

## LGD gives juniors a home on the range

INDIANAPOLIS — Lohmann Golf Designs (LGD) has devised an innovative solution to one of golf's long-standing dilemmas: How does a course or club foster junior play without turning young, inexperienced players loose on the course, where they will almost certainly irk adult golfers with slow play?

By routing and constructing a four-hole junior course within the practice range itself, LGD has settled the issue here at Highland Country Club. Now under construction, this breakthrough practice-facility concept will debut in May.

"This idea makes so much sense, it's hard to believe the Highland facility will be the first of its kind," said architect Bob Lohmann, founder and principal of Marengo, Ill.-based LGD. "The club can choose when to close the range and turn the kids loose. When they're ready to tackle the big course, so much the better. But this junior routing gives kids a place to themselves, a place to learn the game without inconveniencing adult players."

The junior course at Highland CC is part of a larger range renovation project. Highland's old practice tee was a measly 20,000 square feet. The new one will be moved back and expanded to 61,000 square feet. Working with its sister construction firm, Golf Creations, LGD has also sunken the landing area some 10 feet, instituted target greens/bunkers, and added another 15 feet of netting.

"Come next spring, you'll be able to hit driver on the range — but the junior routing is what makes this project exciting," said Lohmann. "We've designed the target greens to accept shots from the six small tee pads we built within the range itself. We figure the various combinations allow kids to play nine different holes."

"When I was a kid, I wasn't allowed to play the big course at Hartford [Wis.] Country Club — not until I learned how to handle myself properly," he added. "So I was sent to a practice field, which consisted of several rudimentary holes with small greens. It was a perfect learning environment because I could hit as many balls as I wanted, and I didn't have to worry about speed of play or bothering adult golfers."

Of course, land is too expensive nowadays to justify "practice fields." That, Lohmann said, is the beauty of the junior routing at Highland. LGD has given junior players a course of their own and doubled the usage of 7 acres that might otherwise have been traversed by no one but the range picker.

As outgoing president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, Lohmann recently donated his \$5,000 President's Grant to The Golf Foundation of Wisconsin. The Foundation, Wadsworth Construction of Plainfield, Ill., and Lohmann have earmarked this funding for the Kids On Course program,

which provides free golf instruction, equipment and transportation for Milwaukee youths, as well as separate instructional programs for Special Olympians.

Kids On Course operates out of the Noyes Park practice facility in Milwaukee, where LGD is creating a chipping/putting area and a two-hole junior course.

## First Hook A Kid on Golf finished

VALPARAISO, Ind. — Construction is complete on the nation's first-ever Hook A Kid On Golf model facility here, the Creekside Training Academy and Golf Course. It is hoped to be the first of many similar facilities to be built by municipalities across the nation. Introduced by Senior PGA Tour player Bob Murphy on July 14, 1998, at the ground-breaking ceremony here, the facility was built by Don Childs Associates.

Creekside has been selected and endorsed as a site by First Tee, which has supported the city of Valparaiso with limited funding, equipment, and resources that will be key to growing it's already active juniors golf programs.

**WETTING AGENT**

**SURF SIDE**

**IS SURF-SIDE FOR THE BIRDS ?**

**IS THE "NEW CHEMISTRY" GOING TO REPLACE THE "SOAPS" OF YESTERYEAR ?**

**STAY TUNED FOR 20 YEARS OF GOOD LIVING**

**THE LETTER** I've been a regular user of Surf-Side wetting agent for well over 20 years. Having tutored under the "Bill Smart" school of turfgrass I can only say that the new materials haven't convinced me. I'm a bit different than Bill, in that I don't experiment as much as he did (tip burn is not my favorite look). Surf-Side has performed wonderfully for all my turf inconsistencies. When salespersons come knocking at my door wanting to know if I'm familiar with "wetting agents", I ask them where have they been for the last millennium. It makes me think of one of Bill's favorite lines in the summertime "Should have been a mason, bricks don't wilt". That's why the spray rig never leaves the shop without Surf-Side 37. I've used Surf-Side with just about every chemical on the market - NEVER HAVE I BURNED WITH IT !

**YEARLY PROGRAM** Generally, my first application is late March / early April. My last application is around Thanksgiving (have to go skiing after that)!

**GREENS & TEES** 4oz / M Surf-Side on a regular basis, that being every 2 to 4 weeks depending on the time of year, disease pressure (Little League Practice) etc.

**FAIRWAYS** 2-oz/M on a regular basis, that being every 3 to 4 weeks depending on time of year, disease pressure, etc.

**DISEASE PROGRAM** We average 5 to 7 fairway sprays a year and put 2-gals Surf-Side in the 160 gal. sprayer. On greens & tees we average 8 to 10 sprays a year and put 1-gal. Surf-Side 37 in the 100 gal. sprayer.

**HYDROPHOBIC SOILS** Any area of the Golf Course not up to par gets a DRENCH of 5-gals. Surf-Side in 160 gals. water put out with a hand gun watered-in. This brings the areas under control and enhances rewetting dramatically.

**LOCALIZED DRY SPOTS** I've put up to 12-oz Surf-Side 37 in 2-gals. water and poured it on the LDS. It's best to first core the area with a soil probe. Follow with lots of water, and VIOLA !!! No more problem. It's a "no brainer" for Superintendents fighting LDS.

**SUPERINTENDENTS MUST ADAPT RATES TO INDIVIDUAL GOLF COURSE CONDITIONS**

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