

## BRIEFS

### ASGCA SETS REMODELING SYMPOSIUM

CHICAGO, Ill. — The American Society of Golf Course Architects is continuing its "Remodeling University" education series. A day-long symposium designed to educate golf course decision-makers about the basics of remodeling is set for April 25 at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. Panelists and speakers include such well-known ASGCAMembers as Robert Muir Graves, Kyle Phillips and Bruce Charlton, vice president of the Robert Trent Jones II design firm. "This is a must for anyone currently involved in the remodeling process or thinking about remodeling in the future," said Brian Ault, ASGCA president. The program will address issues relevant to course owners, green committee members, general managers, superintendents and others, he said.



### BAILEY ADDING NINE AT POWDER HORN

SHERIDAN, Wyo. — Powder Horn Golf Club here, ranked second best in Wyoming, plans to open nine new holes in July of 2002. Golf architect Dick Bailey, of Scottsdale, Ariz., crafted the original 18 holes and is handling the design work. The par-36 addition, playing to 3,690 yards from the tips, "will further elevate the stature of the Powder Horn and provide golfers with an unforgettable experience," Bailey said. The daily-fee course, which opened in 1997, sits at the base of the Bighorn Mountains. Also on Bailey's drawing board is Golden Ranch in Oracle Junction, near Tucson, and two new golf layouts in Casa Grande, Ariz., for the Robson Communities.

### WEED RENOVATING COURSE FOR 'GATORS

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Weed Golf Course Design has been selected by the University of Florida to renovate the school's 1921 Donald Ross-designed 18-hole layout in Gainesville. Work will begin next spring, after the golf season is over, and the course is expected to be ready for play in fall 2001. "We have renovated designs by several architects, and it is always a challenge to review the original strategy and bring a great old design up to modern standards without interfering with the original flavor of the course," said Bobby Weed.

## Engh's Redlands Mesa on track for public play

By JAY FINEGAN

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — Here on the western slope of the Rockies, where the Gunnison River meets the mighty Colorado, the Golf Club at Redlands Mesa is on track for public play this summer.

Designed by Jim Engh of Engh Golf Design Group, the 18-hole course will stretch to some 7,050 yards. The site is visually spectacular, featuring serpentine canyons, enormous boulders and dramatic views.

Rising majestically to the west are the 800-foot sandstone cliffs of the Colorado National Monument. To the east and across the valley looms the Grand Mesa, the world's highest flat-topped mountain. The red-rocked landscape is breathtaking.

The layout is testament to Engh's ability to work with difficult sites. The routing takes advantage of the natural surroundings, resulting in a course that blends well with the land. Typical of Engh's work here is the 17th hole, a 240-yard par-3. Lying more than 130 feet below the tees, the large green is snuggled into a natural rock amphitheater.



The third hole at the Golf Club at Redlands Mesa

Another striking green complex can be found at the 4th hole. This par-4 plays slightly downhill and bends gently to the right. The green hangs precariously on the edge of a 100-foot cliff. Any ball to the right, Engh says with understatement, "will not be recovered."

The layout is planted with bentgrass tees and greens and a Bluegrass/Ryegrass mix on the fairways.

RBI Golf of Littleton, Colo., built the Golf Club at Redlands Mesa, which Engh said "is sure to become one of the finest golf courses in the mountain region."



The 17th hole of the Rees Jones course at Pinehills Golf Club, set to open this spring

## Rees Jones, Jack Nicklaus building 36 holes at historic Plymouth

By JAY FINEGAN

PLYMOUTH, Mass. — More top-notch daily-fee golf is scheduled to hit New England this spring with the opening of Pinehills Golf Club here in historic Plymouth, eight miles north of Cape Cod.

The Pinehills complex will feature two new 18-hole championship courses, one by golf architect Rees Jones — opening first — and the second by Nicklaus Design, slated for a spring 2002 inauguration.

The club also includes the most extensive practice facilities in New England and three golf schools providing quality PGA instruction.

At Pinehills, golfers will be able to enjoy the "total golf experience" offered by the world's premier resorts, including a comprehensive range of facilities and the highest level of service and amenities, according to said David Leibowitz, vice president of

Centennial Golf Properties, which owns and operates the club. "Pinehills was designed in keeping with the rich traditions of the world's greatest game and fills a unique niche within the golf marketplace," he said. "To find two championship golf courses of this caliber, along with the many amenities we offer, is unprecedented for New England, and creates an incomparable golfing experience."

### TWO COURSES, DIFFERENT LOOKS

Jones' recent accomplishments include the Nantucket Golf Club, honored as best new course by *Golf Digest* in 1998 and ranked among *Golf* magazine's top 100 Courses in the World. Jones also renovated The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., for the 1999 Ryder Cup.

At Pinehills, he worked with topography featuring dramatic, glacially carved kettles and kames. "Diverse

Continued on page 37

## Newport National finally ready to break ground

By JAY FINEGAN

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. — Construction is finally underway at the long-awaited Newport National Golf Club, a 36-hole complex about five minutes from Newport's famous historic waterfront.

The first 18-hole course, an Arthur Hills design, is expected to be completed by next September, with a grand opening in spring of 2002. The second course will most likely open in spring 2003. The architect for the second layout has not yet been named.

Construction financing was secured through Rhode Island-based Clubhouse Capital, which is also serving as the project's golf and financial advisor. Clubhouse president George Marderosian said the total price tag on the project will be in the neighborhood of \$25 million, and that market demographics bode well for the club's financial success.

Wadsworth Golf Construction, of Plainfield, Ill., one of the world's largest golf course builders, is doing the heavy lifting, with Rainmaker Golf Development, of Columbia, Md., acting as construction manager.

Newport National's two courses — one private and one public — are widely considered to be in the front ranks of golf projects in the Northeast. The Aquidneck Island facility will sprawl over 400 acres of pristine farmland, affording views of the Sakonnet River and nearby farms and vineyards.

Both courses will be links-style layouts. "It's gently rolling land," said Marderosian, "but as with most Arthur Hills courses, there will be a moderate

Continued on page 34

## Roddy Ranch to herd golfers

Continued from page 1

ranching have been dismal.

"The economics of raising livestock and staying ahead of the tax collector reached the point that Roddy had to come up with a new plan to maintain his lifestyle. Through a close associate he was introduced to the world of golf as a way to preserve his passion – his beloved ranch.

Roddy had the primary raw material for golf – lots of land. But more than that, his property featured the kind of varied terrain and wide vistas that practically guarantee a great golf course.

"When I brought out Bob Moore, the lead designer, I asked him what kind of a golf course I could have here," Roddy said. "Bob said that it would be one of the best in the state. I had never played golf in my life, so I left the job of building the course to the professionals."

### REMINISCENT OF IRELAND

Moore is a design partner with J. Michael Poellot Golf Design Group, and what he created is a memorable golf course that hugs the grasslands as it uses all the advantages of elevation change and natural green sites.

The course plays from 5,400 yards to 6,945 from the back tees over 235 acres that just two years ago the owner would move cattle across. Moore worked diligently to let the landscape dictate the routing of the course, and careful shaping helped to set a graceful flow to the first five holes as they climb towards the highest part of the layout.

"The site reminded me of Ireland when the hills are green in the early spring months," Moore said. "The cascading hills really helped to frame the holes, so I wanted to make a links-style course that was similar to the ones found there. The owner let us do what was necessary to make a good course. The landscape certainly made that easier."

True to the old-style courses, Roddy Ranch plays as a continuous loop rather than two nines playing back to a clubhouse. From the highest point of the course the downhill 570-yard par-5 sixth hole falls off of a hillside to a dramatic expanse. This hole became a design chal-

lenge, as wetlands dedicated that part of the hole to be rerouted. But in the end the grand tee view simply invites golfers to swing away.

### SUPERINTENDENT ONBOARD FROM START

Head superintendent Ken Schwark came on board in the fall of 1998 to help supervise construction and to supervise the grow-in. The course uses a variety of grasses, including bluegrass and rye fairways, fescue roughs, wild grasses in the natural areas, and A4 bentgrass for the greens.



The first hole at Roddy Ranch Golf Club

Schwark's presence from the start gave him input into such things as softening steep bunker faces to make for easier maintenance. He also was involved in creating the superlative greens at Roddy Ranch.

"During the construction phase I hired an Australian greenskeeper who used to work at Royal Melbourne Golf Club," Schwark said. "He presented to me a system for growing and maintaining bentgrass greens that will help to control the development of thatch and the proliferation of poa annua grass, which is a difficult challenge here in California. Right now the greens are firm, fast and true, and we intend to perfect them even more."

### RODEO CHAMP NOW INTO GOLF

Roddy Ranch has been open only since

November, but it has already drawn praise from players, not only for the beauty and challenge of the course but for the club's warm and friendly down-home attitude.

This is all a reflection of the owner, who has suddenly become a serious golfer himself. Although he has only played for two months, Roddy displays the natural athletic ability that helped to make him a two time world rodeo champion. In 1997, in fact, he was inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

"I never thought that golf would be a game I would like, but the simple economics of it was what first caught my

the American West so that it won't be lost to future generations."

### A LIVING MUSEUM TO OLD WEST

To this end Jack Roddy plans to make his course a living museum to the American West. He plans to build a hotel where families can stay while they play golf or ride through the 1,500 acres of land that he has managed to preserve, thanks to his golf revenues. He is a man with a vision as big as the sky his course lies under.

Jack Roddy's desire to do things right comes through in all aspects of the operation of the course, from the fact that he didn't open too early to the warm reception that each golfer receives. It is the greatest of ironies that this man, who is the embodiment of the cowboy and ranching, has turned to a game invented by sheepherders to save his lifestyle.

He is proud to be called a golfer today, and glad that golf can help to preserve one of the last stands of open space near a sprawling metropolis. ■

## Player moving on South America

PALMBEACH, Fla. — Gary Player Design (GPD) has signed a multi-year agreement with Caprile & Capdepon, a golf course design and construction company based in Buenos Aires. GPD plans to expand its presence in the growing Latin American market. Caprile & Capdepon has developed more than 50 golf courses in the last 30 years, including Martindale Country Club and Los Lagartos Country Club, in Buenos Aires. GPD will establish an office in Buenos Aires to coordinate communication and design services throughout South America.

## Pinehills to open 18 holes in spring

Continued from page 21

terrain has provided us with an opportunity to utilize the native ridges and high points for a variety of different tee and green sites," he said. "The valleys and swales provide the course with containment and relief from errant golf shots, while natural hazard locations give each hole its own identity."

The Nicklaus Design course will offer a totally different experience. "This spectacular property with its stately white pines, native vegetation and exciting topography allows us to create an extraordinary championship golf course," the designer said.

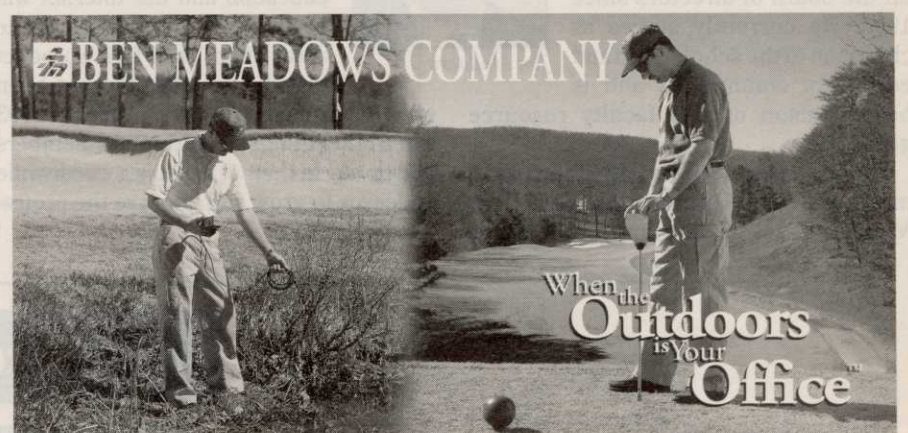
Both courses were designed to accommodate all levels of golfers. Four sets of tees allow courses to play from 5,388 yards to 7,175 yards, accommodating for beginners, yet challenging enough for the most expert player.

### THREE GOLF SCHOOLS ON SITE

Pinehills' practice facilities include a double-ended driving range with both natural grass and artificial turf tees, bunkered target greens with traps, numerous putting greens and separate chipping areas. State of the art instruction allows players to work on any aspect of their game through Pinehills Golf Academy, the Dave Pelz Short Game School and the Scott Sackett Golf Academy.

Opening this May, in conjunction with the Jones course, is the 12,000-square-foot clubhouse, designed by Childs, Bertman and Tseckares of Boston. Offering panoramic views of the facilities, the clubhouse will feature a pro shop, grille room, banquet pavilion, a Ryder Cup "function room," outdoor terrace dining and locker rooms. The building can accommodate groups from 20 to 288 for meeting and dining. ■

eye," he said. "In a year these 235 acres might earn \$10,000 to 20,000; now that much comes in a week. But more than that I am excited to see the different people that play golf, and I give them a chance to enjoy the outdoors and feel the serenity and beauty of the open range. I am going to do all that I can to keep this place as a special tribute to the ideals of



**Ben Meadows Company is Your Source for the Most Complete Selection of Grounds Maintenance Tools.**

Ben Meadows offers you many golf course-related products to choose from—products to help with grounds maintenance, soil and water monitoring, detection and treatment of turfgrass disease and pests...even help with such related concerns as wetlands management or wildlife habitat prevention. In other words, a vast selection of items to help make your job easier.

**Visit us at GCSAA booth #4355 and register to win Daily Prizes.**

Shop [www.benmeadows.com](http://www.benmeadows.com) for all of your golf course maintenance supplies.

[www.benmeadows.com](http://www.benmeadows.com)

PHONE 1-800-241-6401

FAX 1-800-628-2068

GCSAA BOOTH # 4355