

# BRIEFS



## O'NEILL, MAIBUSCH ON GCSAA BOARD

LAWRENCE, Kansas—Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Scott Woodhead has named two new members to the GCSAA board of directors. Mike Wallace's election as GCSAA secretary/treasurer and the resignation of director Samuel R. Snyder VII of Hercules Country Club in Wilmington, Del., left two director positions, each of one-year service, to be filled. Woodhead filled the first position by appointing Tim O'Neill of The Country Club of Darien in Darien, Conn. and the final director spot with Bob Maibusch of Hinsdale Golf Club in Clarendon Hills, Ill.

## OTF DONATES \$137,000 TO OSU

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) has presented a \$157,000 check to Ohio State University (OSU), including \$137,000



in research grants to 10 technical advisors from OSU and \$20,000 in scholarships to turfgrass majors at

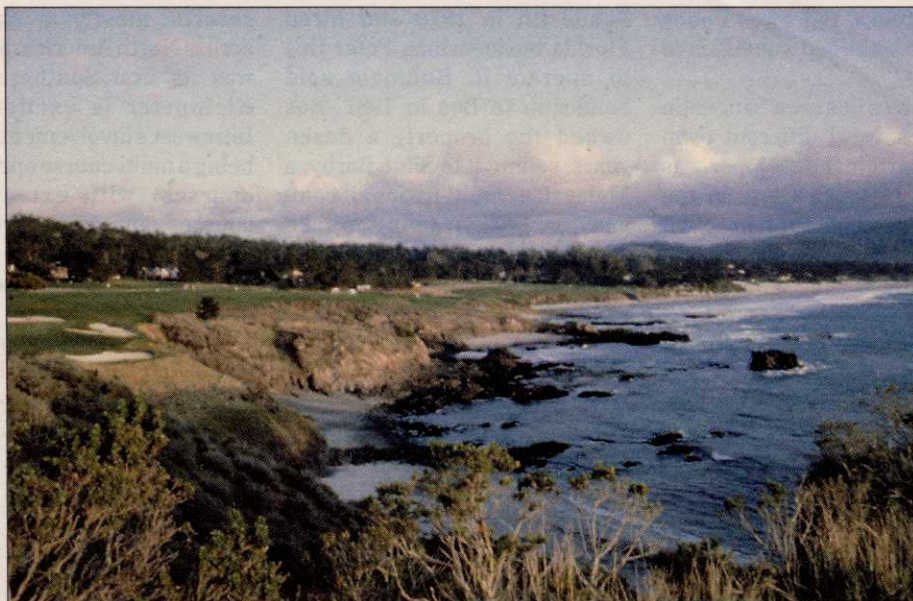
OSU and Agricultural Technical Institute. The OTF has donated more than \$3.3 million in research grants and more the \$300,000 in scholarships in its 40 years of support to the industry.

## MILLIKEN BENEFITS GCSAA FOUNDATION

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Milliken Chemical Co. has pledged a commitment that could exceed \$250,000 to support programs of The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Foundation. The pledge places Milliken in The Foundation's Old Tom Morris Society, the highest giving level in the "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign created to fund applied research and advanced education. Funding for the commitment comes from a percentage of sales from Milliken Chemical's foliar product line.

## TAYLOR SIGNS ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF

TAYLOR, Calif. — The city of Taylor has selected Environmental Golf to provide maintenance at both Taylor Meadows and Lakes of Taylor golf courses. After five years of maintenance practices being implemented by Environmental Golf at The Lakes of Taylor site, it was the desire of the city to bring both courses under one qualified maintenance company.



Pebble Beach Golf Links' 8th, 9th and 10th holes hug the ocean cliffs.

# Pebble Beach readies for Open

By DOUG SAUNDERS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — A smorgasbord of major and minor changes have altered the face of Pebble Beach Golf Links recently, but a new head superintendent and his veteran staff intend to have the course in shape to be "the fairest possible test" for the U.S. Open, June 15-18.

"This is a very professional staff here at Pebble Beach," said new head superintendent Eric Greytak. "Their experience of preparing for last year's U.S. Amateur was invaluable in getting Pebble ready

for this June. They understand what the USGA [U.S. Golf Association] expects and how to meet those expectations.

"They know the program and I can rely on them to assist me as I work into my new position. They mean every hing to me."

This will be the fourth Open and the 10th USGA Championship held at the venerable Pebble Beach. It is fitting that this Open, the 100th contested, should return to the venue that has been the site of some of the greatest dramas in Open

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# Kleinpeter: At Sandestin since the start

By PETER BLAIS

SANDESTIN, Fla. — George Kleinpeter has seen Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort through the construction of four courses and a half-dozen owners in his 27 years at the northwest Florida resort.

"My first job was running a tree



George Kleinpeter

spade and transplanting trees all over the property," remembered Kleinpeter, who first joined Sandestin in October, 1973, as an equipment operator and landscape installer during construction of the resort's first layout, Tom Jackson-designed Links Golf Course.

It didn't take Kleinpeter long to advance through the ranks. He became assistant superintendent of the Links in 1975 and head superintendent in 1977. Kleinpeter left his head superintendent's job (although he remained on the Sandestin payroll) in 1981 to caddie on the PGA Tour. But two years later he returned to Sandestin as full-time Links superintendent.

Shortly after his return, Kleinpeter oversaw construction of Sandestin's second layout, Jackson-designed Baytown Golf Club, which opened in 1985. Sandestin promoted Kleinpeter to head of grounds maintenance in 1991.

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The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed Raven Golf Club at Sandestin offers Mackenzie-esque challenge

# Intrawest opens the Raven GC at Sandestin

By PETER BLAIS

DESTIN, Fla. — The new Raven Golf Club at Sandestin marks a couple firsts for course designer Robert Trent "Bobby" Jones Jr.

The 18-hole, 6,900-yard layout is the first Jones Jr. design in northwest Florida. It is also the first time he and brother Rees have built courses side by side at the same facility.

While the Jones brothers admit their relationship isn't particularly close, their

# Canadian GSA board elected

TORONTO — The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) has elected its board of directors, who will serve under new President Merlin Affleck of Stanhope Golf & Country Club (G&CC) in Stanhope, Prince Edward Island.

Affleck is joined by Vice President Jay Leach of Cottonwood G&CC of Dewinton, Alberta; Secretary/Treasurer and Ontario Director Bill Fach of New York Downs G&CC in Unionville; Atlantic Director Jim Nix of Abercrombie Country Club in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia; Manitoba Director Ian Martinusen of Breezy Bend Country Club, in Headingly; and Quebec Director Tim Harkness of Club de Golf Le Royal Bromont in Bromont.

Continuing their two-year terms are British Columbia Director Jim McGarvey of Seymour G&CC in North Vancouver; and Saskatchewan Director Bill Radke of Candle Lake Golf Course in Candle Lake. Neil Blaney of Highwood G&CC in High River, Alberta, was appointed as Alberta director to finish Leach's term.

Past President is Dean Pillar of Cordova Bay Golf Course in Victoria, British Columbia.





# Kleinpeter

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Since then he has supervised construction of Rees Jones-designed Burnt Pines, which opened in November 1994, and Sandestin's newest layout, Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed Raven Golf Club, which opened in early March.

Kleinpeter considers himself fortunate to have worked for three distinguished architects in Jackson and the Jones brothers. He had the following to say about the three:

- "Tom [Jackson] is very hands-on. He'll jump on a dozer in a second to try to get the shape or look that he wants. He gives good direction, but once he gets out in the field, he loves to sketch something out on a piece of paper, then hand it to the dozer operator or superintendent. He taught me how to look at the appearance of a golf hole, not only for its playability, but what it looks like. He's like Robert Trent Jones Jr. in that he notices the subtle things. As a golfer, you may not know why you appreciate the look of a golf hole, but something's there. Tom knows what that is. The surrounding lines are important to him. He wants to utilize what's around him.

- "Rees [Jones] is a little more technical. He and his project architect, Greg Muirhead, had their own shaping crew here. They did their own greens building and finish shaping along with Wadsworth Golf Construction. Rees and I got along great. He allowed me a lot of input. There were some areas where we disagreed, but I understood what he was looking for. With all the real estate surrounding the course, he had to try to create a feeling of golf out there. We wanted a player-friendly golf course to keep the ball in play. He was able to do that with mounding.

- "We were able to let Bobby [Jones] go [creatively at The Raven] because we had more land that was not bordering real estate. He brought in long, subtle lines without the many peaks and valleys needed for peak-a-boos from the real estate. We wanted the bunkering to be different, so we were able to do more Tillinghast-like bunkers, where you see the grass rather than the big flashed-up white sand. Bobby talked to me more about what the golf hole looked like than the [playability of] the golf hole itself. He knew about it [playability], but that just sort of happened. He was looking for something else. His project architect was Bruce Charlton, who worked with [Vice President of Development] Steve Adelson. Bobby pretty much let Bruce go

on this project. But when Bobby was here he added subtleties to it."

Kleinpeter has seen Sandestin through several different owners. The original developer was Evans & Mitchell Corp. in the early 1970s. The 1974 Arab Oil embargo forced Sandestin into bankruptcy, Kleinpeter said, and Chase Manhattan Bank took over the property. A Dutchman named Von Bohmeim purchased

Sandestin in 1979 and hired Florida businessman Peter Bos to operate it. Bohmeim sold Sandestin to Bos in 1981. Bos owned the property a dozen years, selling it to Sime Barby, a Malaysian multi-national company, in 1992. Wanting to take advantage of opportunities in Hong Kong, Sime Barby sold Sandestin to Intrawest in 1998.

Intrawest is a major developer and operator of village-centered

resorts, mostly in ski areas, across North America. Sandestin was its first Southern resort. Kleinpeter is excited about Intrawest's involvement. Besides being a multi-course operator (19 courses) with extensive resources, the Vancouver-based firm has a well-defined management structure and review process.

"Yearly reviews are not done just by my superior," Kleinpeter

explained. "Eight people review my work, including people on my same level, people who work for me, and people in the corporate office. Those reviews are combined to let me know where I stand. The review stresses the values, teamwork and customer service of the company more than how you do your paperwork."

"Intrawest also wants to promote from within. There is a suc-

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## Sandestin opens Raven Golf Club

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great holes on Rees' course."

The same can be said of Bobby's latest Raven layout.

"Raven" is a designation Intrawest — which owns and/or operates 19 courses throughout North America — attaches to only its premier layouts. Only

the Raven Golf Club of South Mountain (Phoenix) and Raven Golf Club at Sabino Springs (Tucson, Ariz.) carry the label. Jones' Sandestin course is the third and will be joined late this summer by Hurdzan/Fry-designed Raven Golf Club at Three Peaks (Silverthorne, Colo.).

The \$11.8-million Raven at Sandestin is the recreational centerpiece of the 2,400-acre, village-centered resort, which includes

three other courses — Burnt Pine and Tom Jackson-designed Links Golf Course and Baytowne Golf Club — a state-of-the-art golf learning center, 18-hole putting course, two waterfront restaurants, 730 rental units, 14 tennis courts, a 98-slip marina, four public swimming pools, 7.5 miles of beach and bay-front properties, and 33,000 square feet of meeting space. An ambitious \$400-million expansion plan calls for another

2,200 housing units and pedestrian village with shops, restaurants and other amenities.

The Raven Golf Club at Sandestin is actually a 19-hole course with two alternate par-3 16th holes — one measuring 228 yards and the other 172 yards — that will be used on alternating days. The two hole 16s were designed to accommodate housing along that area of the course, according to Jones'

associate Bruce Charlton.

"It made more sense to have two strong par-3s than a mediocre par-4," Charlton said.

Water comes into play on 13 holes, but there are forced carries on just holes 3 and 6, a 203-yard par-3 to an island green. The island green is just that, with a foot bridge spanning the pond surrounding the putting surface. Reclaimed water from the county wastewater treatment facility fills the ponds and provides the Raven's irrigation water.

More than 600 new tree plantings, along with native grasses, provide striking color changes throughout the course. Many bunkers are patterned after A.W. Tillinghast and Alister Mackenzie designs.

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## Kleinpeter

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session ladder which requires everyone in the company to say what positions they hope to hold in the future. The ladder covers five months, five years and 10 years down the road. That way [upper management] can tell employees what they can expect, what education they need, and what can be done to help them get to those places."

As for Kleinpeter, he hopes to become increasingly involved in course construction as Intrawest continues to build its portfolio. "I want to look at it from the aspect of the player, what Intrawest hopes to bring to a project and helping bridge the gap between the architect we've hired and what the company wants. I'd like to help Steve Adelson if we get busy enough... I'm ready to move around. If we were to get more courses in this part of the country, maybe I could become a regional agronomist."

The growth of companies, like Intrawest, is a good example of the consolidation taking place in the golf industry. While the trend has advantages in terms of resources and career opportunities, Kleinpeter hopes the cooperative atmosphere superintendents at neighboring courses have traditionally enjoyed doesn't disappear due to corporate competition.

"I haven't experienced it, yet," he said, "but I'm concerned that it could happen because of the [nature of the] corporate world. We don't get to see or talk to each other like we used to. The corporate world keeps us so busy doing reports that we [superintendents] have lost some of that contact with each other. I'll continue to try to keep in touch with the local guys. But I've been pulled away from that the last two years. It's real easy to do because you are so involved with your own company that you don't feel you have time to talk to the guys down the road. That bothers me a whole lot."