America, based in New Jersey, has for 92 others. TER also saw a total of 98 construction courses came on line during the first National Golf Foundation, 20 new starts and the announcement of plans for 92 others.

FIRST NATIONAL FUNDING TEXAS COURSE
SAN ANTONIO — First National of America, based in New Jersey, has made a construction loan of $6.2 million to developer Iamarra Ltd., which plans to build Century Oaks Golf Course. The 7,155-yard, par-72 layout will be set on 744 acres in northeast San Antonio. In addition to funding the construction, First National will provide permanent financing of the course once it opens, according to Jerry Sager, the bank’s managing director.

FRANK JOINS GEORGE GOLF DESIGN
RICHMOND, Va. — Driven by a widening call for his work, Lester George has hired Andy Frank as a design associate with George Golf Design Inc. George cited Frank’s “exceptional background,” which includes a degree in landscape architecture from California State Polytechnic University at Pomona and four years as assistant superintendent at highly regarded Industry Hills Golf Course in Industry, Calif. Frank also spent two years with golf course builder Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., and three years at Williamsburg Environmental Group, a company in Williamsburg, Va., which is heavily involved in the environmental aspects of golf projects.

Rulewich’s Saratoga National opens in Adirondacks
BY JAY FINEGAN
SARATOGA, N.Y. — This Adirondack resort town, best known for its thoroughbred race track and 19th century Victorian architecture, finally has a high-end daily-fee course. Saratoga National Golf Club, designed by Roger Rulewich, opened over Memorial Day weekend and should be in good trim for the affluent crowd of “summer people” who flock here for the cool mountain air. Set by the shores of Lake Lonely, the 7,200-yard track plays through a former horse farm. Rulewich navigated the routing around a complex pattern of wetlands, traversed by 23 wooden bridges that lend the course a special charm.

Extensive stonework gives strong definition to green complexes, wetland edges and the clubhouse. Multiple tees, wide fairways and generous targets create an inviting atmosphere for each hole. A creek flows lazily through the property.

WRITING CHECKS
All told, it’s a sharp new layout with plenty of interesting features. According to Rulewich, owners and developers Tom Newkirk and Bob Howard spared no expense in building the best course possible.

They turned out to be some of the easiest clients we’ve ever worked with,” he said. “They’ve been excited about this project from day one and have been out on the site a great deal, watching it happen. And when anything came up that looked like it might help the course, they were ready to write a check. We couldn’t ask for anything more.”

Cupp designing Bonita Bay Group course at Verandah
BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — Golf course architect Bob Cupp has been chosen to design the first 18-hole championship golf course at Verandah. The 1,456-acre master-planned community is being developed by The Bonita Bay Group along the Orange River in northeastern Lee County, Fla. Cupp previously designed both 18-hole championship courses at Shadow Wood Country Club in The Brooks, another

Engh’s new Tullymore Golf Club will challenge long-ball hitters
BY JAY FINEGAN
STANWOOD, Mich. — The first time he saw the land for Tullymore Golf Club, Jim Engh knew he had to put on his thinking cap. The 600-acre parcel contained 350 acres of wetlands. Tullymore opens later this month, and golfers will discover how the designer dealt with the swampy terrain that predominates across the property. He built 2,500 feet of boardwalk and set some back tee placements that require bogey drives over the wetlands.

“The land has fingers of protruding hills coming down into the wetlands,” Engh observed. “They’re going to have two very interesting and diverse courses,” Engh observed.

250-YARD CARRY
The 7,000-yard Tullymore track
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The 15th hole at Saratoga National, on the shores of Lake Lonely

The third green at Tullymore Golf Club

Cupp’s Shadow Wood CC, another course he designed for Bonita Bay Group.

A view of Cupp’s Shadow Wood CC, another course he designed for Bonita Bay Group.

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promises to pose some stiff challenges from the back pegs, including some potential round-wreckers. A good example is a par-3 hole design that Engh modeled after the famous "Dell" hole at Ireland's Lahinch.

"I came across this sort of hole in the ground," he said. "I actually cut a little avenue through it with a little sliver of fairway coming through, with this monstrous green. It plays a variety of lengths, from 100 yards back to 250 yards. We have an elevated tee, and from the back you've got to carry a drive into this hole in the ground where the green is. It's going to require a 250-yard poke."

"Because the wetlands were there, we couldn't make it like, say, 210 yards," Engh added. "That's the thing about this course -- because of the forced carries out there, it is going to play extremely difficult from the back tees."

**SAILING OUT**

Taking mercy, Engh designed "bail out" sites on all shots, except from the back tees.

"From the next tee up, what we call the main tee, everybody has a bail out," he said. "You can always take a different route. For the hackers, I moved the tees up, and the forced carries are out of play."

On the third hole, for example, the front two tees don't have to carry anything. But from the back, you have to carry it 220 yards over the wetlands, and that's all there is to it.

"It's the same for every course I do," Engh explained. "My MO is that, if you pick the wrong tees to play from, you're probably not going to have fun. If you go back too far, you're going to get your tail kicked. But if you happen to pick the right tee for your game and ability, you're going to have a ball."

**SODDED BLUEGRASS ROUGHS**

The course is wall-to-wall bentgrass, on all tees, fairways and greens. But the idea here matches up with bentgass's toughness: "Bentgrass comes up pretty quickly," Engh said. "The thing about bluegrass is, that's your erosion barrier. That's what keeps your bentgrass from being contaminated. And that's the area that will get the most cart traffic.

"My belief is, if you have a stand of grass, even if it looks like it's up and

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**Cupp’s Verandah**

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said Cupp was asked to handle the project based on his track record of designing courses in concert with the natural surroundings. "We knew that working with Bob on this site would help us maximize the existing character of the property," she said.

**SIMILARITIES TO SHADOW WOOD**

Cupp said the oak trees will be used on most of the holes, particularly the ninth and 18th. Additionally, the course will finish amidst the main oak hammock.

"Because of the trees, the landforms of the course will be mostly subtle and will reflect a more traditional design that is normally seen up north," he said. "Regarding strategy and conditioning, this course will be very similar to those at Shadow Wood. And strategically, the length, the diversity of the holes and the dimensions will be similar. However, aesthetically, this course will be completely unique from any other course in the area and will reflect the 'old Florida' feel of the property."

Located on property formerly known as the Baucom Ranch, Verandah is bordered by 1.5 miles of the Orange River. The central feature in the community will be the river village, a gathering place comprised of individual amenity buildings, including a golf pro shop, a restaurant, a tennis/fitness area and a nature center, all within a large oak hammock.

**36 HOLES OF GOLF**

Verandah is being planned as a low-density community, with an average of approximately one residence per acre. The site design incorporates pedestrian walkways along the riverfront and winding throughout the community.

At least 65 percent of the property will be open space with natural preserve areas, parks, wetlands, lakes, 36 holes of golf, and a buffer along the river to help maintain the unique character of the riverfront. Verandah will offer a mix of single-family, villa and coach homes initially ranging in price from $150,000 to $500,000.

The Bonita Bay Group is a diversified company involved in the planning, development, sales and management of master-planned communities and free-stand-ing recreational facilities throughout Southwest Florida. The company employs more than 1,200 individuals and operates five master-planned communities -- Bonita Bay, The Brooks, Mediterra, TwinEagles and Verandah -- along with 11 golf courses and two marinas.