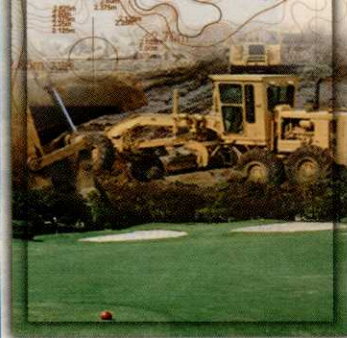


DEVELOPMENT & RENOVATION



Editorial Focus: Design and Construction

BRIEFS

MACCURRECH RENOVATING NEW ORLEANS CC

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — MacCurrach Golf Construction Inc. began its renovation of the New Orleans Country Club in January. The project, which should wrap up by mid-summer, is in conjunction with architect Bobby Weed, who recommended a complete redo. The course will be re-grassed with an updated infrastructure to include drainage, irrigation, car paths, tees, greens and bunkers. The project also includes the removal of several large trees to expose and preserve the larger heritage live oaks that line the course. Sand from a horse track that existed prior to the course's construction in the early 1900s is being used to cap some of the muck soils on the site.

JACOBSON GEARS UP FOR BUSY YEAR

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Golf course architect Rick Jacobson has signed on for a number of projects in 2003, including two design projects with Jack Nicklaus — the Americana Bayside Resort in Sussex County, Del., and South Market Golf Club in Prince William County, Va. In addition, Jacobson has groundbreakings in Wisconsin and Virginia, openings in Illinois and New York, and several renovation projects.

TURNER CONSTRUCTION TO RENOVATE TWO

GAITHERSBURG, Md. — T. A. Turner Construction Services Inc. has been awarded construction contracts in Virginia and Bradenton. The company will perform renovation work along with Palmer Design Company on the Palmer Signature Course at Keswick Club in Keswick, Va. Turner will also take on an extensive renovation of the Gene Bates-designed El Conquistador Country Club in Bradenton, Fla. At Keswick, the renovation will add 400 yards to the course, while the El Conquistador renovation involves installing a new irrigation system and expanding the course's irrigation ponds.

Dye takes technology, developers to task

By DEREK RICE

In the last year, the debate over technology in golf has intensified, with the American Society of Golf Course Architects calling for more regulation of golf equipment in order to keep golf course length, and by extension costs, from spiraling out of control.

Pete Dye has seen a lot of changes in his more than 40 years designing courses, including technology. Never one to temper his opinions, during a panel discussion at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America conference in Atlanta, Dye appealed to the USGA and other organizations to take a more heavy-handed approach to regulating technologies.

"[The industry] needs to get together and try to stop the golf ball for the great players," Dye said. "This hitting a golf ball 400 yards is ridiculous. You can't make

golf courses 8,000 yards long, with the environment and the costs — it's crazy."

Dye said one solution would be having two sets of rules — one for professional golfers and another for the average golfers who make up the vast majority of the golfing population.

"The ball's going farther for the good player, but they're not going any farther for Mabel Smith, who tees off on Tuesday morning and hits the ball 135 yards. Not one



Never one to mince words, architect Pete Dye (second from right) covered a range of topics during a panel discussion at the GCSAA show in Atlanta.

ball today goes one inch farther than the ball they made 50 years ago," he said. "So Martha Burk ought to be

yelling at the golf ball manufacturers that they're discriminating

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Editorial Focus: Design and Construction

Weathering the construction slowdown

By DEREK RICE

With golf course construction declining, some builders are finding it hard to get enough work to keep their staffs busy, but in the case of at least two builders, 2003 is shaping up to be busier than 2002.

Lithia, Fla.-based Quality Grassing & Services Inc., winner of the 2002 Golf Course News Large Builder of the Year Award (GCN, March 2003), expects to complete more than the seven projects it finished in 2002, said company president J. Howard Barnes.

"We've got a lot going on this year, more than last year," Barnes

said. "We've got three major renovations we're starting, and we've got some new stuff going on that we'll finish with no problem."

Fidel Garcia, president of Ryangolf Inc., located in Deerfield Beach, Fla., said while the slowdown will have an effect on a lot of builders, his company will be busier than last year, mainly because of the quality of clients it works with.

"Going forward, we are fortunate to have a clientele that's immune to the economy, to be honest with you," he said. "I knew there would be a certain number of projects that they would be start-

ing and I would have my fair share of those. So I didn't worry and it has come through."

While most of the year is booked already, Garcia said Ryangolf will probably take on a couple more projects this summer.

Barnes said established relationships with owners, architects and developers, as in any business, are the X-factor that often figures into the hiring decision for a builder.

"It's good to have those relationships, and I don't begrudge anybody who can get them," he

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Guest Commentary Augusta uncrowned

By RONALD W. FREAM

The history of Augusta National has always been recorded, Masters by Masters, since 1934, as if a sacred ritual, the continuation of a mysterious tradition. The mystique has been mas-



Ronald W. Fream

saged and enhanced year after year as TV coverage projected the world's great players — taking their turns as champion — putting on the green jacket, after a usually breathtaking final round before a huge gallery.

Augusta National Golf Club has long considered the Masters as an "inheritance to posterity." The origins of the course, inspired by Robert Tyre Jones Jr.

Continued on next page

Sunday River, Harris Golf close land, sales deal

By DEREK RICE

NEWRY, Maine — As expected, Sunday River Ski Resort and Harris Golf finalized their purchase and sales agreement last month, paving the way for construction on the planned 18-hole Robert Trent Jones Jr. course to begin.

At press time, closing on the deal was expected to take place in early May.

The only thing standing in the way now is the weather, which continued to be unseasonably

cold well into March. However, that shouldn't delay the course, as construction is slated to begin this summer with a summer 2004 opening date planned.

Harris Golf currently owns and operates two golf courses, Bath Country Club and Boothbay Country Club, as well as Harris Golf Shop in South Portland. The group includes brothers Jeff and Jason Harris, as well as their father, Dick Harris, a Maine golf icon who was principal in the

development of Falmouth Country Club nearly 20 years ago.

Jeff Harris said the company is looking forward to building the course because of both the designer and the scenic location.

"The opportunity to build a Robert Trent Jones Jr. course at Sunday River is one that we couldn't pass up," he said.

The course will become the second Jones course in Maine, giving the state a distinction among

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

Black Hills find green

Continued from page 1

Club scheduled to open this year in Agar. "Sutton Bay is just a beautiful golf course," Farris said. "It sits on what used to be a 30,000-acre ranch, so they won't have any development anywhere around them."

The development of quality golf courses in South Dakota may lead to a greater

influx of tourists, Farris said, but there is no formal plan underway to draw them. He said he hopes golf will complement two of the state's already strong tourist attractions: Mount Rushmore and pheasant hunting.

"I was always surprised that golf was not as promoted. Granted, people don't look at South Dakota and think, 'What a weather Mecca,'" Farris said. "We have a tremen-

dous amount of pheasant hunting that takes place here. People fly in from all over just to come pheasant hunting here, so Sutton Bay will have a hand in that.

"There's also three million people who come out here to visit Mount Rushmore every year," he added. "Red Rock is about 15 minutes away. I just don't think people

have really marketed it."

While the private Sutton Bay will offer hunting, fishing and a sporting clay course based out of its lodge accommodations, Red Rock will offer \$27 green fees, which Farris described as a steal.

"There's something for everybody here," he said. ■



Architect Ron Farris said Sutton Bay is the crown jewel among the courses set to open in South Dakota this year.

Dye blasts changes in design, technology

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against all those women who play the golf courses every Tuesday morning."

Dye also said many golf course developers start off on the wrong foot when building golf courses. According to Dye, too many owners and developers try to cut costs by not hiring a superintendent until after construction and sometimes grow-in are complete. Dye said ideally, a superintendent should be on-site long before groundbreaking.

"Hell, they should be there before I get there," he said. "The developers who start these things, they don't have any knowledge about what they're doing. They always think they can save \$3.75 by letting the contractor run around out there, screwing up the golf course. Then they wait until after we're gone and bring the poor guy in there blind and he's trying to fix all the mistakes. You can sympathize with them a little bit because they don't know."

However, Dye said he wouldn't refuse a job simply because the developer hadn't yet hired a superintendent.

"I go in and say, 'Look, you should have a golf course superintendent,' but the owners are putting up the money, so you've got to go along with it because you want to live, you don't want to starve," he said. "I try to get them to hire a superintendent on the job. I believe the superintendent doesn't come there just to watch, he comes there work, and he puts his crew together right there in the beginning because they're going to have to take it over."

If a contractor won't hire a superintendent during construction, Dye said he hopes they will do so before grow-in at the very least.

"I can't ever understand why they want a golf course contractor to grow in a golf course. That's about the damndest thing I've ever listened to," he said. "I think the superintendent should take charge and grow in every golf course. It's crazy to have a guy running a bulldozer one day and the next day cutting the greens. But it happens all the time."

One area where Dye differs from many architects is in contracts. He said while he realizes he should have one for every job, he never signs one.

"I should have a contract when I design a golf course for people, but I've always found that no matter whether I have a contract, the owner has a hell of a lot more money and a lot more lawyers than I do. So I don't have a contract," Dye said. "He can fire me anytime he wants to, and a lot of them have."

When it comes to bunker placement in his designs, Dye said his philosophy has changed over the years, mainly because he has designed so many TPC and other tournament courses. Today's players, he said, have more or less perfected their bunker play.

"I used to put all my bunkers real tight to the greens, but they can get in there and pop it up, no problem," he said. "So now I'm trying to make the bunkers where the ball will kick farther away and make a longer bunker shot to the green." ■

Sunday River course

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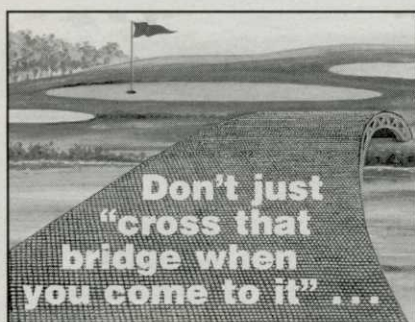
its neighboring New England states. Jones designed the course at Sugarloaf/USA, which is also owned by Sunday River's parent company, American Skiing Co. In a statement, Jones expressed his pleasure that the course would go forward.

"I am so pleased to hear that the Sunday River golf course is going to be completed. In the initial design phase we were delighted to find that the terrain was terrific and well-suited for golf with a lot of similarities between

the land and nearby Sugarloaf Golf Course," Jones said. "I know this will be a great golf course with fairways that are a little wider, more forgiving and player-friendly. We think it's a great venue and look forward to the first round."

Harris Golf will oversee construction at the course, while Ty Butler in Jones' Charlotte, N.C., office will make occasional visits to the course during the development.

Golf Course News will continue to follow this project as it progresses in our backyard. Look for updates on the construction in future issues.



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Congratulates Its 2002 Builders of the Year



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- Admirals Cove Golf Club, Jupiter, FL
- Coosa Bend Golf Course, Gadsden, AL
- Costa Caribe Resort and Country Club, Ponce, Puerto Rico
- Delray Dunes Golf and Country Club, Boynton Beach, FL
- Harmony Golf Course, St. Cloud, FL
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