

BRIEFS

COLLAPSE DOESN'T SLOW RENOVATION

ST. LOUIS — A \$12.5 million restoration of the Forest Park Municipal Golf Course, which finally got underway last year after several years of stalls, is scheduled to open in October 2003. However, the opening of the clubhouse, which was supposed to take place this fall, has been delayed after high winds caused the roof to collapse in May. When the Hale Irwin Golf Services Inc. renovation is completed, the American Golf Corp.-managed course will be known as the Norman K. Probst Community Golf Courses and Youth Learning Center.

ASL BUILDS FOR WILLOWBEND

BURLINGTON, Vt. — ASL Golf Course Construction has broken ground on a nine-hole addition for Willowbend Golf Development in Mashpee, Mass. After a long wait, Willowbend will become a 27-hole golf club with the addition to the private club on Cape Cod.

MUSKOSA SANDS' TABOO TO OPEN

GRAVENHURST, Ontario, Canada — At press time, TABOO at Muskosa Sands was scheduled to open to the public on June 28. The 7,123-yard Ron Garl design is the latest component of the resort's \$500 million, seven-year development program. Canadian pro golfer Mike Weir has chosen TABOO as the home of the first Annual Globe and Mail Charity Classic to be played Aug. 7 to benefit local children's charities.

INNOVATIVE ARCHITECT MUIRHEAD DEAD AT 79

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Golf course architect Desmond Muirhead died May 2 at age 79. The innovative and often controversial designer worked in partnership with such greats as Gene Sarazen, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer and pushed the limits of golf course architecture with his own designs. Muirhead started in golf course design doing master plans for golf communities and published a book on the subject for the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C. Some of his most notable layouts include Muirfield Village GC in Ohio, Mission Hills G&CC and Desert Island CC in California and Aberdeen G&CC in Florida.

Editorial Focus: Renovations

Superintendents have many options for turf removal projects

By DEREK RICE

When it comes to renovation of greens, tees, fairways and roughs, there are a number of viable turf removal options out there. Which one courses decide to use depends on a number of factors, including what type of grass needs to be removed, whether disease is an issue and the size and scope of the renovation.

What follows are some examples of applications of the three most common turf-removal products: Roundup, Basamid and methyl bromide.

EASE OF USE

Perhaps the best known and most widely used product in the turf removal game is Monsanto Inc.'s Roundup. In recent renovations, superintendents Jeff Benedict of the University Club of Kentucky in Lexington and Michael Dieckhoff of Spring Creek Ranch in Collierville, Tenn., used Roundup to prepare for a turf



A grounds worker applies Basamid with a drop spreader for turf fumigation.

conversion.

In Benedict's case, he was looking to re-grass fairways as part of an overall renovation. Because of the scope of the project — spread over 26 acres — as well as a recommendation from the consultant on the project, he chose the Roundup solution.

"We were re-grassing all the fairways so we sprayed Roundup to kill it off so it would be easier to till back under and strip," he said. "It was pretty easy, and it killed all the Poa annua and things, but we had enough Poa annua seeds in the ground that we've got Poa annua again now."

Dieckhoff said he looked at the other alternatives, but decided that the cons outweighed the pros in those cases.

"To get grass growing and take up Roundup and translocate it through the plant, we felt it would give us a total kill,"

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Editorial Focus: Renovations

Bunker lining, drainage companies look to renovation

By DEREK RICE

Renovation and remodeling work at golf courses is on the rise for a number of reasons. Land is hard to come by in some areas, nine-hole courses want to add another nine and older courses need updating to remain competitive. In nearly every case, bunkers are among the components slated for renovation.

Because of these factors, many of the bunker lining and drainage companies are increasingly targeting the renovation market for their products.

THE 'CURE' FOR WASHOUTS

Both Bunker Woll, which is manufactured by F.P. Woll and Co. and distributed by Gladstone, N.J.-based Bunker Net Inc., and Sandtrapper from Johnson City, N.Y.-based IVI-Golf, are primarily used on bunker faces to reduce silt contamination and washouts, but can also be used to aid in erosion control on other areas, such as steep banks, cart paths, creek banks and washed-out areas.

"Essentially, we recommend Bunker Woll wherever there is a problem with washouts, contamination or erosion," said Nadine Christ, Bunker Net president.

Because steeper faces require a more aggressive material, IVI has introduced Sandtrapper in two styles, one for gentler situations and the other for steeper and more severe slopes, according to Wayne Rozen, IVI president.

"Washouts and contamination have been problems for as long as there has been golf and rain," he said.

Renovation projects are becoming a larger part of the demand for Sandtrapper, Rozen said.

"We have equal call for Sandtrapper in both the renovation market, where it is used to 'cure' chronic bunker washout problems, and in new construction, where experience has told the architect, builder and superintendent that bunker washouts and sand contamination are continuing to cost golf clubs and courses big dollars in repairs," Rozen said.

Currently, Christ said, about 500 courses use Bunker Woll or Bunker Aid, a synthetic product Bunker Net introduced in response to the popularity of Bunker Woll.

"With the success of Bunker Woll, we felt it was important to offer a more durable product that is thicker than the other synthetics on the market and has the netting on the back to help keep the material intact," Christ said.

Of course, Christ said, Bunker Woll isn't a miracle product that can do it all on its own.

"For any product on the market to be most effective, you need to have the proper sand selection and

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LandBank focuses on natural space

By DEREK RICE

ATLANTA — LandBank Development Corp. is hoping to make Deep Creek Golf Club and the accompanying housing development its first "conservation community" when the project breaks ground in early June, said Bob Johnson, LandBank vice president. The project is under consideration for recognition by the Nature Conservancy.

At the center of building a conservation community, Johnson said, is allowing the land to dictate the placement of roads and houses, rather than the inverse.

"It's more of the concept of a golf course, where you're cutting through trees and doing a sight line, then siting the greens," he said. "We're carrying over the concept from developing golf courses and trying to imitate that aesthetic value of golf and create that aesthetic value in home placement."

Working in conjunction with golf course architect Steve Smyers, LandBank hopes this is the first of many conservation communities co-developed with golf courses as their centerpieces. Johnson said the time is right for marrying these two concepts.

"The time has come to put the two pieces together," he said. "We've done it

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The 11-year prep for 2003 Open

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Ill. — If not for a couple of "major" distractions, Mark Mungeam's renovation of Olympia Fields Country Club (OFCC) would have been completed earlier.

Course architects Cornish, Silva and Mungeam started work at the 36-hole facility in 1991, with the goal of refurbishing the club's North Course, a 1923 Willie Park Jr. design, before moving on to the South Course.

Eleven years, two remodels and one Senior Open later, the South Course is still awaiting its renovation. But there is good reason for that — the North Course is scheduled to host the U.S. Open next summer.

In 1994, three years into work at Olympia Fields, the USGA awarded the club the 1997 Senior Open. So Mungeam spent the next three years working with the USGA to fine-tune the North Course in anticipation of the senior golf event.

Because Mungeam's work was so well received during the championship, the USGA awarded Olympia Fields the 2003 U.S. Open, which will be the first Open the club has hosted in 75 years.

As a result, Mungeam was retained to complete another redesign of the course for the championship. What had been a

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Oneida Nation

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Shenandoah course," he said. "This will give the resort a new look and a lot more to offer."

The Oneida Nation has spared no expense in designing the two courses by hiring two of the biggest names in golf course design. Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Tom Fazio have designed the two new 18-hole courses and will oversee the projects. The Jones course is under construction with a June 2003 opening scheduled, and the Fazio course is slated to open in June 2004.

Joe Baidy, director of golf courses and grounds will work with Landscapes Unlimited, which also developed the Shenandoah course, on the construction of the two new courses. Baidy said getting the Jones course opened by next June is going to take a lot of hard work.

"It is going to be intensive and it's on the fast track," he said. "All parties concerned are working together real well and things are moving."

The Jones course will begin and end near the existing practice facility at Shenandoah. For Jones, the opportunity to work on a course in the upstate New York area is special.

"My father and mother attended college in the Finger Lakes region, and the Robert Trent Jones course at Cornell University, designed by and named for my father, established a legacy that I will endeavor to follow in this new project," Jones said.

The Fazio course will be located about two miles from Shenandoah. Fazio said he sees that course as being an incredible place when it is completed.

"Since the golf course site is very special in character and beauty, I envision the finished course to be a 'must see' golf course for golf enthusiasts," he said.

In addition to the two 7,300-plus-yard courses, the resort is working on a 70,000-square-foot expansion of the casino, and recently completed a new 24,000-square-foot clubhouse at Shenandoah. Emery said these are not the only projects planned at the resort.

"The casino expansion is underway, and there will probably be additional developments down the road," he said.

Baidy said all of the current and future projects are part of the nation's overall plan to create the best destination resort the possible.

"We constantly strive to reach the next plateau, and this will carry up through the other two courses," he said. "These projects have been discussed for some time, and I think this was the opportune time to do them." ■

LandBank

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where it was just the conservation community, but we wanted to do it where it's part of the golf course, and we can integrate them together."

The land on which the course will be built is well-suited for golf, Smyers said.

"We will be able to use the

natural slopes to settle the strategy and have a minimal number of bunkers," Smyers said.

Johnson said the testament to the land's suitability for golf is the relatively small amount of earth that will need to be moved for the project.

"We're only moving 150,000 cubic yards of dirt. That's basically your tees, bunkers and green settings, and not much

more," he said. "We're also doing a little sloping around the brooks to protect them and that's all."

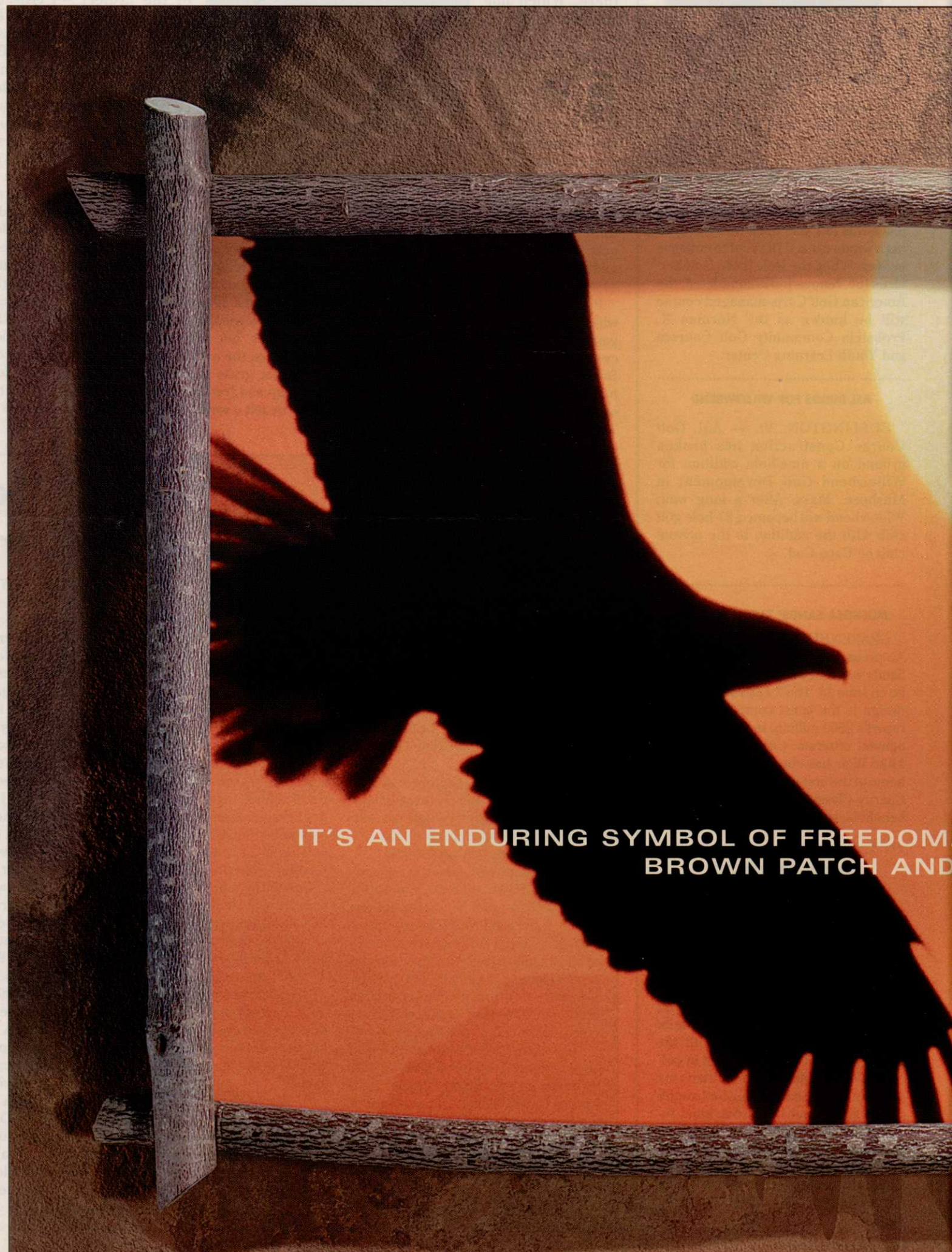
Grooming and shaping is being handled by Jim Croom Sr. and Jim Croom Jr. of Hi-Tech Golf, based in Tampa, Fla. Working with builders who understand the concept LandBank and Smyers are trying to achieve was key, Johnson said.

"You've got to work with like-minded people, and they're on

the front edge of the new concepts, and they're interested in seeing construction done properly," he said. "It's good for their name as well."

While that may be the case, Johnson said, it doesn't make their job any easier.

"It's definitely more difficult for them," he said. "But this is our opportunity to do what's right." ■



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