centers and deep-pocketed owners, there is still pent-up demand for practice and learning facilities in less-settled areas, those whose demographics exclude any major investment.

A case in point is Okanogan County in Washington. It is the largest county in the state, with a land mass greater than Connecticut and Rhode Island, and has only five golf courses, only one with 18 holes.

There is but one range and this is usually on “The Honor System.” Places such as this exist throughout the nation, and make do with what they have because golfers want to have someplace to practice. While facilities may be in short supply, the number of golfers continues to grow, be it in Orlando or Okanogan.

“The mission of golf ranges over the next decade is to help the growth of the game of golf,” said di Costanzo. “They are there to groom the next generation of golfers. [What will be required] is an affordable self-service experience to all strata of golfers. I see more [ranges] giving instruction, more club fitting and retailing. I see more social events like leagues being formed with game concepts and competitive events.”

He sees FGCI as the dominant golf center corporation now, but added: “the door is open for others, the precedent has been set. Corporate players we don’t even know of at this time may be there in a couple of years and will be opening new doors.”

While the number of newly opened facilities is shrinking, they are still appearing annually. With these and as current sites are being upgraded and expanded, exciting changes are here now and more are coming.

Golf domes are doing well in Northern states, with the siren call: Bring your sticks and leave winter outside the door. More domes will be coming in the next decade. Ball delivery systems will become more automated and efficient, ultimately being untouched by human hands until disposal time. Advances in heating and cooling will provide climatic comfort on outdoor ranges.

More tee lines will feature grass rather than mats, and even the latter will improve in quality and reality.

Where land is scarce, more multitiered ranges will appear. Advances in net technology will make “Vest-pocket” facilities available in small land areas or on rooftops.

While the days of the mowed hay field range are far from over, center stage is being taken by the new marvels of the 21st century.

Once stigmatized, ranges have become respectable places with lessons, get instruction not only on the mechanics, but the history, traditions and etiquette of the game.

Call them ranges, centers or learning facilities, they are the training grounds for tomorrow’s Tour stars and club champions. More important, they are the entree for millions of everyday golfers.
Car dealer trades dealership for golf

ATLANTA — Chuck Clancy has traded in his tax, tags and title for cart path only, please. That's what happens when one of Metro Atlanta's top car dealers sells his dealership after years of success and jumps into a new endeavor as a golf course developer. Construction is wrapping up at Clancy's first golf course project, Creekside Golf & Country Club. Clancy's group, CC Golf, will also manage the daily-fee facility. A true shotmaker's layout, Creekside was designed by Richard Mandell and Robert Rauch of Whole In One Design Group. Located off Nebo Road in Paulding County, the course uses four sets of tees, ranging from 5,400 to 6,750 yards long. The course has minimal forced carries, intent of providing friendly golfing opportunities for high-handicappers. 

Shotmaking is a premium, yet whole-in-one design group used hazards only to challenge, and not to punish poor shots. Most golfers will have an easy time making par with ample landing areas, only 48 sand bunkers, and very accessible putting greens for all talent levels.

The golf course finishes up with a downhill par-5 to an island green. The hole plays 500 yards. "The yardage makes that hole one of those where the golfer will be too tempted not to go for the green in two. It is that perfect yardage of what I call gray area of choice-not a black or white decision," said Mandell.

Mike Westmoreland Contracting of Acworth is the general contractor. Creekside Golf & Country Club is slated for a March opening.

GCBAA adds Christman to new board

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Members of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) have included a new director in their recently elected 1999-2000 board of directors. Steve Christman of Eagle Golf & Landscape Products, located in Brea, Calif., slid past several other candidates to gain that slot, and began his first term at the GCBAA annual meeting in February. Newly elected directors serve a two-year term.


Board members continuing in the second year of a two-year term are Bill Kubly of Landscape Unlimited (GCBAA president), Frank Hutchinson of Golf Works (GCBAA vice president), Rick Elyea of Tee-2 Green (GCBAA secretary), Christine Faults of Greensmix (GCBAA treasurer), Tom Sasser of Golf Development Consultants, Fidel Garcia of Ryangolf (a division of Ryan Inc. Eastern), David Ryan of Ryan Inc. Central, and Tom Shapland of Wadsworth Golf Construction.

DIABLO CREEK UPGRADED

CITY OF CONCORD, Calif. — Golf course builder Golf Dimensions has completed the renovation of the Diablo Creek Golf Course, a public daily-fee 18-hole course owned and operated by the city of Concord. The 35-year-old course was constructed in 1963 on land donated to the city by the U.S. Navy, adjacent to their Naval Weapons Station. The course was upgraded to an 18-hole golf course in 1964.
Architects bring major ‘players’ to conference

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The 53rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Golf Course Architects will be held here March 20-25.

ASGCA President Bob LeBlanc said the society has planned several informative professional development sessions for the annual meeting. F. Morgan “Buzz” Taylor Jr., president of the United States Golf Association, will lead a discussion entitled “A Look Ahead” — a sneak peak at future programs and events in the golf industry. Other schedules speakers include: Jim Awtrey, executive director and chief executive officer of the PGA; Joe O’Brien, chief operating officer of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; William Kuby, president of the Golf Course Builders Association of America; Joseph Beditz, president and chief executive officer of the National Golf Foundation; and Mike Tinkey, deputy executive director of the National Golf Course Owners Association.

In the first of two schedules professional development seminars, Pat O’Brien, director of the Greens Section for the USGA’s Southeast Region, Ronay R. Duncan, a professor from the University of Georgia and Dr. Joseph Duich, a professor from Penn State University, will discuss new grass varieties that will help architects design courses that are easier and less costly to maintain.

Tod Leiwke, executive director of The First Tee Program, will update ASGCA members on his organization’s growth. The First Tee, with the cooperation of members from the USGA, PGA, LPGA and Augusta National Golf Club, is working to make the game of golf more accessible to people of all diversities and social status.

The society will also honor Arnold Palmer with the 1999 Donald Ross Award at a special banquet to be held at the Country Club of Charleston on March 22. The Ross Award is given annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the game of golf and the profession of golf course architecture.

Crenshaw Golf Properties buys first golf club

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — Crenshaw Golf Properties, a partnership between Credit Suisse First Boston and Ben Crenshaw, announced the acquisition of a controlling interest in East Hampton Golf Club here.

The original landowners, the Bistrian family, are partners in the venture with Crenshaw Golf Properties. The club, which is currently under development, is an exclusive private golf club which will offer a limited number of memberships, available by invitation only.

The course is located at the corner of Abrahams Path and Accabonac Road, land which has been part of the Bistrian family for more than 50 years. Crenshaw Golf Properties plans to open the course on labor Day weekend.

Ben Crenshaw will open the course just a few weeks before he begins his duties as captain of the United States Ryder Cup Team in the biennial, international Ryder Cup matches.

Pete Bistrian first had the vision to develop a golf course in 1978 and the entire Bistrian family has been actively involved in developing the golf club in the last several years. The design team of Bill Coore and Crenshaw was engaged in early 1998 to complete the design and construction.

Crenshaw Golf Properties is actively pursuing golf course acquisitions and management opportunities throughout the United States. C.J. McDaniel, CEO of Crenshaw Golf Operations, said, “We are very excited and pleased with the completion of this acquisition, particularly since East Hampton Golf Club is our first. The coming year is going to be very exciting for us, and the golf industry as a whole. We anticipate completing the acquisition of several other golf courses of similar quality in the near future.”

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Robert Harper

We couldn’t have said it better. If you’d like to hear actual comments from Club Car customers, call 1-888-374-8657. Or visit us on the Internet at www.clubcar.com.
Hurdzan: Golf’s future bright

Affordable means providing golf facilities at a price that appeals to people at average income levels and below. Golf should be competitive in price to movie theaters, professional sports activities, or other amusement areas. Leisure activities are competing for discretionary time and money, so golf should not price itself out of the competition.

Accessible means providing a friendly, entry level introduction to the game in terms of learning the fundamentals of golf, and on facilities geared to their skill level. Bowling uses inflatable gutter guards, skiing has bunny slopes, and there is a nerf or whiffle type ball for nearly every sport, all of which helps beginners succeed as they learn.

Sustainable means building golf facilities that need only small amounts of water, fertilizers, pesticides, fossil fuel, and human energy to run. Together, minimizing these inputs can not only make golf courses better neighbors to the environment; it can also keep the total of the cost of a round of golf to a very low level.

In the USA Today story, the picture that ran as part of the story was of Shadow Creek in Las Vegas, where 40 or 50 million dollars was spent to build it. It costs $1,000 per round to play it and to sustain that golf course in that environment is a near miracle. If there is a problem with golf in America, it is that we are building too many Shadow Creeks.

For golf to continue to prosper and grow we as an industry must build a market, not simply service a market. In the 1950s and 1960s the Big-3 American auto manufacturers were of a mind that their only competition was each other, and that all they had to do was to out gimmick each other, and America would buy their cars. They were a servicing market.

No one cared about the weird little foreign cars that came out post war Europe and Japan. We called them bugs, upside roller skates, clown cars and several other unflattering things, and the Big 3 totally discounted these car companies with names like Volkswagen, Honda, Toyota, Datsun, and Subaru. But these little guys were building a market by providing low cost, fuel efficient, compact transportation when Detroit thought people only wanted power, luxury, and space. The import cars built a loyal market by providing well built, quality products that nearly took down the automotive giants, and now the foreign companies dominate the luxury car market as well.

My point is that people who see golf as the trouble are those people who are servicing the market with expensive green fees, outrageously priced clubs and equipment, and cater to well-heeled travelers. They have good reason to worry, for if the golf industry doesn’t build affordable, accessible and sustainable golf courses, these companies will take their place with Studebaker, Packard and Edsel. One can rhetorically debate which came first the chicken or the egg, but there should be no debate about which came first when discussing golfers and golf courses. Without a doubt golf courses beget golfers. Build an affordable, accessible, sustainable golf course, even when market studies say no, and years later you’ll find the best of parades.

But editorial golf writers, who now think their jobs are in jeopardy, are happy to write about what a slump golf is in.

Enter the National Golf Foundation that does representative sampling and then tries to project trends. A sample error can be magnified in projection that in turn can result in erroneous conclusions (that is why the US Supreme Court has ruled against sampling to estimate our nation’s population).

For instance, how in the world can the NGF factor in the influence of El Nino, starter programs like First Tee and golf programs for school kids, and the effect of...

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CIRCLE #110

Silva re-instills Raynor at Lookout Mnt.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, Ga. — Back in 1991, when Tibby Gass was sorting through the attic of a recently deceased relative, she stumbled upon a set of golf course design plans — not just any plans, but a color rendering of Seth Raynor's original architectural blueprint for Lookout Mountain Golf Club.

Believing her discovery to be nothing more than a curious-but-small window on the past, Mrs. Gass framed the print and gave it to her husband, then Lookout Mountain Green Chairman John "Sweetie" Gass, who in turn presented Raynor's schematic to the club.

For a time, this picture hung on a dark, mahogany wall in the men's grille at Lookout Mountain, waiting to be rediscovered yet again.

When Lookout member Doug Stein obliged, his discovery touched off a series of events which culminated last fall, when course architect Brian Silva used Raynor's plans to complete a unique bunker and green restoration.

"We've still some work left to do. Brian still plans to restore two or three more greens in the Raynor style," said Stein. "But we've come a long, long way. Finding those plans was like something out of Treasure Island."

Originally called Fairyland Golf & Country Club, Lookout Mountain was not built on Raynor's watch; the architect passed away before ground was ever broken, leaving his longtime lieutenant, Charles Banks, to supervise construction. The course opened for play in 1925 — without some 75 sand bunkers Raynor had envisioned.

Recognizing these bunkers had been omitted, Stein and fellow member King Oehmig set about recreating what Raynor had in mind. "Raynor's bunkers were largely flat-floored," said Silva, a partner with Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish, Silva and Mungeam, Inc. "They were designed to be deep and penal."

However, for Lookout Mountain members and those who know the course, Raynor's "new" fairway bunkers provide the biggest visual impact. "We added 55 fairway bunkers that weren't there a year ago," Silva said. "Think about adding so many bunkers to the fairways alone. That's a lot of bunkers. Yet they account for why Lookout Mountain looks more like a Raynor course today."

There is still work to be done at Lookout Mountain. This year, Silva plans to rebuild the 11th green and restore the 4th. Though Silva lives in suburban Boston, the remaining work will necessitate no special trips as he, Stein and fellow member King Oehmig will soon break ground on a brand new course design.

Hurdzan comment

Continued from previous page

David Duval and Tiger Woods battle for number one like Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire did. I don't believe it is possible and in fact NGF is not predicting an end to golf, but rather they issued a veiled plea to build affordable, accessible, sustainable golf facilities. But bankers and wall-street types don't take the time to figure out what is implied; they react to what is said. So when a headline reads "Golf of Layouts..." they read that as golf can, and should, enjoy.

The cup is neither half empty nor half full. It is what you want it to be, and if you are a writer looking for a story, saying golf is alive, doing well, and growing faster than the population is not sexy enough to get an editor's attention. As a golf course architect who has observed our industry for more than 40 years, it is my opinion that golf has never been stronger. The sky is not falling.
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Former Crown Golf Senior Vice President Robert M. Steele is heading a new golf course construction firm, SEMA Golf LLC. Based here, SEMA performs the specialized phases in the golf course construction process — from earthmoving and contour shaping to drainage, irrigation, and feature construction through finish grading and grassing.

Steele has more than 28 years of experience, and is credited for building more than 120 golf courses. Steele will oversee all construction and business relations.

SEMA Golf will focus primarily on work in the Western United States, but has and will entertain projects nationwide and beyond.

Joining Steele in this new endeavor are Vice President of Construction Operations Bob Trueblood, who was employed with Steele for most of the past 13 years; Project Manager Mike Angus, who has worked with Steele on projects for most of this decade; and several of the project superintendents, irrigation supervisors, shapers and operators track their relationship with Steele back to the Crown and Clute days.

"I'm fortunate in keeping this talented nucleus of individuals," said Steele. "And this business is all about relationships. Relationships with quality employees, relationships with designers and owners. I will continue to demand the highest level of quality in our work and our business relations. No matter how many world-beater deals you have on your resume, the only project your owner and designer are concerned with is the current one."

SEMA Golf LLC may draw upon resources of sister company SEMA Construction, Inc. of Englewood, Colo. A heavy/highway and earthwork contractor, SEMA Construction provides services from clearing and earthwork through paving and lighting. SEMA Construction has garnered a reputation as a leader in the region, committed to integrity and excellence.

SEMA Golf LLC can be contacted at 602-951-4086. It is located at 7580 Gray Rd., Suite 102, Scottsdale, Ariz. 85260. It has bonding capacity of $100 million.

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Island green

Continued from page 35

ers the three peninsula holes. It's an altogether different type of golf course."

Nine ponds, from 5 to 14 acres in size, dot the 215-acre property that previously served as a campground. And Lowry said, "Nine times you cross water. Ten times you're affected by it."

The property was a campground, which featured a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge with span wiring that took campers across the moat to a "putt-putt golf course," Lowry said. But Favre had envisioned the site as a golf course as long as 10 years ago.

"He was 100 percent correct," Lowry said. "In fact, he's got more golf course than he ever thought he would have."

Timber Lakes is the first 18 holes the Penn State graduate and former superintendent has designed, and, he said, "The Lord blessed me with the opportunity to have such a nice layout. It's exciting because it has a lot of character in different areas."

A variety of tees were built for playability for various levels of golfers.

***

After the 52-year-old Lowry left the superintendent profession, he operated his landscaping for 25 years and just recently decided to concentrate on building golf courses.

"I always played in the dirt," he said, "and there's nothing better than doing what you love."
First Audubon course fulfills dreams

Continued from page 1

Environment Land Trust was formed to develop courses that would also serve as environmental research and demonstration centers. In September 1997, with a reported $300 million to $500 million in pledges from its principles, The Golf Co. was formed to partner with AI and identify and build AI Golf Courses across the country.

But that first project, Dodson said, had to be "a home run," and, for one reason or another, none lived up to that billing.

That is, until Dr. David Meyer came along. Meyer and Dodson had been in discussions for a year about a 500-acre property Meyer owns east of Memphis. Meyer had signed Spring Creek Ranch on to the Audubon Signature Program, meaning AI's involvement would begin in construction.

Then, in another surprise, Dr. Meyer and his son Robb, who is project manager for Spring Creek Ranch, decided in February to build an Audubon Community on the 500 acres not consumed by the golf course.

Dodson had not envisioned the Spring Creek Ranch property — and a family like Meyer's — as the answer to his dreams. Last summer, Dodson decided that he could accomplish his goals without actually acquiring, building and managing golf courses. He only needed "a venue on which Audubon International can't be tossed off; where we can develop environmentally friendly research, with control of that research, in different eco-regions. Why, then, own it?"

Meyer, who made this decision easy for Dodson. He was to give AI a "conservation easement" on the entire 400-acre course. "I want you to have control," Meyer told Dodson.

A conservation easement is "a deed, for lifetime ownership," Dodson explained. "We own any future development rights on that 400 acres. And they are telling me that if they do other things on the rest of the 900 acres, they will give us an easement on that, too." Meyer's plan made any decision easy for Dodson. He was to give AI a "conservation easement" on the entire 400-acre course. "I want you to have control," Meyer told Dodson.

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"The property will be a home run. There's no doubt about that," Dodson said. "What we originally envisioned was being involved in the selection of the land and doing an ecological design for the property, and then we would go on and so on. In this case, we weren't involved in that. They already owned the land, had retained a golf course architect and had a preliminary routing before they joined the Audubon Signature Program. But they are in the program and we have been working for them a couple of years.

"What I really want to do is document the process of selecting the right kind of land on which to build a golf course. We did not participate in that part of this project. Other than that, yes, this is a home run."

Indeed, according Robb Meyer: "This land is rare. When people think of Memphis they think delta flat. But this property has a lot of rolling hills and elevation changes, and the mature trees — sycamore and willows — are amazing."

"We just wanted to break new ground, to do something totally different than anyone's ever done," said Robb. "We're not golfers. We didn't start playing golf until we knew we were going to be working on this project. We're more into the environment, nature, working with wildlife and habitat, things like that.."

"Yes, there will be beautiful golf, tournament golf. But what Dad and I look at are the aesthetic values off the course. We want to combine those two elements. We want to look at the wildlife, at the wetlands, things of nature. And we thought, Why not bring in the best environmental group — Audubon International?"

"I've been outdoors all my life, going back to when my Dad would take me to Percy Warner Park when it was developed as a sanctuary outside Nashville," said Dr. Meyer. "Beginning in the 1940s, we went there every Sunday and observed all the birds and wildlife and animals. It was like going into a different world. Since then I have been active in the outdoors."

Turning the Spring Creek land, which he had bought years ago, into a sanctuary instead of a development, was a natural decision for Dr. Meyer. "I thought it had unusual character — Johnson Creek, that courses through it, a tremendous amount of natural wildlife, tremendous flora and different insect, bird and migratory bird populations, and even small mammal population."

In looking with Dodson's idea of extensive and continuing research on the property, Dr. Meyer said: "We have offered to help with the funding. We want to work cooperatively to build not just a sanctuary but a research center for ecology."

"We hope to have a real research center, not only for wetlands but native grasses," he added. "We hope to identify and understand the nature of trees and their survival in these projects. Instead of reducing the trees through commercialization, we hope to keep the wetlands and streams, and certainly all of the waterfowl, wildlife birds and small mammals that we can. This was an opportunity for us to do both."

As for the 500-acre Audubon Community, the Meyers have given a tentative name: The Reserve at Spring Creek Ranch.

Dr. Meyer envisions a small community developed in this natural setting, complete with a learning center and amphitheater where schoolchildren and others can visit and learn about nature and "see that habitat can be developed as part of a city."

"It's been quite a bit of excitement," he said. "We are very energized by it and are privileged to be a part of it."

Spring Creek Ranch and other AI Golf Courses, Dodson said, will be "research facilities" that happen to be courses, and "they will be built in locations where we can test environmental issues in long-term research."

He is calling the facilities "Audubon International Ecological Research and Monitoring Sanctuaries."

Dodson and Drs. Bud Abbott and Larry Woolbright started research management process at the property here at the end of February. A wildlife inventory has already been done by Heinke Associates of Memphis.

Years from now, the scientists hope to reveal long-term research documenting how golf courses do or do not affect wildlife and the environment.

More immediately, Dr. Woolbright, dean of science and a terrestrial ecologist at Sewanee College, is in the midst of a year-long sabbatical in which he intends to: • establish a nationwide protocol to do either rapid biological assessments of the value of land, or the biological diversity of a golf course, for example; and • form the scientific process for selecting appropriate land on which to build AI golf courses.

Woolbright is taking a nationwide survey of government agencies, not-for-profit environmental organizations, golf entities and others to "give people a chance to tell us what the environmental issues are in various parts of the country," Dodson said.
Rissers bring ‘Game of Kings’ to Northwest Angle

Continued from page 35

and machinery when it was necessary, but it was essentially the efforts of a single man that brought the “Game of Kings” to the Northwest Angle.

“Dave Colson, Gary Dietzler and I talked about it for years,” Risser said. “I cut the first tree in 1984 and three years later we were playing golf.” Risser’s next shot arcs convincingly toward the hole.

Initially a seven-holer, the course has evolved into a solid nine. A high-water year on Lake of the Woods might dampen play on numbers 4 and 5, but anyone who has ever brandished a 3-wood can deal with such ‘casual water.’

There is a clubhouse, complete with sales and rental equipment. A golf cart rental and mini-storage facility has sprung up across the road in response to the course’s success. George’s wife Judy, the only other employee, is responsible for the books and helps organize special events. An umbrellaed outdoor patio is a comfortable gathering place.

“We don’t have a club pro in the traditional sense,” winked Risser, “but Gary Dietzler is more than happy to come out and tell you what to do with your life during backswings.” George line-drives a delicate chip into the brush behind the green.

Northwest Angle Country Club currently hosts four annual tournaments that draw an eye-opening number of participants.

• The Shyster Open, in late August, which pulls in golfers from as far away as Thief River Falls and Grand Forks, had to adopt an invitation-only policy several years ago when the eight-player per tee box shotgun start format was maxed out.

• The Rivard’s Tourney in July is a large friends- and family-type gathering.

• The Red Sock Open in September is a season-ending event where players must wear red socks and bring a dish for the pot luck supper afterward.

• And in an effort to remain “politically correct,” Risser sponsors the early-spring Dave Colson/Clairmont Open, pitting Canadian and U.S. game wardens against local resorter types.

“The game wardens always cheat by bringing in some ringer and dressing him up like he’s a warden,” growled Dietzler. “They haven’t quite figured it out that we’re going to lose intentionally, anyway. Wardens are a vindictive bunch, you see, and we don’t want any hard feelings when we get back on the water.”

Daily green fees for the occasional tourist or cabin owner are $7. Annual dues are a mere $60 per person. Carts, the standard method of travel throughout the Angle, go for $20 per day, allowing for between-games touring at a more leisure pace. Women’s night is every Tuesday. The men play on Thursdays. Participants throw $10 in a hat at the beginning of the season, entitling them to soda, beer and chips until they run out a month or two later, at which time they are asked to ante up again. Four-person teams are picked at random each week, with winners of the Best Ball round receiving a package of three golf balls.

This is not golf at its snobby best. “It’s basically a ‘break-even’ proposition,” said Risser as he struggled a 16-foot putt to within 8 feet of the pin. “I just like seeing people get out and enjoy themselves. Pretty much everything I take in goes back into mowers or flagsticks.”

Wildlife is a common sight on the Angle course. Bear wander through on their spring and fall migrations, while eagles and ospreys cast frequent shadows across the greens and tee boxes. Deer are everywhere. Lured out of the unfarmed forest by lush fairway grasses, they have become almost tame, often refusing to budge even the most hostile of tee-shots.

“This pair of fawns just wouldn’t move,” moaned Paul Colson, another lifelong Angleite who runs Jake’s Resort, just down the road. “I yelled and screamed and ran at them, but they just stood there. I finally teed off and clunked one right in the head. He made it okay, though, because I’ve seen them both out there this year still standing in the same general area. You’d think they would have learned.”

“Continued on next page”

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Doak track between Scottish greats

By Mark Leslie

E ASHTOLTHIAN, Scotland—American golf course architect Tom Doak, once a caddie on the Old Course at St. Andrews and an understudy of Pete Dye, is returning to Scotland to design his first two courses here. Sandwiched between Muirfield and North Berwick West Links, the Doak-designed Archerfield Golf Links and Fidra Golf Club will give players five miles of contiguously linked golf along the coastline here. Town officials are reviewing construction drawings, and developers hope to begin work by late March.

Doak promises four holes of the Fidra layout will flow along the beach overlooking Fidra lighthouse, while the Archerfield course will be a man-made links track featuring sod-wall bunkers and a prominent berm.

Doak design associate Bruce Hepner said there is no evidence of it now, but a course dating back to the 1700s once sat on the Archerfield acreage. Before that, it was practice field for archers. Thus its name.

Kevin Doyle from Edinburgh, who owns and builds scores of pubs and restaurants throughout Europe and owns a construction company, is the controlling partner in the venture. Managing partner John Ashworth, who owns the famous golf shirt line, first bought the property and started the project on its way.

This will be the Doak team's first course design in the United Kingdom.

If they felt pressure as Americans building a course in the "home of golf," Hepner said: "Excitement is what we feel. We are bringing as many of our people as we can."

"The land along the ocean is pretty dunsey and windswept, and the rest is a flat field," he said. "This will be a wonderful learning experience."

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Jones split

Continued from page 35

metamorphosis,” Jones said, adding, “We will ally on some projects when appropriate.”

In calls to clients, Jones likened the change to a jazz band that has been together for a long time. “We have played together, and as artists we are looking to go off and do new things. But every now and then, in the future, we might get together and have a jam session,” Charlton paraphrased Jones as saying, adding, “That’s a great analogy.”

The possibility of future projects with Jones is true, said Linn. “We are serious about that. We will be open to discussion about joint ventures. I’m not certain the cord is ever going to be cut, I don’t even like those words. The group certainly wants to do work with the new [Jones] group, and hope to work with Bobby on a project-by-project basis.”

Jones does not intend to replace the trio in his office, but may rely more heavily on current staffers, particularly architect Ty Butler, who has been with the firm for nine years and, Jones said, “will be very instrumental.”

“The more important guy who will be active is me,” Jones added.

“Fewer books, fewer speeches and more hands-on architecture. I’m going to dedicate my time to what I love to do and what, as a manager, I had gotten away from.”

In the meantime, Knott, Linn and Charlton will work with Jones on projects that have been started around the world.

Linn predicted completing Jones projects would consume most of 1999 for the new partnership, which is headquartered at 1134 Crane St., Suite 214, Menlo Park, Calif.

Meanwhile, he said, Knott, Linn Charlton Design’s intent “is to be a major player in the U.S. market, where we have collectively done a lot of work. But we will be open to whatever the market dictates. We don’t know what we’re going to get [for jobs]. We’re going out fresh.”

“We want to establish our own identity,” Linn added.

Knott, who at 52 is the elder partner in the new venture, said: “Our goal is to do fewer projects. All of us want to get the kind of clients and the kind of projects where we enjoy the process. It’s not just the end product that you produce that is important; it’s getting there. Golf architecture, like any profession, is a lifestyle and you want to enjoy the process from beginning to end. So you want to establish friendships with clients and others involved, and make it enjoyable and come out with a product everyone is proud of.”

Plus, he anticipated involvement in a wide range of projects.

“Whereas the Jones organization was looking for 18-hole, ‘international standard’ golf courses, we hope to take on other types of projects,” Knott said. “I like offbeat, interesting projects... I’d love to do nine-hole courses — or an executive course because there are no preconceived ideas about it.”

Schroeder referred to the split as “sort of the natural evolution of the business,” and pointed to Nicklaus Design as a similar circumstance, where major designers left to pursue their own firms.

“Everybody here is very appreciative of the opportunity Bob has given us,” Schroeder said. “We have enjoyed working for him. That’s clear. But we think it’s going to be fun to go into this new uncharted water and have the freedom to work on our own.”

Jones referred to his own departure from his father’s famous firm in 1972 and said the evolution to solo work took four years.

And, he added, “It could be an epiphany. It could be something wonderful, where I can spend time on wonderful projects that I want to do, we’ll complete the work we are already involved with together this year, and by the new millennium I think you will get more than one announcement which will give you a clearer direction of my efforts.”

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CIRCLE #143
Brauer begins Whitestone

BENBROOK, Texas — The fastest-growing segment of the golf industry is public golf and to meet that demand in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, ground has been broken here for a new golf course, Whitestone Golf Club. The course is expected to open in the fall. It is owned by Cobblestone Golf Group, which is selling all its properties by the end of March.

Texas-based golf course architect Jeff Brauer designed Whitestone, with Jay Morrish serving as a design consultant.

Located 10 minutes southwest of Fort Worth, Whitestone Golf Club's rolling topography is enhanced by Dutch Branch Creek, which runs throughout the 200-acre property. Towering cedar elms line the creek and thickets of native habitat are scattered throughout the golf course, which is abundant with deer, turkey and other wild fowl.

From the back tees, one of four sets of tees available, the par-72 course will play to 7,110 yards.

MacCurrach: 18 holes, 120 days

FINDLAY, Ohio — MacCurrach Golf Construction completed Red Hawk Run golf course here in a mere 120 days.

"We began construction in the middle of June and completed the course in mid-October," said Allan MacCurrach, president of MacCurrach Golf. "Our on-site senior construction superintendent was Chris Lepanto, who has been a part of our team for 10 years."

Approximately a quarter of a million cubic yards of earth were moved to create the daily-fee project that will open to the public this summer. "We have to credit Arthur Hills, the architect for the project, Bill Kirk and Denny Fitzgerald, the managing partners, and the city and county officials who wanted this facility built without delay," MacCurrach noted.

Houston to get Rees track

HOUSTON — The Redstone Group, owner and operator of The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa, announced details of its 18-hole golf project being designed by Rees Jones and currently under construction in Fort Bend County.

The Redstone Group golf project is the first complete design project in Texas for Jones.

The private Shadow Hawk Golf Club will be a classic course that makes full use of the natural wooded terrain to afford flexibility, variety and aesthetic appeal.

Jones, who has described his design philosophy as one of fairness, emphasized that the course will offer golfers clearly defined shot-making objectives, that can be just as challenging but much less frustrating than blind holes that trick golfers.

"A blend of sand, grass and water hazards will be judiciously located to suggest the appropriate line of attack," Jones said. "Alternate, safe routes of play will be provided for those not willing or capable of executing a more heroic style of play."

Membership in Shadow Hawk will be by invitation only and limited to 300.

FIRST GOLF CHOSEN

UNION, Ore. — CEC Properties Inc. has announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, First Golf Corp., has been awarded a development and management contract by the city of Union, Ore., for construction management of an 18-hole links-style golf facility.

Leonard Almquist, Union city manager, said in a statement that First Golf, with Bill Phillips as the golf course architect, was chosen because of their experience developing high-end golf course facilities.

First Golf will provide program and construction management, design review, and grow-in through maturation. Construction is scheduled to begin in March, with the opening to be in 2000. CEC's other subsidiary, Classic Golf Management, will assume facility management upon completion of the project.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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CIRCLE #141

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March 1999 47
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — With the renovation of the 18-hole Rebsamen Golf Course underway, the First Tee Program about to kick-off in Little Rock, the Isabella Course under construction, a signed contract for Granada Golf Course, and a new course out for bids in Mountain Home, Ault, Clark & Associates continues its assault on golf in Arkansas.

Perhaps the most visible development is the state’s initial First Tee facility, located here in Little Rock.

Ault, Clark is donating its services to the city for the First Tee project.

As Clark explained: “We feel it is our obligation to the sport for our firm to support this important program that allows all children and beginners the opportunity to learn the great game of golf.”

Working with the PGA Tour’s Tod Leiwetke, Park Director Bill Bunten and city officials, Ault, Clark has completed a master plan, and construction is planned to start early spring with opening late this fall or in spring 2000.

The existing nine-hole Rock Creek Golf Course and the adjacent undisturbed woodlands will be the site for this project. The plans include the creation of a new sheltered 60 station practice range; three practice holes that will play through mature woodlands including a par-3, 4 and -5; 2-acre multi-tiered putting course; chipping complex that includes subtle mounding and multiple sand and grass bunkers as well as 10,000-square-foot putting green.

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Future Links surpassed its goal for 1998

OAKVILLE, Ontario—Future Links, a grassroots junior golf program designed to address the problems of accessibility and affordability, introduced more than 19,000 kids to golf in 1998, surpassing a goal of 15,000 set by the Royal Canadian Golf Association and Canadian Professional Golfers’ Association.

Future Links, presented by Mackenzie Financial Corp., is a joint initiative of the RCGA and CPGA. In 1998 — the first season with the CPGA on board as a partner of the RCGA — 19,284 children swung clubs at 540 Future Links sites across Canada, bringing the total number to 30,000 since the program was initiated in 1996.

“From my extensive experience with Future Links, I am well aware of the link between golf and education,” said Robert Jones, executive director of the RCGA. “And much of our success must be attributed to the involvement of the countless golf professionals, golf clubs, associations and volunteers.”

Highlights included:
- a partnership between the RCGA and CPGA to jointly run the Future Links program;
- a $125,000 grant awarded to 10 provincial golf associations, used to expand Future Links programs across Canada;
- the continued growth of the provincial Mobile Clinic programs. Canadian PGA instructors traveling in Ford Windstar vans provided instruction to 9,675 juniors at 221 sites in seven provinces;
- the launch of the Level 2 instruction program, which complemented the existing Level 1 instruction and was implemented at 162 sites for 8,500 kids; and
- the growth of the Kids Club Connection Depots. A network of 92 depots were established to collect, re-size, re-grip and distribute golf equipment to juniors.
Judge's reversal clears path for Richmond First Tee — finally

Continued from page 1
court hearing he had been negli-
gent when ruling that the county
could lease land but only if it
controls fees and oversees the
leasee's operation. That flew in
the face of the county-First Tee
agreement for the youth-oriented
course at Iron Bridge Park.
First Tee advocates argued that
the decision also appeared in-
congruent with the current
leases the county has in effect
with an airport and various other
entities.
Now, according to Richmond
First Tee Executive Director Tim
Merry, it will probably be mid-
March to early April before con-
struction can begin at the park
which sits outside the city in
Chesterfield County.
"We are relieved," he said. "We
had hoped this [reversal] would
be the case. We are prepared to
move ahead. We remain very
committed, and look forward to
the day when we can have kids
out there playing on the golf
course."

Local businessmen, led by
Fred Tattersall, had raised $2
million for the facility — $1.5
million to build it and $500,000
to operate it for five years, by
which time it should be self-sus-
taining.
The goal is to make golf af-
fordable for area children.

Golf course architect Lester
George, who is donating his ser-
vices, and builder Quality Grass-
ing & Services, which will earn
no profit on the project, are pre-
pared to get started.
Shortly after Stevens re-
versed his decision, George
submitted a new course rout-
ing, eliminating an irrigation
pond that was a safety issue for
some. And Quality Grassing
stood ready to begin clearing,
once the new plans were ap-
proved by the Chesterfield
county commissioners.

Opponents to the project, led
by park neighbors, promised to
appeal Stevens' decision. But
Merry said: "We're not waiting
for the appeal. By the end of
February I will have all the per-
mitting we need. Construction
could only be held up by a judge
granting a restraining order
while awaiting appeal."
Richmond First Tee suppor-
ters see the year-long entangle-
ment as a possible blessing in
disguise, for two reasons:
• "When we go through it
this time around, [national]
First Tee is in a much better
position to help us, and we're
in a better position to do it," 
Merry said, referring to the fact
that a year ago the national
program had just been created
by the PGA of America, PGA
Tour, U.S. Golf Association,
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Malaysia bans further property loans

By ANDREW OVERBECK

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Bank Negra Malaysia introduced guidelines Jan. 5 that prohibit banks from funding development of homes, offices, shopping malls, hotels, resorts and golf courses worth more than 250,000 ringgit ($66,000) in order to clear the current backlog of such properties and to keep real estate prices from sliding further. Projects that are currently under construction are exempt from these guidelines.

While some analysts are concerned that price inflation could develop as the economy recovers, most are in favor of the central bank's move. But how does this effect the golf course industry?

"The simple truth is that the existing excess inventory in the housing sector must be liquidated before there can be any firming of real estate prices," said John Hamilton, regional vice president of Palmer Course Design. "There are still plenty of golf projects that have started construction to meet any new demand for the next twelve months."

The halt in lending is the proper action in the short term and will enable future projects to be successful. "Membership purchases in new clubs are very flat at the moment. This is the consolidation that must take place," said Hamilton.

Bank Negra Malaysia officials will be reviewing the status of the guideline on a regular basis.

CURRENT REMODELING PROJECTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- At Milnerton, on Cape Town's north edge, the region's only true links course has added new greens and new holes. Its dunes holes, with their amazing views of Table Mountain, remind worldly golfers of Troon but with better views.
- At Peart, 25 miles east of Cape Town, is building a new nine holes to compliment the 18 holes that wind their way through magnificent trees and allow superb views of the surrounding countryside.
- Being discussed or in the early planning stages are these projects: The Mountain Course at Stellenbosch, (Designers, European Golf); Pinnacle Point at Mossel Bay, a 36-hole layout as part of a casino development; Gleneagles and Orient Express hotels in the Franschoek area east of Cape Town, and a new Robert Trent Jones II course at the Spier Wine Estate in Stellenbosch area in the year 2000.

VON HAGGE BUSY IN ITALY

GENOVA, Italy — Mario Valle S.P.A. has recently completed the preliminary entitlement phase for St. Anna Golf, and the 18-hole golf course and residential development is closer to beginning construction. The von Hagge, Smulek and Baril-designed course will be built in a dramatic valley high above the historical port city of Genova.

MILAN, Italy — The Circolo Golf Bogogno is being acclaimed as the most successful golf project ever to be built in Italy. Home sales are reportedly five years ahead of projections and the von Hagge-designed course was recently awarded Best New Golf Course by Golf Il Mondo del Golf magazine. The final 9 holes of the 36-hole course will be opened in mid-1999.

Turfco's new SP-1530 Broadcast Top Dresser gives you unparalleled performance in fast and light top dressing. Twin spinners provide uniform application at any speed, and the spinner angle is adjustable for maximum penetration. The pattern is adjustable from 15-30 feet, so you cover a green in just two passes. The SP-1530 gives you total versatility and control.

SOUTH AFRICA: Change is opening golf opportunities

By LARRY GOULD and TED JOHNSON

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Golf is booming in South Africa. It is a phenomenon that could easily be dismissed as the confluence of time and money. After all, popular things tend to find their way to most outposts in the world.

South Africa, however, was different. It had the ingredients for spectacular golf: natural beauty, quality year-round climate and such affordable championship fare as The Cape.

But before golf could grow here, South Africa had to change. The country had disappeared from world view during the 1980s behind the shadow of apartheid. That political system, enforced by the National Party, became politically untenable among other nations, and foreign investment dropped off.

But then Prime Minister F. W. De Klerk allowed open elections for the first time in more than 45 years, and Nelson Mandela was elected president in 1994. With Mandela in power, apartheid is a thing of the past and foreign money has flooded in.

There is so much great upside to South Africa. It has a first-world infrastructure. English is the national language. Its natural beauty is breathtaking. And it has the game — not golf, but its version of The Big Five: elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo and rhinoceros.

Tourism is a major driver in the economy, and the development of golf communities ("estates" in local terms) is playing a big role.

"It is no coincidence that the golf estates in South Africa have mushroomed in tandem with the political changes that have occurred since the release and subsequent election of President Mandela."

Continued on page 54
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Gidman resurrects one at Burhill

By TREVOR LEDGER

WEIGHBRIDGE, Surrey, England — Golf course architect Simon Gidman of Oxfordshire has been handed the ponderous task of following in Harry Colt's footsteps at the Burhill Golf Club in Surrey.

Originally, Burhill consisted of two Colt courses. But, like so many others, golf gave way to farming in World War II and the lower course was plowed up, remaining so to the present day. However, Burhill Estates has decided to resurrect the course. Construction is planned for this year with a scheduled opening in 2001.

The site borders the River Mole, a beautiful tributary of the Thames. The Gidman design incorporates this feature in two par-3s, which promise to be the signature holes of the new course.

The design criteria given to Gidman called for a complete contrast to the remaining Colt course, thus increasing the available options at the facility. It is fortunate, perhaps, that this is not a restoration job as Gidman explained. "No evidence of Colt's layout remains, a combination of flooding and agriculture has removed any trace. There are no tees, greens or bunker shapes left."

Steel readies another in Portugal

By TREVOR LEDGER

LISBON, Portugal — Following the design of the Aroeira East Course in Portugal, which is in the final pre-opening stages, Donald Steel and Company of Chichester, England, have been awarded the contract to design the 27-hole villa development at Vila Nova, just east of the nation's capital, Lisbon.

With construction due to start in late 1999, the main design criteria is to produce a resort-style 18-hole course and an additional nine for client Companhia Imobiliaria da Herdade da Aroeira.

Until now the site has been used for general agriculture. The existing natural undulations of the site and a number of specimen cork trees will form the basis of the design, within which 670 villas and hotel will be incorporated.

Back in England, Steel and Co. will see the completion of the second 18 at Brockett Hall in Hertfordshire. Named the Palmerston course, after the Victorian Prime Minister, it will provide a very different sort of course to the existing Melbourne layout designed by Peter Alliss and Clive Clark which abounds in water features in a parkland setting. The Palmerston has been routed through woodland. Brockett Hall is owned by German businessman Dieter Klostermann, who is at the helm of CCA International group, an organization which currently boasts 30 golf clubs worldwide.

CCA reaches settlement with Sand River

HONG KONG — CCA Management Co. Ltd. was awarded damages and interest amounting to $1.5 million in a judgment in the High Court of the SAR in December 1998. This decision followed a Dec. 10 hearing in which a judge ruled that CCA had not breached its management contract with Sand River Golf Club in Shenzhen, China. (see Jan./Feb. GCNI)

CCA has been granted a mareva injunction against Sand River and their associated company in Hong Kong which freezes all company bank accounts subject to payment of bills. CCA has now petitioned for a winding up order against Sand River which is expected to be heard in this month.

Steel readies another in Portugal

Sometimes you just have to get tough. And when you do, get the E-Z-GO Workhorse™.

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South Africa
Continued from page 51
said Fred de Kock, an architect who has had a hand in developing golf projects in the Cape. "The need for secure and environmentally favorable living led to many South Africans perceiving this 'fairway living' as ideal for the new South Africa. "Golf estates offer benefits of not only security, but also serve as protection against the encroachment on green-belt areas by a fast-moving population. Add to this the fact that property values on these estates have proved to be secure investments while other property values fluctuated greatly."

This "new industry" has also attracted the legends of golf design. Jack Nicklaus recently opened his Pecanwood course, nestled beside one of South Africa's largest dams north of Johannesburg. Cape Town on the southwest tip is about as far from Johannesburg as Miami is from New York City. And it is in the Cape Province that the boom continues apace.

Between 1996 and 1998 two major estates were completed. One is Steenberg, just outside Cape Town and built on one of the Cape's famous working wine farms. The other is Erinvale, in Somerset West some 18 miles out of Cape Town, which has proved to be one of Gary Player's finest designs — so much so, that the World Cup was held there in 1996 even though the course was in its infancy.

With such successes, coupled with tourism in the Cape being at an all-time high, several new projects are under way. Natives feel this is invigorating after years of isolation.

Cape Town is Texan by birth, Texan in his golf education, and now South African in his heart. After a stint as head pro at Hills Country Club in Austin, Texas, Clause moved to George, about four hours east of Cape Town, where he became director of golf at Fancourt, now known as Ernie Els' home course. Fancourt has two Gary Player courses and a third under construction.

Erinvale and Steenberg are now the two top-notch clubs in the Cape Town region, but Royal Cape dates its membership back before the turn of the century. That is why this boom in golf has veteran golf travelers so excited: South Africans know how to do it right.

Economically speaking, there is an added benefit: Jobs. That's why the following new developments may only be the beginning:

• De Zalze — This course is in the winelands of Stellenbosch, 20 minutes east of Cape Town. Its 18 holes meander among the vines of a working wine farm, which dates back to 1682 when the first vineyards were planted. Today's grapes are still harvested, producing more than 40,000 cases of quality white and red wines.

• Hermanus River Club — Another Matkovich design that has a spectacular location, it is about an hour southeast of Cape Town. Two kilometers of lagoon frontage and natural rolling terrain will prove to be much sought-after by investors in its real-estate aspects and by visitors to the luxurious hotel amenities.

• Sparrebosch — A remarkable location, unrivaled beauty and terrain are the foundations of Sparrebosch Clifftop Estate and Country Club. The 18 holes, designed by Ronald Fream of GolfPlan California, snake their way through natural coastal fynbos (indigenous vegetation) and undulating landscape. Sparrebosch will introduce the first ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass fairways on the continent.

• Pearl Valley — The wineland towns of Paarl and Franschoek are legendary for their majestic scenery, fertile farms, award-winning wine estates amidst spectacular mountains and valleys. Jack Nicklaus is designing a new course in the middle of these two famous landmarks.
AIGTATLA group forms management/development firm

By PETER BLAIS

ATLANTA — Golf Industries Holding Corp. has formed a golf acquisition, development, and management company based here and headed by principals Skip Smith, Mark Purtee and Arthur Jeffords.

Golf Industries' focus will be on the acquisition, development, and management of daily-fee and semi-private courses and clubs. The company currently manages courses in Alabama and South Carolina and has several new facilities under consideration nationwide.

"We have a project in Houston that will break ground the first quarter; two potential acquisitions in Atlanta; two potential development opportunities in Virginia; two acquisitions we're trying to close in Orlando [Fla.]; and three acquisitions we're trying to close in the Miami/ Ft. Lauderdale area," said Jeffords, the firm's director of operations and development. "We're trying to do six deals in 1999 and our schedule is six per year into the future."

Jeffords is a golf industry veteran of more than 25 years. He is a PGA member who was associated for more than 12 years with Sea Pines Plantation of Hilton Head Island, S.C., where he served as director of golf for the resort's four courses and as head professional at Harbour Town Golf Links, site of the PGA Tour's MCI Heritage Classic. He was a principal in a golf management and development firm whose most noted development was Wachesaw Plantation, Myrtle Beach's first private golf community. Along with other affiliations, Jeffords serves on the board of directors of the National Golf Course Owners Association.

Smith is the director of acquisitions and new business development. He will identify and scrutinize prospects for the firm.

Finding employees in a flush economy

By PETER BLAIS

ROCKLAND, Maine — In these flush economic times of low unemployment, finding and keeping good employees isn't easy, even in the golf business.

"The problem is we need people. The answer is to just wait for the recession. Then people will come to your door and you get to pick the ones you want," said Rick Grover, a professor at the University of Southern Maine, speaking with tongue firmly planted in cheek at the recent Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show here.

"You need to attract and keep good employees when jobs outnumber applicants, which is the case at many golf courses today," Grover checked with several superintendents who were having some hiring success — including Jim Hodge of Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland and Greg Greperot of Cameo Golf Club in Waltham — and married their thoughts with his own research on how to fill the needs of the various generational groups that make up today's work force. Superintendents who are best able to fill those needs are the ones most likely to attract and keep the best workers.

The generational groups can typically be divided as follows:

• Retirees, referred to as traditionalists, are generally classified as those born between 1920 and the end of World War II.
• Baby Boomers are those born between 1950 and 1970. They made the following observations:

Finding employees in a flush economy

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A TURF HERBICIDE

As a golf course professional, it's your responsibility to make the right choices. Right for the turf, and for the people who enjoy it. One way to meet that responsibility is with Dimension® turf herbicide. We're not the only ones who think so. In a recent GCSCA survey, more golf course superintendents rated Dimension higher than any other preemergence herbicide.*

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* 1999 GCSCA Plant Protection and Fairway Care Survey. Product effectiveness for preemergence crabgrass control.

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CIRCLE #139
Canada's ClubLink strikes deal with ClubCorp

DALLAS — ClubCorp Inc., the Dallas-based course-management company, has agreed to spend $22 million (CAN$34 million) to acquire 3.3 million shares, or 16 percent of the outstanding common stock of King City, Ontario-based ClubLink Corp., a leading Canadian owner/operator of golf clubs and related real-estate investments.

Combined with the 4.5 percent of ClubLink stock ClubCorp already owns and ClubCorp's participation in a planned rights offering by ClubLink, ClubCorp's total investment in ClubLink could reach 25 percent, making it ClubLink's largest shareholder.

In a separate stock transaction, ClubCorp agreed to acquire 50-percent ownership interest in ClubLink's U.S. holdings.

ClubCorp will also form a strategic alliance with ClubLink. The private placement was expected to close Jan. 29. ClubLink will use the funds to finance its 1999 acquisition and golf development plans, which includes Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ontario, home of the Bell Canadian Open.

ClubCorp, which operates 200 courses worldwide, will also acquire a 50-percent interest in ClubLink's U.S. golf holdings. These include loans ClubLink has made to GolfSouth, the option to acquire all the shares of GolfSouth Holdings and all the payment-in-kind convertible preferred shares of the Links Group Inc. GolfSouth LLC and the Links Group Inc., together operate 33 courses located primarily in the Eastern United States.

ClubCorp Chief Executive Officer Robert Dedman Jr. said, "[This arrangement] is a major step forward for our business plan of aggressive, high quality expansion and underscores our determination to pursue exciting opportunities internationally."

Added Bruce Simmonds, ClubLink's president and chief executive officer, "The alliance with ClubCorp is consistent with our strategy of pursuing ClubLink's U.S. opportunities in partnership with established U.S.-based operators."

Dedman and ClubCorp Chief Operating Officer Jim Hinckley will join the ClubLink board of directors.

Casper takes over Md. facility

VIENNA, Va.—Billy Casper Golf Management (BCGM), Inc. has been selected to perform dual roles for the developer of the new White Oaks Country Club in Franklin Township, N.J. BCGM will consult on the pre-opening development, planning and construction of the facility, and then provide complete turnkey operations management services upon White Oaks' opening, which is scheduled for this summer.

A unique feature to the BCGM/White Oaks relationship is the establishment of a memorabilia center within the clubhouse in tribute to professional golfer Billy Casper — Masters and two-time U.S. Open champion, and winner of 60 Tour events. Photos, lithographs, magazine covers, newspaper headlines, trading cards, golf equipment, scorecards and other products signed by Billy Casper are slated for showcase in a museum-like setting.

Construction of the new Karl Litten-designed layout is on schedule, according to project developer Dobson Construction, Inc. of Franklinville, N.J. White Oaks Country Club in Franklin Township, N.J. White Oaks is located 45 minutes between metropolitan Philadelphia and Atlantic City.

KEMPER ACQUIRES ROCKWOOD

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — Kemper Sports Management has acquired Rockwood Golf Course in Independence, Mo. Kemper Sports begins operations immediately. Kemper's development group will conduct a study in preparation of extensive capital improvements at Rockwood. Preliminary plans call for a major renovation of the facility in 1999 including upgrading the irrigation system and turf condition.

Golf Course News

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Powers named director of Bluegreen Golf

ATLANTA—Bluegreen Corp. has appointed Thomas Powers to the new position of director of Bluegreen Golf. Powers will guide Bluegreen Golf's growth through land acquisition and community development, as well as oversee the company's four residential and golf communities located in North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Bluegreen is a leading residential and community developer. In 1997, Bluegreen Golf was formed as the golf course community development division of Bluegreen Corp. Headquartered in Douglasville, Ga., Bluegreen Golf targets the mid-to-upper-middle segment of the golf and residential community development market.

"Tom's expertise with golf course community development and club management will help us develop two new golf communities a year," said Dan Koscher, president of Bluegreen Land and Golf. "Using The Carolina National Golf Club as a model for future Bluegreen Golf clubs, we hope to become recognized as a national leader in the development, operation, marketing and sales of quality residential golf communities."

Powers joins Bluegreen Golf from Georgia-Pacific Corp., where he served as managing director of Georgia-Pacific Development Co. and was responsible for the $145 million community development division, managing a staff of 39 through the entitlement, development, administration, sale and marketing phases.

Prior to Georgia-Pacific, Powers was managing director of United States Real Estate Subsidiary Takenaka & Company in Los Angeles and served as president, Takenaka Golf & Resort Group in Tokyo.

Matching

Continued from page 55

share information with rationalists. They are not good at repetitive tasks, like mowing, unless the superintendent talks with them and teaches them something along the way.

• Idealist — These people are always looking for meaning, a sense of spirituality. "This is the person you'd find sitting out on your green late at night staring at the moon," Grover said. "Some could really get into mowing lawns. It's sort of a Zen thing."

• Artisan — These people cherish freedom. They may not show up to work, and see nothing wrong with that. "They can be high maintenance," Grover noted. "But when they work, they work like hell. They are fantastic in a crisis. If you have a part of your operation that tends to have more crises, they can be great there. They are strong at putting things together and coming up with solutions."

So what's a superintendent to do with these insights into the human psyche?

"If we had high unemployment rates, I'd get a bunch of those guardian personalities," Grover said. "They show up on time, like the membership, and have a good, hard-core work ethic. But in [low unemployment] times like this, you have to be willing to consider some of these other folks and be open to what turns them on."

Free golf tends to attract and help keep members of all these temperament groups. But the type of praise each receives needs to be different to be effective.

According to Grover, "Guardians need to hear something like 'We are really, really happy you are part of our team.'"

"That won't do anything for rationalists. You're doing a darn good job on this' works best for them. Rationalists won't pay any attention to praise from someone who they know isn't competent. So don't praise them regarding something you know nothing about. They will consider you a fraud and ignore you."

"To make idealists glow, tell them how unique they are."

"For artisans, it's freedom and excitement. Artisans aren't interested in verbal praise. It's not what you say, it's what you do. Figure out ways to build in more excitement, life, freedom and spontaneity into their jobs and they'll thank you for that."
Palmer targets corporate market

ORLANDO, Fla. — Recognizing the growing impact and opportunity of corporate golf, the Arnold Palmer Golf Academy has tailored its instruction experience for the business environment.

With PGA-certified professionals stationed at facilities across the country, Palmer is working with corporations such as Pennzoil, Fane Webber, Forbes Magazine, Dayton-Hudson-Marshall Fields, Office Depot, Cooper Tire and Herz. "The golf outing has become a modern staple of corporate culture," explained Brad Brewer, vice president/player development with Arnold Palmer Golf Academy, a division of Arnold Palmer Golf Management.

"We've simply made it more practical for companies we have here at Palmer. We've tailored our instruction experience for the business environment. Corporations are eager to off-load the organization and promotion of their golf outings to the Arnold Palmer Golf Academy," Brewer said.

NGCOA marketing program hopes to increase golf rounds

CHARLESTON, S.C.—The National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) has unveiled a comprehensive grassroots marketing program to increase the number of rounds played at member courses.

Market trends show that, while the number of golfers increased marginally over the past four years, the supply of golf courses continues to increase dramatically.

According to NGCOA, "Get Linked. Play Golf!" is a marketing program that will provide NGCOA members with the tools necessary to grow their market share in the increasingly competitive business environment. By focusing on the message that golf builds relationships—family, social and business—the "Get Linked. Play Golf!" program will help course owners overcome the hurdles that many beginning golfers face including expense, time constraints and intimidation.

"Get Linked. Play Golf!" will complement, not duplicate, the new player development initiatives of the USGA, World Golf Foundation and other golf associations," said Mike Hughes, NGCOA executive director.

"Golf course owners are looking for creative ways to attract new players, grow participation in the game and increase the amount of play they see at their courses. We believe that this grassroots campaign is the way to accomplish that goal. The message of the program is that golf is fun, entertaining, challenging and relaxing. Golf provides an opportunity to be outside, spend time with family and friends, and develop business connections.

NGCOA members who participate in the program will receive a complete marketing kit that includes print advertisements, radio scripts, promotional ideas, public relations guidance, successful media buying strategies, and examples of direct mail pieces for order.
Adams joins Behrstock at Pride Golf Associates

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Steve Adams has resigned as executive vice president of Meadowbrook Golf Group to become president and chief operating officer with Pride Golf Associates of America, according to a Pride release. Adams will be joining Pride Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Roger Behrstock, founder and former chief executive officer of Meadowbrook.

"I could not be more delighted to have Steve Adams as my partner," Behrstock said. "Steve has an outstanding and deserved reputation as a golf course operator. He will attract dignified and honorable people to pride."

Behrstock will be headquartered in Beverly Hills and Adams will have an office in Palm Desert, most likely at Woodhaven Country Club, the first facility signed on by Pride. Pride, which will manage, acquire and develop golf courses throughout the world, will announce its financial partners shortly. The company, Behrstock said, plans to grow by consolidating with six to eight regional partners in strategic areas. Each partner will be responsible for its region, compensated based on performance in that area, interact with associate partners and become a Pride stockholder.

"The first association of a regional partner has gone to contract already," Behrstock said. "Adams said the regional partner concept should allow the firm to recruit and retain quality people. "I feel like this is the first day of the rest of my life," Adams said. "I have more vigor and look forward to building an important — not necessarily the largest — golf course management company. I am very excited to associate with Roger Behrstock and have the opportunity to build a new company from its inception."

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management of retirement funds for companies. In addition to a securities background, he served as financial manager for a large architectural firm overseeing extensive construction contracts with IBM. Purtee entered the golf business five years ago by purchasing a golf course just outside the metro Atlanta area. He has secured extensive funding for the new company's projects. "With all the consolidation going on, we decided being a Mom and Pop operator is not the thing to be, unless you've been there for awhile and your cost basis is zero," said Jeffords, who recently closed his connection with a Hilton Head property and moved to the company's new Atlanta office. "Mark is a money finder, Skip a deal finder and I'm a golf course operator/developer. We started talking and it seemed like a good partnership. We incorporated last year.

"It's the age of consolidation and we want to take advantage of that. There are a lot of people looking to liquidate and get out. For a lot of the Mom and Pops, it's the time to cash in their chips and count their money while the REITs [Real Estate Investment Trusts] and people like that are waving dollars around. Not that we're waving those kinds of dollars around."

Jeffords said the Golf Industries Holding Inc. would prefer to acquire rather than build because of the uncertainties of development and the lack of cash flow during the development period.

"But opportunities are out there," he said, "and if we see a good development opportunity, we're going to jump on it. We'd prefer mid- to upper-range courses. We also have a hotel partner. That got us in the door on a couple of projects, where the developer wanted to combine golf and lodging and to deal with one entity, rather than a golf developer on the one hand and a hotel/resort developer on the other."

Golf Industries would consider private courses if they made economic sense, Jeffords said. The company plans to target the Sunbelt area of the country.
RANCHO BERNARDO, Calif. — Eco Soil Systems Inc. announced that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the use and distribution of the company’s proprietary biopesticide, Spot-Less, though its patented Bioject biological distribution.

In addition, Eco Soil has reorganized into two divisions, Turf Partners and Agr Supply. The company undertook the reorganization, which will result in a special charge of between $4.0 million and $5.0 million in the forth quarter of 1998, to consolidate its acquired businesses, strengthen its distribution and technical sales support and reduce operating expenses.

The EPA has registered its microbial product, Spot-Less (Pseudomonas aureofaciens TX-1) as a biopesticide for use against turfgrass diseases and its proprietary Bioject system as the distribution system for Spot-Less. Eco-Soil successfully completed all the toxicological tests required by the EPA.

Although the EPA has requested that the company perform additional routine ecotoxicology tests over the next two years, the EPA approval permits the Eco Soil to begin immediately using and distributing Spot-Less through the Bioject system.

UK’s SISIS takes it up a notch in US

MACCLESFIELD, Cheshire, England — After more than eight years of testing the waters in the state of Florida, SISIS Equipment Ltd. has found that interest in the company’s line of aerators does, in fact, exist in the southeast United States.

With that knowledge tucked under their belts, the company is ready to ratchet up its presence in the region by relocating its US operation to Clemson, S.C., in order to lay the groundwork for further US market expansion.

“The company was originally incorporated in Florida in 1991, but that was a paper company,” said Ian Camp, general sales manager at SISIS. “We were working through one of our dealers there, using their offices and their sales team to promote the product. What we found is that yes, we can sell our product. Now we felt we needed to take control.”

On April 5, SISIS will go live with a new operation at Clemson University’s Madren Conference Center and Walker Golf Course Complex. The location will house a distribution unit and administrative offices and will be headed up by Camp.

“The location makes sense because we want to concentrate on the six southeast states,” said Camp. “We will, in short term, go into assembly, and then subject to the products acceptance in US we will go to full manufacturing plant. But that’s the next step.”

Products that will play a role in the company’s US expansion include its Multislit deep-aerator aerator, used on greens and tees; the Maxislit aerator for fairways and soccer field; the Variseeder for tees and greens; and the Veemo, a hydraulically-driven dethatcher that works behind a tractor.

“To get these products to market, Camp will be assembling a team of independent sales representatives to cover Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida.”

Toro announces expanding, global reach

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — The Toro Co. announced a few moves that will increase the company’s product mix in the global market.

The company has inked a deal to acquire Multi-Core Aerator Ltd., a European distributor of large turf aeration equipment. Founded by Ian and Katharine Waddington in 1991, Multi-Core distributes aeration equipment to turf sites primarily in Europe with limited distribution in North America and Asia.

“We introduced our new line of Multi-Core aerators in 1997,” said Katharine Waddington, business manager for Multi-Core. “Now the time to work with a world-class organization that has a strong global distribution network.”

“This acquisition brings a high-quality product into our full-line of turf equipment,” said John Wright, Toro’s director of marketing for golf equipment. “We’d been looking at updating our line of aerators. The Multi-Core aerators will have immediate appeal to our customer base.”

In related news, Hardi International and Toro have partnered to distribute Toro-branded sprayers to the worldwide turf market.

Under the agreement, Hardi, a global manufacturer of sprayers and spraying equipment, will manufacture sprayers to distribute to the US market.

Continued on page 64

Watermation enters liquidation

By TREVOR LEDGER ALDERSHOT, England — Watermation, one of Europe’s largest irrigation firms, went into voluntary liquidation on January 19.

Andy Burbage, sales director of the Hampshire-based firm, suggested that there may be the possibility of a “small management buyout by 10 [as yet unnamed] individuals, but this would be subject to the agreement of the creditors who are met in February.”

Watermation has been trading for over thirty years yet, despite this experience, could not avoid liquidation.

Burbage explains the market situation faced by the company recently: “The irrigation industry is really cut-throat now. We believe... Continued on page 65

NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH: MILTONA HEXAGON TURF PLUGGER

MILTONA, Minn. — The Hexagon Turf Plugger from Miltona repairs damaged areas by forming a solid honeycomb pattern without gaps or overlap. The hexagon shaped plugs mesh together instantly restoring an area’s natural appearance. This pattern also promotes rapid turf recovery. The Hex Plugger is adjustable, varying the depth of the soil plugs from 2 to 6 inches. The cutting head attaches to a lever ejection handle. The ejection system removes soil plugs from the cutting head. Stand on the plugger’s footpads to force the cutting head into the soil. Activate the ejection handle to remove soil plug from plugger. Extract plugs of damaged turf and replace with plugs from a nursery area. This process will instantly restore an area’s natural beauty. Use on golf courses, athletic fields or any grounds area. For more information, contact 800-456-4551.

Eco Soil gets EPA nod
Terra restructures pro products organization

SIoux City, Iowa — Terra Industries is restructuring its professional products organization. The company said the reorganization is aimed toward helping Terra better focus on sales and marketing activities, pursues new business opportunities, and develops goals and strategies for the organization.

"Terra is restructuring to facilitate its continued growth in professional products," said Karen Hartman, who has been named distribution professional products manager. "By dedicating personnel to specific markets within territories, we're allowing our salespeople and managers to focus and optimize their resources." Hartman directs the company's professional products sales and marketing activities.

Karen Hartman

Griffin continues to gear up staff

Valdosta, Ga. — Griffin L.L.C. is pleased to announce the recent hiring of David Warman as U.S. sales manager of the turf, nursery and ornamentals for the specialty products group (T/N/O).

Warman previously held several sales positions within the turf and ornamentals division of Novartis. A graduate of Oregon State University, Warman has 20 years experience in the specialty products business, and is currently located in Portland, Ore.

In his new position, Warman will be responsible for expanding the Griffin L.L.C. line of specialty products throughout the United States.

Reporting to Warman will be Rick Grant, also recently hired by Griffin. Grant was previously with the Donlar Corporation, St. Louis, Mo., where he was responsible for market development in turf.

Grant is a graduate of Purdue University and also worked for Novartis for five years prior to joining Donlar. He will be responsible for sales in the Northeastern United States, and is currently working in Noblesville, Ind.

Griffin is also retaining the services of Don Taylor, Taylor Biological Testing as senior development manager, specialty products. Previously employed by Novartis for 29 years, Taylor held various field development positions in crop protection and specialty products. His last position was that of Southeast regional R&D manager for specialty.

In a realignment, Jeff Hayslett, with the Griffin Agricultural Chemicals Group, assumes additional responsibility for the T/N/O product line in the Midwest. Hayslett is located in Parkville, Mo. Trey Warnock will continue in his position as territory manager for the southeast, based out of Fairhope, Ala.

"Adding these strategic field sales, technical service and management positions puts Griffin in an excellent position to become a leader in specialty products for the turf, nursery and ornamentals market," said Owen Towne, who continues in his position as global business director, specialty products.

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CIRCLE #130

Golf Course News
LESCO opens new fertilizer facility

ROCKY RIVER, Ohio—LESCO Inc. has opened a new 90,000-sq. ft. fertilizer production facility in Sebring, Fla.. The plant incorporates advanced quality control methods and is producing standard and mini-sized fertilizers and combination products.

The Sebring operation, which can accept raw material by truck or rail, has 12 storage silos for regular particle size material and seven silos for mini particle size product. The increased storage for ray material, plus state-of-the-art computer technology, production enhancements and expanded capacity expedites production and order fulfillment and allows quicker turnaround of custom-blended products.

The quality assurance area of the facility tests all products to insure compliance with regulatory restrictions and package labeling.

Flowtronex expands factory direct network

DALLAS — Flowtronex PSI is expanding its factory direct service network to Georgia with the creation of the Eastern Service Group.

The full-service division will provide service and system upgrades for all brands of pumping systems throughout the eastern U.S. The new division includes and extends territories previously served by the Richard Embry Company, which Flowtronex PSI acquired last fall.

The company said Georgia customers can turn to a new Flowtronex PSI Eastern Service Group satellite office in Atlanta, which soon will be staffed by three full-time technicians. Another satellite office is underway to serve Orlando and northern Florida.

Together with North Carolina-based operations, the Eastern Service Group will stretch from Alabama east to North and South Carolina and from Orlando north to Eastern Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Eastern Service Group will supplement and support existing FlowNet service centers, which are independently owned service providers trained on Flowtronex PSI systems.

Aimcor changes to Profile

BUFFALO GROVE, Ill.—Aimcor, manufacturer of soil conditions and other products for golf courses, announced that it has changed its name to Profile Products LLC. The company manufactures products as Turface sports field conditioner and porous ceramic soil conditions.

According to Profile President Mark Lewry, "The name change reflects the evolution of our company into a full-service soil solution business." Lewry also announced that the company added several new positions to support its growth.

Lofts moves Md. facility to Savage

BALTIMORE, Md.— The Maryland branch of Lofts Seed Inc. is relocating its Maryland operations to Savage, Md.

"We had a need for a facility that can accommodate our production and distribution needs in the Mid-Atlantic States, and plans for future growth," stated John Brader, branch manager for Lofts in Maryland.

Lofts, a division of AgriBioTech, merged with Lofts Seed and acquired Seed Corporation of America in early 1998.

The newest facility is the combined operation of Seed Corporation of America and Lofts Seed's Maryland branch. The facility will be staffed by 26 employees from customer service, warehousing, shipping, packaging and management.

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- Owners
- Architects
- Builders
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E-Z-GO ready with LX line

E-Z-GO Textron, manufacturer of golf cars and utility vehicles, has expanded its line of Workhorse turf utility vehicles with the new Workhorse LX line.

The LXs, which feature the rugged, truck-like cowl from the Workhorse ST 350, provide the same solid features that have made the regular Workhorse line some of the world's most successful turf care vehicles.

Like the regular Workhorses, the LX models have differential scuff guards, tubular front bumpers, bed liners, horns and fuel gauges or charge meters. And with the ST cowl with headlights, Workhorse LXs can be out on the job all day long. For more information, contact 706-798-4311.

CIRCLE #201

Rain Bird introduces Nimbus II

Rain Bird’s Golf Division introduced Nimbus II, the newest member of its family of Windows-based central irrigation control systems.

Nimbus II features a powerful mapping capability that allows the superintendent to integrate a custom map of the course into the central control system by using Rain Bird’s Course Designer software or by importing a BMP or TIFF file provided by a designer.

This type of intuitive map-based irrigation control, along with the Course Monitor module, can help determine individual rotor activity, monitor pumping stations and graphically control the flow of water. Map-based irrigation control can also be used to generate required water usage reports. Additionally, Nimbus II uses real-time sensors to monitor course conditions.

For more information contact 800-984-2255.

CIRCLE #202

Ransomes serves up 22

The new Ransomes 22 walk-behind greens mower from Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products is engineered to reliably manicure formal turf with a high-quality cut.

The Ransomes 22 features a precision-machined, cast-aluminum drive drum and a high carbon steel, 11-blade reel. The electronically balanced reel delivers a tight .205-inch cutting frequency and provides a smooth, uniform, 22-inch cut—down to 5/64ths of an inch. For more information call 888-922-TURF.

CIRCLE #203

SRO/Royal to market GRANDE

Seed Research/Royal Seeds of Corvallis, Ore., is marketing GRANDE, a unique variety of Turf Type Tall Fescue developed by Dr. Leah Brilman.

GRANDE has rhizomes, a specialized stem that grows horizontally at or just below the soil surface and acts as a storage organ and means of propagation. For more information, contact 800-753-0990.

CIRCLE #209

Toro

Continued from page 61

be sold under the Toro brand name worldwide. The products will be manufactured in Hardi’s plants in Europe and North America and sold through Toro’s distributor network.

Toro has also announced that it has completed the sale of its BioPro brand name and turfgrass liquid nutrient formulas to TerraBiotics, a New Jersey-based manufacturer of specialty agronomic products for the turf and ornamental market.

BioPro is Toro’s product line for fertilizer and other turf nutrients for golf courses and turf landscapes.

Under this agreement, TerraBiotics will produce and market liquid nutrients under the Toro BioPro name and Toro will continue to provide diagnostic services to turf customers, including infrared analysis.
The new Toro Workman 1100 designed to hug the road.

Toro’s new Workman designed to hug

The Toro Co. has introduced its Workman 1100, a new utility vehicle designed to hug the terrain, providing revolutionary stability, traction and ride. The 1100 is equipped with an Active In-Frame suspension and an independent front torsional suspension that provides a smooth and stable ride. It also features protected storage spaces under the seat and hood. For more information, contact 612-888-8801.

DTN ready with Storm Sentry

DTN Weather Center has introduced DTN Storm Sentry PC, a new weather information service designed to provide real-time, single-site NEXRAD access on a PC. DTN Storm Sentry allows customers to use their existing Pentium PC and equipment. DTN provides the software, manuals, Ku dish and a small velocity receiver.

Precision Labs introduces new wetting agent

Precision Laboratories introduced a breakthrough in wetting agent chemistry that helps eliminate localized dry spots for months. Cascade is a product that promotes faster, deeper water penetration throughout the root zone for improved turf color and quality. University tests show that Cascade fights hydrophobic soil conditions and eliminates LDS better and longer. This saves money, time, and labor compared to conventional wetting agents, which require monthly, weekly, or even daily applications and more frequent irrigation.

For more information call 800-323-6280

Rohm Haas taps the keg

The new green drum, available from the Rohm and Haas Company, manufacturer of Eagle fungicide, contains 30 pounds of product, which will cover 22 acres of turf at label rates. The 30-pound Full Course Keg was developed to make the handling and application of Eagle fungicide as easy as possible.

Watermation

Continued from page 61

that very few, if any, companies are making money. On top of that, the last two years of wet weather really haven’t helped.”

Clearly the future is uncertain for both Watermation and its creditors.

However, Burbage is relatively upbeat about the prospects: “We are confident that there will be a maintenance and consulting outfit of some description coming out of all this, but we’re not sure what form it will take and it might not be called Watermation. I ought to emphasise that there are 200 maintenance contracts outstanding that have been paid for and Jack Wheeler, our Director of Maintenance, has pledged to do his best to honour these, despite not being legally bound to do so.”

www.golfcoursenews.com
John Deere's Gator goes electric

John Deere has introduced the Electric Gator. Designed for customers concerned with operational sound levels and exhaust emissions, the Electric Gator is a clean, quiet option for such indoor work areas as warehouses and such outdoor work areas as college campuses and resorts.

The electric utility vehicle provides the same advantages of the gas and diesel models—low ground pressure to help prevent ground compaction, smooth operation that's easy to learn, safety protections, durability for long life and easy access to service points for convenient maintenance.

Designed for quick acceleration and steady performance between chargings, the Electric Gator is a clean, quiet option for such indoor work areas as warehouses and such outdoor work areas as college campuses and resorts.

The electric utility vehicle provides the same advantages of the gas and diesel models—low ground pressure to help prevent ground compaction, smooth operation that's easy to learn, safety protections, durability for long life and easy access to service points for convenient maintenance.

Along with the new Verti-Drains, the company has also announced a few new products for the North American market, including the Slit Seeder, Tow-N-Seed and Pedestrian Scarifier (dethatcher) units. For more information, contact 800-597-5664.

**RedeXim Charterhouse announces 2nd generation Verti-Drains**

RedeXim Charterhouse announced a second generation of its Verti-Drain aeration system. The Verti-Drain models include the 75 Series of larger, higher work-rate units as well as the company’s new, high speed Mustang 7117 model.

For more information, contact 800-925-5187.

**Golf Course News**

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**Griffin**

Continued from page 1

Rick Geise, director of marketing for Griffin, said: “Our approach has always been plain, simple country values: conserving resources conserves money. We believe that nobody does as good a job on the environmental side as we do as a company. But we also want to try to do better, which is one of the challenges we’ve all embraced with Ron’s program.”

Griffin Industries produces Nature Safe fertilizer at a plant in Henderson, Ky., but also operates nine plants that recycle bakery feeds and others that are rendering or cow-hide operations. All the properties included in the Sanctuary System encompass several thousand acres in the Southeast, Southwest and Midwest as well as headquarters in San Francisco, outside Philadelphia and Cincinnati.

“To me,” said Dodson, “this forms the basis of a very unique partnership... Lots of environmental groups have gotten involved in licensing of logos—green watch issues where they stick logos on things saying they are wonderful products. We decided not to do that. We decided to form a partnership based on corporate philosophy and an Audubon philosophy being adopted by a corporation, not necessarily just a product.

“We challenged Griffin Industries to adopt the Audubon Principles of Sustained Resource Management as part of their corporate mission statement. They've done that,” he added.

“We challenged them to put all of their corporate facilities in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and try to get all of them fully certified as Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries. In other words, we told them, ‘You need to walk the walk before you talk the talk. You need to make a personal and corporate commitment to conservation and sustainability in the way you do things.’ They have risen to that challenge.”

The long-term partnership with Griffin, Dodson said, will "improve the quality of the environment, and help people make..."
Golf Course Classifieds

To reserve space in this section, call Jean Andrews 207-925-1099.

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MID-AMERICA GOLF & LANDSCAPE

Golf course construction projects in Midwest. Seeking experienced superintendent, shapers, finishers, and irrigation personnel. Qualified individuals send resume to: Rick Boylan c/o Mid-America Golf & Landscape Inc., 620 SE 291 Hwy, Ste. 104, Lees Summit, MO 64063 or Fax to: (816) 524-0150.

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Sub-contract shaping, Higher wages plus profit sharing. References required. The "shaping only" company:

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SEMA Golf LLC, based in Scottsdale, Arizona, is currently seeking experienced and qualified project superintendents, irrigation supervisors, shapers, and finish operators to join its team of talented professionals on projects throughout the United States. We offer top compensation packages to those candidates with the qualifications, dedication and desire to develop a career instead of a job. Mail or fax resume and cover letter to:

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Quality and experienced individuals needed. Minimum of 3 years experience. Excellent potential to grow with aggressive company.

Fax resume with references to:
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(810) 632-6270

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SEMA Golf LLC, based in Scottsdale, Arizona, is currently seeking experienced and qualified project superintendents, irrigation supervisors, shapers, and finish operators to join its team of talented professionals on projects throughout the United States. We offer top compensation packages to those candidates with the qualifications, dedication and desire to develop a career instead of a job. Mail or fax resume and cover letter to:

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Golf courts

With Christy O’Connor Junior and Laura Davies lending their support in the company brochure, a certain level of kudos have been attributed to the Sanctuary Project. There are already 10 golf courses going through planning consent in the United Kingdom.

The compactness of a golf court allows inner cities to accommodate them on brown field derelict sites, creating an "inner city lung" right in the middle of a section of society who either have no chance to play the game or who have to travel many miles in order to do so.

This final point has long been cited as an important aspect for the development of golf as a growth sport.

As long ago as 1933 that doyen of revolutionary golf course architecture, Dr. Alister Mackenzie, stated that: "... golf courses for the masses are of value only when they are in close proximity to large towns."
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