WEITZ COMPLETES ROSE CREEK CONSTRUCTION
NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Weitz Golf International has completed construction of Rose Creek Golf Course in Edmond, Okla. The Arthur Hills-designed course, which also features a large practice facility, will open for play in early summer 2003.

JACOBSON FINishes PHASE I OF INDIAN LAKES RENOVATION
LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Golf course architect Rick Jacobson has completed the first phase of a $5 million 36-hole renovation at Indian Lakes Resort in suburban Bloomingdale. He also broke ground in early October on Phase II of the project, which will turn the 1960s-era resort into an upscale, state-of-the-art golf complex. Phase I involved a complete makeover of the front nine of the resort’s West Course.

WEISKOPF RESTORES GREENS AT TROON NORTH MONUMENT
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Renovation at the Monument Course at Troon Golf’s Troon North Golf Club has been completed. Tom Weiskopf, who originally designed the course with Jay Morrish, restored the greens to their original specifications over the summer. The most major change Weiskopf oversaw was widening the long, narrow green on the 14th hole to provide more opportunity for the golfer. The 14th green on the 14th hole to provide more opportunity for the golfer.

DOWNING’S WILLOUGHBY GC REBORN AFTER RENOVATION
Editor’s note: This is the final installment in a series of articles on the renovation at Willoughby Golf Club by superintendent Kevin Downing. After six months of work, the club reopened on Nov. 1.

STUART, Fla. — Sitting in the men’s locker room on opening day can really provide you with direct feedback on the successes or failures of a project. After having the membership removed from their home club for six months, there are anxious moments while listening to folks comment about their first impression of their new and improved course. Let me share with you some of the comments that we have received and some that any golf course superintendent can expect to hear after a reconstruction or renovation.

As explained in a previous article, we believed most of the comments or opinions would likely be about things that the golfers could actually see or experience. It is only reasonable that most people would render an opinion about an improvement or modification rather than comment about improved drainage or better turf texture. The first four or five groups in the clubhouse commented about the usual things such as green speeds, bunker consistency and tee leveling, which were major objectives of the overall project. As expected, nobody commented about the new underground tubing, the fairway drainage system, or the new zeolite-to-sand ratio in the greens mix. The moral of the story is to make sure you spend adequate time and energy to make visual enhancements to the course.

Our design modifications were

builders weather low construction demand
Continued on page 22

HIGH-PROFILE RENOVATION
Architect Tom Fazio points out some of the changes at Augusta National to Jim Nantz and Ken Venturi of CBS Sports prior to this year’s Masters.
AUGUSTA, Ga. — Without a doubt, the most talked-about renovation of 2002 was the lengthening of Augusta National. The public got to see the result of Tom Fazio’s much-anticipated renovation during the 2002 Masters in April.

The bidding is very competitive, he said. “It’s a whole new world out there for some of these guys.”

Hetrick said renovation work is helping to keep some in the industry busy as they try to

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DEVELOPMENT
& RENOVATION

Construction in 2002
Continued from page 11

weather the slowdown in not only con-
struction, but in business in general.
“About five years ago when people
started looking at the new starts and it
started to wane, I think the smart guys
went out and started to retool their mar-
keting efforts toward renovations and help-
ing superintendents and looking at the
small projects that typically five years be-
fore that they wouldn’t have even consid-
ered because there was such a demand for
them to do full-scale golf courses,” he said.

Both now and in coming months, Hetrick
said builders face difficulty in finding af-
fordable insurance and bonding for
projects. He said the problem could get
worse before it gets any better.

“If there’s one issue that we have that’s most
difficult for builders to face today it’s the
bonding issue and insuring the project,” he
did. “That’s the one that’s going to be the
biggest hurdle to get through. It’s been de-
scribed to me that we still haven’t seen the
bottom of the barrel in the bonding market
from 9/11. You have to figure out how you can
go out there and maintain a level of expertise
and not have everything crater in on you.”

What makes construction a particularly
tenuous industry is dependence of its on prof-
its “trickling down” from developers to
builders, Hetrick said.

“Everybody is entitled to make a profit,” he
said. “It really hurts the industry when it gets
so competitive that people start buying jobs.”

“Some jobs you have to let go by,” he added. “The balance is extremely keen right now.”

While it is difficult at the moment, Hetrick said the golf industry as a whole
should begin to see an upturn in the near
future.

“There are projects out there and they’re
finding funding. Everybody seems to be
getting the work and maintaining some level of security for their employees,” he said. “We all seem to be busy. Everybody seems to be getting the work and maintaining some level of security for their employees, so we’re cautiously optimistic.”