



BRIEFS

HEARN, GOLF SERVICES GROUP UNDERWAY AT MILL CREEK

CHURCHVILLE, N.Y. — Mill Creek Golf has started work on its new Championship Course, a high-end, semi-private golf club that will join its extensive practice facility at the Mill Creek Golf multiplex. Designed by architect Raymond Hearn, the Championship Course will be a par-72, 7,000-yard, links-style layout. The course will be built upon a unique drumlin that bisects 320 acres of natural rolling hills and will feature fescue roughs, creeks and bentgrass greens. A preview opening date is set for late summer of 2003 with the grand opening scheduled for spring of 2004.

NELSON TO COMPLETE PUAKEA LAYOUT

KAUAI ISLAND, Hawaii — Puakea Golf Course, owned by America Online founder Steve Case's Grove Farm Properties, is finally expanding to a full 18 holes. Groundbreaking on the daily fee course, managed by Billy Casper Golf, is scheduled for this winter. Golf course architect Robin Nelson, who designed Puakea's first 10 holes, is completing the remaining eight holes, with modifications to his original design. Set in lush landscape adjacent to the *Jurassic Park* movie set, Puakea is located on the former Grove Farm sugar plantation on Hawaii's Kauai Island.

Tripp Davis teams with Craig Stadler in Colorado

By ANDREW OVERBECK

GRANBY, Colo. — The development boom in Colorado is continuing here with the construction of the \$420 million Grand Elk Ranch and Club. The 520-acre mountain resort community will include 800 residential units, a 35-acre retail center and a variety of recreational facilities.

However, the centerpiece of the community will be an 18 hole golf course designed by Tripp Davis and Associates and PGA Tour fixture Craig Stadler.

While Stadler's schedule is still geared towards making a living as a professional golfer, he is now a resident of Denver and has visited the course site several times so far.

"He has made every effort to get up there," Davis said. "A couple of weeks ago he went up there and I told him to take some notes and send them back to me. No one was around because it was a Sunday so he sent me notes on a golf ball box that he had ripped up so he could write on it."



Builder Joe Neibur, PGA Tour veteran Craig Stadler, and architect Tripp Davis on site at Grand Elk Ranch and Club in Granby, Colo.

Grand Elk LLC and golf course builder Joe Neibur struck the deal that paired Stadler with Davis. Neibur, who is building the course, is also a part owner in the venture.

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

"Stadler has been great to work with," said Davis. "It is a pretty collaborative effort."

Construction of the course, which sits in the Frasier River Valley, is well underway with shaping completed and workers putting the finishing touches on greens and green surrounds before the winter weather hits.

HUGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROPS

"For a course in the mountains, Continued on page 19

Rick Jacobson on design fast track

By JOEL JOYNER

MIDDLETOWN, Md. — Chicago-based golf course architect Rick Jacobson has been on a fast track to meet the demand in Jacobson Golf Course Design's three key markets: the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and the Midwest regions.

Having won the bid to provide an affordable, upscale 18-hole golf course for the Lower Makefield Township in Bucks County, Penn., just north of Philadelphia, the design firm is busy putting together a master plan. The course, yet to be named, is Jacobson's first in the Philadelphia area.

The par-72 layout will have multiple sets of tees ranging in length from 4,900 to 7,000 yards. "We're currently putting together a budget and doing a lot of diligence work relative to water availability and the underlying geology of the site," Jacobson said. "There is rock in the area, and we're busy massag-



Jacobson on-site

ing the budget to make sure the project is viable from a financial standpoint."

As far as demographics, the course is well positioned, according to Jacobson. "Within a block of Interstate 95, on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, you're at the site," he said. "Philadelphia is listed as number three in a recent ratings where the supply of golf facilities does not meet demand."

The 166-acre site is a gently rolling, partially wooded tract of former agricultural property that features elevation changes of up to 100 feet and a small stream that flows along the northern boundary. An existing stone farmhouse will be preserved

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Rookie architect Lennie Myshrall bursts onto design scene at Fox Ridge

By JOEL JOYNER

AUBURN, Maine — Situated here on more than 200 acres of what was once rolling farmland, the daily-fee Fox Ridge Golf Course opened here in late summer. The layout, which stretches to almost 6,900 yards, was the first complete design for architect C. Lennie Myshrall.

"I've assisted on a couple of course designs such as the addition of nine holes at the Boothbay Country Club [Maine], but this is my first official design," he said.

Myshrall, who owns Horizon Golf Course Construction based in Freeport, built the course with his partner, Fox Ridge superintendent Edmund Michaud, and holds a 29 percent interest in the development. "We tried to make every hole different," said Myshrall. "I've found it to be boring playing courses where holes look the same."

CORNISH AS CONSULTANT

Costs for the project came in around \$3.5 million, said Myshrall. Golf course architect Geoffrey Cornish out of Amherst, Mass., visited the property three times during the construction as a consultant. "I've worked with Mr. Cornish on about 10 projects altogether," said Myshrall. "He did the consulting work for me as a favor."

The Fox Ridge layout takes up a large portion of the property, and includes a driving range located across the street from the clubhouse. "But we've saved room for a nine-hole, par-3 course that's already been designed and will be laid down either next year or the year after," said Myshrall.

In order to keep initial construction costs down, only 24 bunkers and two sierra-type waste bunkers currently exist on the course, said Michaud. "We still



The sixth hole at Fox Ridge Golf Course

have about 20 to 30 fairway and greenside bunkers to add," he said. "We also wanted to do it like the old timers and watch the course a couple of years to see exactly

where bunkers needed to be."

CHALLENGING LAYOUT

According to director of golf Michael

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

Jacobson

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and transformed into the golf clubhouse, Jacobson said.

Construction of the new course is expected to begin in spring 2002 with an anticipated opening in fall 2003.

HOLLOW CREEK GOLF CLUB

Hollow Creek Golf Course broke ground in June and will hold a grand opening next summer. Located some 40 miles outside Washington D.C. and surrounded by the Catoctin Mountains, the 18-hole public layout offers views of greens framed by distant mountains, stone wall features from rock excavated onsite, and rolling hills bisected by Hollow Creek.

"We worked with several agencies to establish a rather detailed protection system as far as erosion and sediment control for the creek," said Jacobson. "Buffer zones, diversion swales, silt fencing, detention basins and bio-retention basins are all part of the design to protect that corridor."

Natelli Communities is developing a real estate project around the course. The community will consist of 210 single family homes and 140 townhouses, according to company owner Tony Natelli.

Klein Golf Associates will manage course operations. "We are following Rick's design to the 'T,'" said Stephen Klein, course owner. Klein said he is planning to charge a greens fee of \$35 for a "country-club-for-a-day" golf experience targeting a younger clientele that cannot afford a steady diet of high-priced golf.

There are four separate tee boxes at the par-71 layout that plays 6,610 yards from the championship tees down to about 5,080 yards from the forward positions.

STONY POINT IN NY

The Stony Point Golf Course, about 35 miles outside New York City up the Hudson River in the town of Stony Point, is due to open in 2003. "It's a spectacular site overlooking Bear Mountain State Park," said Jacobson. "It's a new 18-hole construction we're planning to finish next fall. We've got about three or four holes roughed in now."

INDIAN LAKES

In addition to new courses, Jacobson is also busy with restoration and renovation work. The two 18-hole courses at Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, Ill., just west of Chicago, will be undergoing a \$5 million renovation.

Renovation of the East and West courses that were originally designed by Robert Bruce Harris in 1965, will occur nine holes at a time over the next four years. An island green on the par-4 17th hole on the East Course – currently the 8th hole – is will be the new signature hole.

The existing 380-yard par-4 8th

plays as a dogleg right with a lake along the left side of the fairway. In the middle of the lake is an island where a new 6,500-square-foot green will be constructed. A new foot bridge, spanning 70 feet, will connect the fairway to the green. "It will create a high level of excitement for golfers," said Jacobson. "It will be a topic of conversation long after they complete their rounds." ■

Coyote Creek

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Valley Course and five from the Tournament track.

"Now that we're open to the public, I'm putting a lot of effort into maturing the greens as quickly as possible," Scott said. "We will have to make some adjustments to the grasses in the rough to blend the two courses

together for tournament play."

GOOD TIMING

The completion of the \$20-million project turned out to be well timed for Cooke & Castle. The dot-com collapse has cooled the once white-hot Silicon Valley economy, dampening other sectors of the local market, including golf. "The crash of the dot-commers has definitely had a big impact," Scott said.

With demand for private club memberships sagging, however, the need for affordable, daily-fee play has increased. The Valley Course green fees – \$55 during the week and \$70 on weekends – are very competitive in this part of California. "We're doing very well on the Valley side," said Scott, "and the addition of the Senior Tour event has built interest in both courses." ■



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