

## Lohmann Golf breaks ground in Virginia

RUTHER GLEN, Va. — Ground has been broken here at Mattaponi Springs Golf Club at Penola Station, Lohmann Golf Designs' first foray into the East Coast market.

Developed by The Bellemont Corp. of Beaverdam, Va., the 18-hole Mattaponi Springs project has secured all the necessary

permitting. Weather permitting, the course will open in the fall of 2001.

With LGD's assistance, Bellemont is building this upscale, daily-fee course in-house. The site here in Northern Virginia is heavily wooded, so current work centers on the clearing of 75 to 80 acres of forest,

according to LGD senior architect Mike Benkusky, who added that dirt-moving/course-shaping should begin this spring.

Mattaponi Springs Golf Club at Penola Station will take shape on a piece of property laden with history. After emigrating to Williamsburg in the 1700s, the George family settled here in

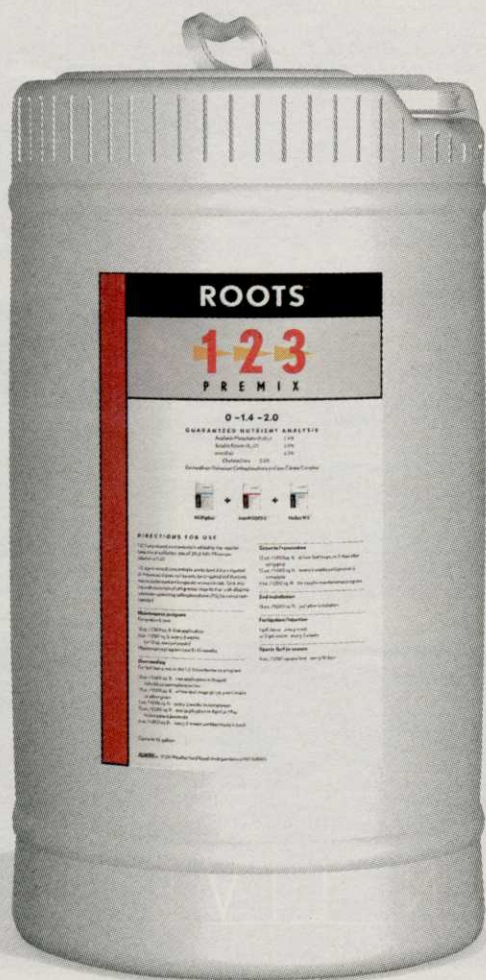
Ruther Glen during the early 1800s. They christened their homestead "Rose Hill" after the family's ancestral estate in the Midlands region of England.

Penola Station, whose moniker incorporates the local native-American word for cotton, was built in 1886 to serve Rose Hill Lumber Co., which commanded its own spur off the main north-south line of the Richmond,

Fredericksburg & Potomac (RF&P) Railroad.

Nineteenth-century remnants of the Rose Hill estate are still evident on the site: a main house, a carriage house, even a cemetery. Restoration of these artifacts will play a major role in the three-stage development of Mattaponi Springs. During Stage I, for example, the cemetery and carriage house will be refurbished; the latter will be employed as the initial clubhouse. Stage II will include construction of the final clubhouse, overlooking the 9th and 18th greens. Stage III calls for renovation of the main house.

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## First phase of Oakmont facelift now complete

OAKMONT, Pa. — Frontier Construction Co. has completed Phase I of a two-stage renovation project here at storied Oakmont Country Club, site of a record seven U.S. Open Championships.

Implementing a design by Toledo, Ohio-based Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and Associates, Frontier handled construction of a unique short-game facility which features a 12,000-square-foot chipping green, three practice bunkers, several grass bunkers and a dedicated 2-acre fairway/rough hitting area.

The new facility will open for play this spring. Phase II of the project — which involves the wholesale upgrade of Oakmont's existing practice facility, including a new tee and target greens replicated from the championship West course — is scheduled to take place as early as next fall, after the 2000 playing season has come to a close.

"Practice facilities like this one are becoming ever more popular at private clubs, mainly because a higher amenity standard has been set by new upscale daily-fee and resorts," said Nick Scigliano, president of Frontier Construction Co. "But it's not easy for older, established suburban clubs like Oakmont to find the space for these practice areas. That was Hills' challenge with this project, as the topography was severely sloped and limited. In fact, an existing maintenance road had to be rerouted to create the necessary space on the property."

Once this was achieved, Hills and Frontier succeeded in creating a practice facility that tests all aspects of the short game, while mimicking those green-side design elements found on the club's famed West Course.