



## BRIEFS

### NGF: 29 NEW COURSES IN NOVEMBER

JUPITER, Fla. — The National Golf Foundation's latest tracking report on golf course construction activity across the United States shows that 29 new golf courses came on line during November of 2000. This brings to 490 the number of golf course construction projects that have been completed in 2000. November also saw a total of 47 golf course construction starts and the announcement of plans for 54 others.

### COURSE BUILDER KITCHEN TURNS POLITICO

CRYSTAL RIVER, Fla. — Ron Kitchen Jr., president and CEO of Barbaron Specialized Golf Course Construction, was elected the new mayor of this town of 4,200 people on Florida's Gulf Coast. The 44-year-old Republican squeezed out a five-vote victory on Nov. 7. Kitchen has been active in leadership roles in a variety of local organizations, including the Crystal River Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Association of Citrus County and others. He also was appointed by Florida Gov. Jeb Bush earlier this year to the board of directors of the newly formed Workforce Florida Inc. Barbaron is a certified builder and charter member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America.

### MARK GARRITY JOINS FORMA

IRVINE Calif. — FORMA, a land-planning, design and landscape architectural firm here, has added Mark Garrity to its staff. A licensed landscape architect, Garrity has more than 15 years' experience in golf course and resort landscape design. With FORMA, he'll be working on large-scale master planned golf course communities, resort projects and golf course landscape architecture. He also will be a director of the company. In the past, Garrity worked extensively in Thailand and Indonesia for Lifescapes, based in Newport Beach, Calif. He also worked as on-site art director during construction of the famed Shadow Creek Golf Club in Las Vegas, Nev. "We put in 10,000 trees, and I was in the field directing placement of streams, boulders and other features," he said.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

## Bandon Dunes Resort adding Pacific Dunes layout

By JAY FINEGAN

BANDON, Ore. — Hot on the heels of one of the most acclaimed new courses, Bandon Dunes Resort here on the southern Oregon coast is preparing to introduce another new layout, this one by golf architect Tom Doak.

Last year, the big news was Bandon Dunes, which quickly zipped up the charts to be ranked as the number-one resort course built after 1960; the best upscale daily-fee course of 1999; the 44th-best golf course in the United States and number 80 in the world. All that in its first year.

The noise this year is coming from Pacific Dunes, set to open in July. The par-71 layout, measuring 6,700 yard from the back tees, rests on a stretch of Pacific Ocean coastline that draws comparisons to the revered Alister MacKenzie course, Cypress Point.

Doak, who heads up Renaissance Golf Design, of Traverse City, Mich., has cut a jewel from the coastal terrain and inland dunes.

### HUMONGOUS BUNKERS

The course, just north of its sister Bandon Dunes track, features undulat-



The 11th hole at Pacific Dunes, a new Tom Doak design at Bandon Dunes Resort on the Oregon coast.

ing fairways, small but thoughtful greens, and a landscape that blends seamlessly with native vegetation and with the tract's wind-whipped sand masses.

Bunkers are another highlight. Two of

the largest bunkers on any golf course in America rest along the par-4 second hole and on the 18th, a strong, par-5 finishing hole.

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The 10th hole at Pine Hill Golf Club features numerous bunkers and waste areas, which are prevalent throughout the course

## Empire Golf opens Pine Hill

By ANDREW OVERBECK

PINE HILL, N.J. — Developer Eric Bergstol has added another course to his Empire Golf stable with the opening of the Tom Fazio-designed Pine Hill Golf Club here.

The new layout, which is a short drive from downtown Philadelphia, is in keeping with Bergstol's strategy to build quality public courses in underserved areas. "You have some of the best private courses in the country here," he said. But I've always believed the public should have the opportunity to play quality golf courses."

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## Stephen Kay's Architects' Golf Club nearly completed

By JAY FINEGAN

PHILLIPSBURG, N.J. — For 18 years, Stephen Kay harbored a plan to design a course commemorating the great golf architects of the past. His idea wasn't to copy their layouts but to capture their styles — the way they fashioned their bunkers, the way they shaped their greens, the subtle nuances and contours that gave their courses distinct personalities.

"I wanted to take golfers on a history lesson, starting in order from Old Tom Morris, who began doing golf architecture in Scotland in the 1860s," Kay said. "But I never found a client who was willing to do it."

Finally he did find an accommodating group of developers who wanted to build a course here in northwest New Jersey. They told Kay, "Stephen, you're the architect, you do what you want to do."

With carte blanche clearance and 175 acres of farmland to sculpt as he chose, Kay finally brought his old dream to life. The Architects' Golf Club, inspired by the artistic genius of 17 of the game's greatest designers, will open here in Phillipsburg next summer. The daily-fee course is nearly finished, and Kay seems pleased with the outcome.

### BUILT TO MODERN NORMS

The par-71, 6,844-yard layout, featuring five par-3 holes, will

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View of the Snow Mountain Course at the Paiute Golf Resort.

## Nevada's Paiute tribe building third Dye course

By JAY FINEGAN

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Construction has begun on a third Pete Dye course here at the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort. The 7,400-yard layout is part of the resort's \$500-million destination project that already includes two Dye courses, along with a clubhouse and banquet facilities.

The \$170-million "phase two" of the master plan includes the third course plus a fourth course, and involves construction of a casino, conference center and "luxurious" accommodations.

"Our third course will differ dramati-

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## Pacific Dunes

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"The bunkers are styled after large, natural blowouts, which are the hallmarks of the dunes environment," said Doak. "Our goal at Pacific Dunes was to build a course of equal merit to Bandon Dunes, but in a different yet complementary way."

Memorable par-3 holes are part of the Pacific Dunes mo-

saic, two of them resting back-to-back. The 10th extends 205 yards to a green set at the end of a valley, against an ocean backdrop. The 11th is 142 yards, cut alongside a cliff and bearing a green of only 4,000 square feet—the smallest putting surface on the course.

The 16th, at 346 yards, is marked by a sharp right dogleg, playing to a shelved green abutting the base of a large sand

dune.

"The coastal winds and the undulations in the fairways are so challenging that we didn't want to overcook the design," Doak said. "There's still plenty of short-game interest, thanks to the bunkers and chipping areas around the greens. On a calm day the course might seem easy, but there aren't many calm days here, not during the prime of the season."

### CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE

Doak has established himself during the past two decades as an expert in classic golf course architecture. He has personally walked and studied over 1,000 of the world's great courses, and has caddied The Old Course at St. Andrews.

His designs are marked by a cerebral quality, both imaginative and true to golf's core tenets. Other Doak courses include a pair

of Michigan standouts — Black Forest and Lost Dunes — along with Apache Stronghold (Ariz.) and Quail Crossing (Ind.).

The Bandon Dunes resort is the brainchild of Mike Keiser, a golf fanatic who made his money in recycled paper greeting cards. For the Bandon Dunes course, he brought in Scottish golf architect David McLay Kidd to design a links layout similar to those found in Scotland and Ireland.

Construction of Pacific Dunes got underway last January under the direction of Jim Urbina, of Renaissance, and Ken Nice, of KemperSports Management. ■

## Pine Hill

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Pine Hill, which is just two miles from the famed Pine Valley Golf Club, is situated on the highest elevation in southern New Jersey on 360 acres of sandy soil.

"I grew up close to Pine Hill," said Fazio. "I have a lot of friends here so I knew the course would get a lot of scrutiny. But this was a very easy site with all the natural, loamy sand."

However, there were construction challenges. "It took six months to get all the permits,"

*'Each golf hole has the drama and excitement that you would expect from Pine Valley'*

— Tom Fazio

Fazio said. "We had a lot of wetland issues here, especially on the first two holes. We had to use all 360 acres to get the course in."

The par-70, 6,969-yard course winds through wetlands on a number of occasions and is covered with natural waste areas and large bunkers, similar to those at Pine Valley. "The course is very dramatic," Fazio said. "Each golf hole has the drama and excitement that you would expect from Pine Valley."

The all-bentgrass layout features several superb views of the Philadelphia skyline, the best being from the 18th green where the uphill par-4 finishes in grand fashion. The 43,000-square-foot clubhouse sits just above the 18th green and will open this spring.

The course had a soft opening this fall and will have its grand opening this spring. "This winter, we are going to fine tune the golf course to get it ready for spring," said Bergstol.

Empire Golf is currently developing three other courses in the area: Hollow Brook Golf Club in Westchester County, N.Y. is set to open in 2002. New York Harbor Golf Club in Bayonne, N.J. and Stafford Golf Club in Stafford, N.J. are both slated to debut in 2003. ■



LESKO