

Arnold resigns GCBAA post

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Phil Arnold, executive vice president of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) since 1991, will leave the post March 1 to devote full time to his golf course photography business.

"The association has been very good to me," said Arnold, the association's first full-time,

paid staff member, "but I got an opportunity as a photographer that might never come my way again and I felt I had to take it. And the association might benefit from a fresh perspective on the new challenges it will be facing."

"Phil has done an absolutely great job taking the GCBAA from infancy to one that all of us are

very proud of," said President Bill Kubly of Landscapes Unlimited. "Phil deserves a lot of the credit for that. We will miss him, but he has the organization in such good condition that this is as good a time as any to make a change. We wish him well as a photographer." Arnold resigned as associate general counsel to the National Golf Foundation to succeed Don Rossi, the GCBAA's semi-retired, part-time executive

director who had died a year earlier. When Arnold took over, the association had 66 members and annual expenses of \$53,000, slightly more than its revenues.

The GCBAA enters the Year 2000 with more than 250 members and revenues approaching \$500,000, some of which is directed to the association's own public-service effort, Sticks For Kids, and the industry-wide initiative, The First Tee program.

The organization now has two full-time staff members in addition to Arnold.

Arnold is generally credited with developing an aura of professionalism for the course construction industry by forging links with the other major associations, especially the American Society of Golf Course Architects, National Golf Course Owners Association, National Golf Foundation, Club Managers Association of America, PGA of America, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and U.S. Golf Association.

The Certified Golf Course Builder program, established in 1992, was a linchpin of that effort.

Another major achievement under Arnold's watch was the introduction of an annual summer meeting and trade show in conjunction with the PGA Championship.

He instituted educational programs at that meeting to give the builders a broad perspective on the game and culture of golf as well as updates on construction techniques and regulatory issues.

"Our executive committee has met and will determine how to go about replacing Phil," Kubly said. "We have had several inquiries already from competent people."

Kern completing Purgatory GC

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. — Purgatory Golf Club, designed by Ron Kern of Carmel, is nearing completion in this Indianapolis suburb, and opening day is targeted for late spring.

Sitting on 218 acres, the 18-hole course has six sets of tees playing from 7,600 to 4,200 yards.

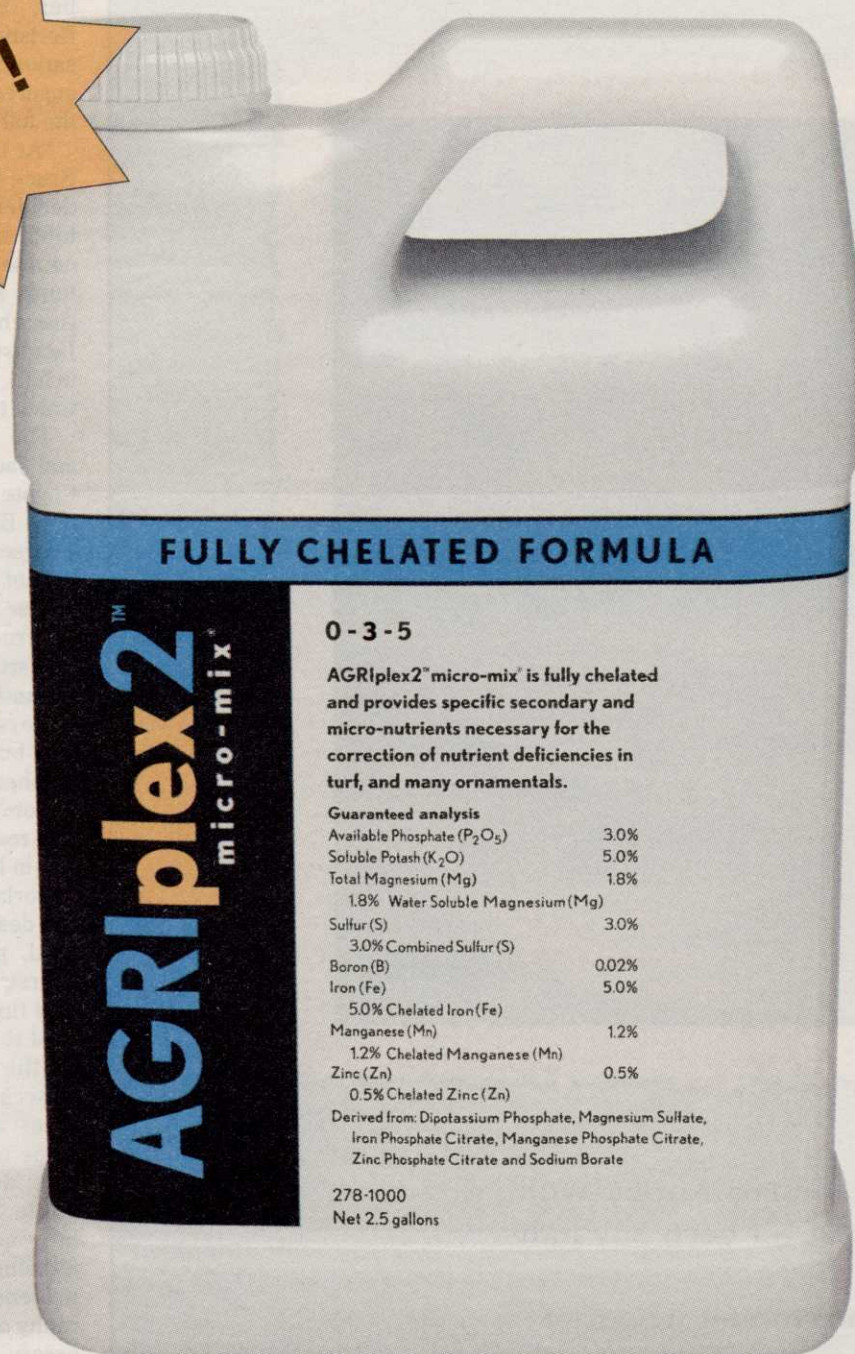
Five large lakes and approximately 150 bunkers will provide definition and strategy.

The practice areas will include a large range with target greens, a practice putting green and short-game practice area consisting of a large green with three bunkers, chipping areas and two short fairways.

Since the existing topography was "rather featureless," he said, he had to manufacture the landscape. "During a trip to study the links of Scotland, I was fascinated with the beauty and character of the landscape and how the courses are located within that landscape."

"I would never be so presumptuous to claim to have built a links course in the middle of Indiana farm country on heavy clay soils with the ocean nowhere in sight. However, links courses such as Cruden Bay, Nairn, Royal Aberdeen and Royal Dornoch provided the inspiration for constructing the land forms that shape each golf hole at Purgatory."

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