GCSAA championship
Continued from page 24

CANYON SPRINGS: GREEN SPEED CHALLENGES
Steven Dennis at Canyon Springs is currently in the process of renovating bunkers and hopes to be finished, at least with the greenside bunkers, in time for the tournament.

Set in the "hill country," the 7,077-yard layout is laid out in two big loops, one for the front nine and one for the back nine. "The course is really spread out. Sometimes you can feel like you're the only one out there," said Dennis. "We sort of have a rustic look here with canyons and dry creek beds."

One of the most challenging aspects of the course will certainly be the greens. "Our greens probably have more ridges and undulations than most courses. Reading the greens will be one of the keys to playing Canyon Springs," he said, "and we'll probably maintain green speeds at nine feet to nine and a half. You don't want to get above the hole on certain holes, but you'd be close, because you'd more than likely be looking at a three putt."

Designed by Tom Walker and opened in 1998, the course presents numerous challenges. "You can be cautious of our tall native grasses," Dennis warned. "They can be treacherous. And on the eighth hole, don't try to bite off too much or you'll be in some serious trouble. It's our number." The one handicap hole with a two-part fairway. You may want to lay up with a two iron or three wood, and then go for a long shot in to the green.

With a couple of scenic waterfalls, one on the tenth hole and another on the 18th green, and some challenging greens, Canyon Springs will provide for attractive and competitive championship play.

TAPATIO SPRINGS: IN THE HIGH COUNTRY
At 1,900 feet, Todd McClure's Tapatio Springs Resort is the highest of the six courses in the championship. Designed by Bill Johnston, the Valley and Lakes nines opened in 1981. The Ridge Course, once an executive course, was renovated and reopened in 1999 to create a 27-hole championship layout.

Other than some bunker clean-up, McClure is currently taking care of some overdue tree trimming to keep the course well-groomed for his peers. "We're a fairly wide-open course, with quite a few trees," said McClure. "We also have a fair amount of water that we once were, but we'll be geared toward the greens. "Our number-one handicap 15th hole is a long par-4 and holes three and eight on the Valley nine. "The Ridge Course," he added, "has water that comes into play on holes one, two, three, four, five and seven. You don't have to hit it long to score well, but you definitely need to keep it straight." Though it's uncertain which 18 holes will be played, McClure deems the Valley nine to be slightly tougher to play, since some of the par-4s play a little longer.

FAIR OAKS RANCH: DORMANT FAIRWAYS
During 16 months of drought, superintendent Mitch Kiser at the Fair Oaks Ranch Golf & Country Club decided not to overseed the 419 Bermuda grass lawns with ryegrass this season. "At the time, we believed there wouldn't be enough water to grow the seed in, so we made the decision to go for an early spring-up next year," he said. "For the tournament, we're looking at options to darken the lawns so that, at least from the tee boxes, the players will be able to pick up the lawns and have a target line."

"Placement can be critical," he added. "You can land in the fairway on the 11th hole and still have a lot of work to do to get the ball where it needs to be."

The greens are not severe at all, not very undulating, and are fair putting surfaces. We'll try to get the green speeds up between 10 and 11 feet for the championship."
Daniel Ward, senior manager of curriculum at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Karnok and the USGIS were able to key in on the feedback from superintendents. "The issues being addressed were flexibility, availability and cost," said Karnok. "We wanted to establish an alternative certification program that would be widely accepted by the industry. Also, rather than just create a continuing education program that offered a certificate, this program will provide college-level credit. Upon completion of the program, the student will have 27 hours of college credit that may be used toward an associate or bachelor's degree."

All courses are taught by the CAES faculty, communicating with students through e-mail, phone calls and traditional correspondence. Academic credit that non-UGA students receive for the courses completed is "non-resident credit," also known as "transfer credit." Tuition will run $104 per semester hour.

The USGIS program will include courses in soil science, pest management, landscape irrigation and other turf management topics, as well as courses in business, arts and science to satisfy requirements for electives.

When you consider that BVD Markers:
• May last forever
• Cost a fraction of other markers
• Install easily and require little to no maintenance (they will even reduce your maintenance budget since you won’t have to trim your marked sprinkler heads as often)
• Will end complaining about not being able to find the sprinkler tags
• Will speed up play, increase enjoyment & revenue

...the decision to buy them is EASY

Call For A One Hole Test!

Buster Newton - VP Sales & Marketing, BVD - 858-274-1524
(Former Kirby Markers Director of Sales & Marketing)
Or
Fiberbuilt 1-800-661-8132 Fax 1-800-661-3137
E-mail: info@bvdmarkers.com www.bvdmarkers.com

Shouldn't your Grounds Crew look as groomed as your greens?

When you consider that BVD Markers...

Score a HOLE IN ONE

Golf Course Builders
Doing One Thing Well
P.O. BOX 559
TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA 92593
(909) 698-7270
FAX (909) 698-6170
STATE LIC. #267960

AQUA SO2

SOIL AND WATER SYSTEMS

Lowers Water pH • Controls Soil pH
Improves Soil Drainage • Controls Algae
Reduces Sodium in Soil
Improves Effluent Water For Irrigation use
Reduces Bicarbonates & Carbonate

SO2 GENERATORS

11838 Tammy Way Grass Valley, CA 95949
(530) 271-0915 aquaso2.com

Score a HOLE IN ONE

Golf Shirts

$795 with your logo

GOLF SHIRTS•CAPS
JACKETS•PANTS•RAINSUITS

CHESTNUT
IDENTITY APPAREL
800-336-8977
www.chestnutid.com
BoardTronics

The BIGGEST because we’re the BEST!

*EXPERT* repair services for most Toro, Rain Bird, and Buckner irrigation central computers and field satellite controllers.

- NW8000® LTC™ OSMAC® VT1/34™
- MIM™ MSC™ PAR™ ISC™ SBM™ RC™

Nationwide: 1-800-STAYWET (782-9938)

*BoardTronics is not affiliated with Toro, Rain Bird, or Buckner. Trademarks belong to their respective manufacturers.

GILL MILLER

Golf Course Architects

122 North 2nd Street  •  River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-9511  •  e-mail: info@gillmiller.com
visit our website www.gillmiller.com

Design  •  Renovation  •  Master Planning  •  Practice Centers

Member: American Society of Golf Course Architects