

Booth, Faxon team up in Rhode Island

By ANDREW OVERBECK

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. — Golf course architect Brad Booth has joined forces with PGA Tour player Brad Faxon to design the West Course here at Newport National GC. The West Course will open for play in 2003 and join the Arthur Hills-designed East Course, which is currently under construc-

tion and due to open in 2002.

Newport National represents the first of what could be many projects designed by both Booth and Faxon.

"We have already talked about doing more stuff together," said Booth, whose design offices are based in Ogunquit, Maine.

Getting Faxon on board was a

major marketing coup for developers Newport National Golf Club LLC, since he is a native of Rhode Island.

"He has some name cachet in New England," said Booth. "And it works out great because he comes back for a week every month, so he will be able to visit the site often."

Booth and Faxon's work on the West Course is just getting underway. Both are still feeling out their budding design relationship.

"I am doing the basic routing plans right now, and when Brad is back we sit down and spend a day or two going over that stuff," Booth said. "He is a neophyte on the design end, so this is a learning experience for him. But he has a wealth of information from playing

Continued on page 6



(Left to right) Faxon, Todd Arterburn, and Booth look at plans

Sea Marsh earns Audubon certification

By JOEL JOYNER

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — The Sea Marsh Course, located here at the Sea Pines resort, has been certified by Audubon International as a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. It is the second course at the facility to be recognized for environmental protection.

According to Carol Thompson, staff ecologist at Audubon International, superintendent Jim Cregan and his two assistants — John Michnuk and Rich Fioretto — and Sea Pines EcoTour instructors Aaron Black and Carl Zies have gone above and beyond certification requirements. "They're doing a great job," said Thompson, "We require 80 percent of landscape plans to be native, and they've done 100 percent."

"Since joining the program, they've gone from buffering eight percent of their shorelines to 25 percent," she added. "That's a big improvement."

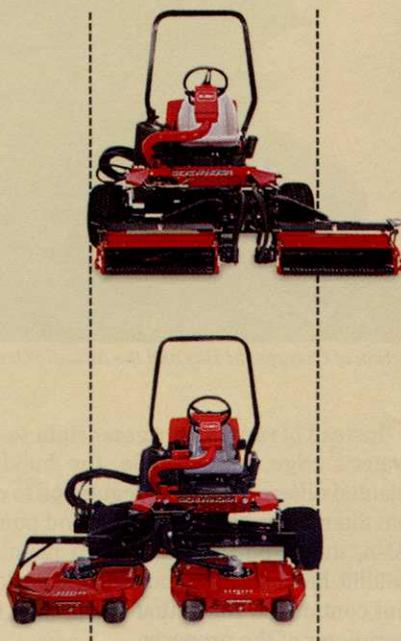
WILDLIFE IDENTIFIED

The Sea Pines Ocean Course, the first course built on the island, was the fifth course in the state to be Audubon certified. "We have a great public relations program running, and that's what the Audubon society is looking for," said Cregan. "Since the Ocean course was certified back in June of 1999, we've been trying to find new ideas to promote environmental awareness."

Wildlife throughout the resort was identified and labeled so that information could be provided to members and guests. "We're so blessed with an abundance of wildlife here," Cregan said. "There are about 20 species of birds that we see on a daily basis. We've built shelters for everything from purple martins and blue birds to bats and screeching owls."

The third course at the resort, Harbour Town, has taken its own steps toward Audubon certification on the heels of the annual PGA Tour's Worldcom Classic. "Our announcement has sparked a lot of interest in the area," said Cregan. "I've had at least five superintendents call me to find out how to get

Continued on page 6



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Nelson, Haworth

Continued from page 3

challenge, according to Haworth, has been scheduling around the wet and dry seasons. "We have to follow a tight schedule because if we miss the seeding season for any of the holes, then the whole project will be delayed one year."

The course is being constructed mainly with local labor and some local shapers. Haworth has Glen Nadal, their top shaper, on site to keep the course true to the design.

The course will have Penn A-1 bentgrass on the greens and Penncross on the tees

with a Kentucky bluegrass blend on the fairways. Out of play areas will be re-established with native wildflowers.

UNESCO SITE

Lijiang has been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a heritage site. The city, which is a 30-minute flight from Kunming, features architecture from another era with cobblestone streets and houses dating back several centuries. It is also the center for the Naxi Chinese minority, who number less than 250,000 and are the only remaining culture in the world still using pictograms as their form

of writing.

The town has long been a popular tourist destination for the Chinese and more flights are being added. It is also becoming a destination for Asian tour groups and backpackers, and the developers hope to attract the golfing tourist. In addition to the five-star resort hotel and villas planned for the development, there are several four-star hotels in the area. ■



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Sea Marsh

Continued from page 4

the ball rolling for their own courses."

600 ACRES PRESERVED

The resort puts nature first.

"We have 600 acres of wildlife preserve here," the superintendent said. "I've put together an environmental resource committee that includes environmental activists who have also jumped on board. We're trying to get as many people involved as possible and have received more positive feedback than we ever imagined possible when we first began with our Ocean Course five years ago."

The golf course abuts some private backyards, and Cregan has spruced up the borders. "The out of bound stakes were the only things that separated the two," he said. "Flower beds have now been added and native grasses also line the lagoons to provide natural corridors for birds.

"We've tried to increase the aesthetics of the course. Our flowers have attracted a lot of butterflies that have always held a fascination with our members and guest. We see a number of people that visit from places like Pennsylvania that have never seen a herring or an egret before in their life, let alone an alligator," said Cregan. ■

Booth, Faxon

Continued from page 4

courses across the world and has a good sense and feeling for design."

GOLF IN THE VINEYARD

The West Course at Newport National will be set on mildly rolling farmland with hedge breaks.

"The course has been given the moniker of the 'vineyards' because it is right next to Newport Vineyards," said Booth. "It will be an upscale resort-style course and will have open spaces. I will work within the topography of the site."

The course will feature wall-to-wall bentgrass. Construction is scheduled to start in 2002.

BOOTH STAYING BUSY

In addition to the work at Newport National, Booth is staying busy with projects across the United States and Canada. He is continuing renovation work at Samoset Resort Golf Course in Rockport, Maine; expanding and renovating a course for Orange County Parks and Recreation Department in New York; and work on a par-3 course at Apple Hill Golf Club in East Kingston, N.H.

Construction work is also due to start this year on a Booth design at Deep Brook Golf Club in Saco, Maine, and renovation should also begin soon at Intervale Country Club in Manchester, N.H. ■