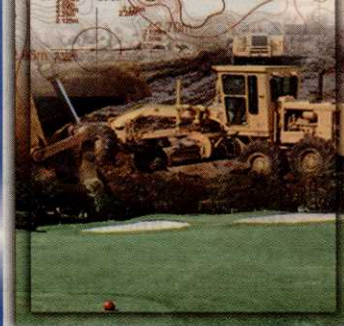


DEVELOPMENT & RENOVATION



BRIEFS

QUALITY GRASSING BREAKS GROUND ON RENOVATION

LITHIA, Fla. — Quality Grassing & Services Inc., winner of the 2002 *Golf Course News* Large Builder of the Year Award, has begun work on a \$1.6 million renovation at Point Mallard Golf Course in Decatur, Ala. The renovation began last month and includes rebuilding all 18 greens and completing extensive tee, irrigation, drainage and car path renovations. Architect John LaFoy is overseeing the work.

HEARN/ALBANESE HIRES MARKETING FIRM

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich. — Raymond Hearn/Paul Albanese Golf Course Designs Inc. has hired Golf Marketing Services to handle its marketing and public relations efforts. Hearn/Albanese hired Golf Marketing Services to handle promotion of several high-profile projects the firm has coming online in the next few years. Among the firm's current project are Egg Island Golf & Yacht Club in North Eleuthra, Bahamas, and Mill Creek Golf Club in Rochester, New York.

CUPP-DESIGNED OLD ORANGE UNDERWAY

FORT MEYERS, Fla. — Initial development has begun on Old Orange, an 18-hole Bob Cupp-designed golf course at Verandah, the Bonita Bay Group's master-planned community here. The course is scheduled to open later this year. Work began in mid-December and has involved digging lakes, beginning drainage work and moving dirt. Bonita Bay expects to begin grassing the course in March or April.

LUMMI DEVELOPMENT CHANGING NAME

ATLANTA — Lummi Development Inc. will change its name to Signature Horizons Group Inc. in mid-March. Signature Horizons acquired a controlling interest in Lummi in October. The company is also moving toward a closing of its acquisition of Sea Trail Plantation and Golf Links in Sunset Beach, N.C.

Bunker renovation protects Pelican Hill's 'Fazio look'

By ANDREW OVERBECK

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Work is underway here at Pelican Hill Golf Club to renovate all 125 bunkers and protect Tom Fazio's original design.

Director of agronomy Steve Thomas is overseeing the renovation, which began in late January.

"Over the last 12 years the bunkers have lost the 'Fazio look,'" said Thomas. "We wanted to maintain the character of the original design and get back the fat bunker lip."

"We will make some architectural changes by expanding some bunkers and making others smaller," he added. "We will also improve drainage and put in a higher-quality sand."

The Irvine Co., which owns and

manages the 36-hole club, decided to shut the South Course down entirely and shift play to the North Course while renovation work took place. When the South Course re-opens in March, work will commence on the North Course.

"That is one of the benefits to being 36 holes," said Thomas. "The Irvine Co. decided it was a good time of year to go ahead and close a course, because it is typically our rainy sea-



A worker excavates a bunker to bring back the fat lip of Fazio's original design.

son when play is lower."

The company brought in two builders, Jessup, Md.-based

McDonald & Sons and La Quinta, Calif.-based Peerless Golf Inc. to

Continued on next page

Raynor's Mountain Lake reborn



Architect Brian Silva restored bunkers and greens to Seth Raynor's squared-off design of 1916.

By DEREK RICE

LAKE WALES, Fla. — Grow-in is completed and play has resumed on Mountain Lake Golf Course, where architect Brian Silva restored the course to its original 1916 Seth Raynor design.

Over the years, many of the

greens and bunkers, which had been squared, had softened into more rounded or amorphous shapes, said Dorothy Blackwell, director of member relations for Mountain Lake.

"Our members voted last year to restore the course to

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Developers learn from Dark Horse experience

By DOUG SAUNDERS

AUBURN, Calif. — Last year, the latest entry into the crowded Northern California golf market, Dark Horse Golf Club, opened for play, culminating a 13-year struggle to bring a quality public golf venue to the Sierra foothill region. The developers, Ed Fralick and his son Chad, are heartened to see the tee sheets begin to fill up with players after spending so much time, energy and money wading through permitting meetings, EIRs and mitigations to bring the 7,218-yard Keith Foster-designed layout on line.

The rambling track flows over 420 acres of land that are defined by dramatic elevation changes, a series of natural wetlands and thick stands of mature oak trees.

Foster was fortunate to be given free rein of the entire 1,045 acres in order to find the best layout for the course. This was an opportunity that few architects ever get and Foster searched for the best routing to capture the prominent natural features to compliment the course.

This is the Fralicks' first foray into golf course development but they didn't come into the field without some background. Their years as successful custom homebuilders and housing developers in the Sacramento area gave them the confidence to take on the challenge. But they discovered that while there are many similarities in golf construction and home construction, there are also striking

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Openings decline for second consecutive year

JUPITER, Fla. — For the second consecutive year, golf course openings in the United States slowed, according to the National Golf Foundation's (NGF) *Golf Facilities in the U.S. Report*.

The NGF said the report may signal that construction is coming back in line with demand.

In 2002, approximately 248 golf courses, measured as 18-hole equivalents, opened. This num-

ber is down 13 percent over 2001 and down 38 percent from 2000, which was the 15-year peak.

However, there is some good news to be gleaned from the report. The NGF predicts development will stabilize in 2003, based on the number of courses already under construction that are expected to open this year.

The drop-off in construction
Continued on next page



First-time golf course developers Ed and Chad Fralick cut their teeth on Dark Horse Golf Club in Auburn, Calif.

Mountain Lake restored

Continued from page 10

Seth Raynor's design, and we knew that Brian Silva was very qualified for this type of restoration," Blackwell said.

Silva advised the club not to oversee this fall, which would give the features time to grow in. While this left many of the greens looking brown for a while, superintendent Steve Ciardullo said he is impressed with the end result.

"The greens came out great, if not a little fast," Ciardullo said.

Many of the members, Blackwell said, are not so sure about the new number and shaping of the bunkers. Many were re-faced and re-sodded, so the course decided to make them out-of-play for the time being.

"A lot of our members are older, so they have a hard time climbing down into the bunkers," Blackwell said. "There is a low spot on each one, but instead of walking all the way around, some of them have come up with a way of getting their ball out using a wedge and a rake."

Among the other Raynor features Silva restored were signature holes, such as Eden, which was inspired by the 11th hole at St. Andrews, and Biarritz, a tribute to the chasm hole at the original Willie Dunn course in Biarritz, France. Versions of these holes, along with many others, can be found in each of Raynor's designs. The seventh hole at Mountain Lake is a tribute to the Road Hole at St. Andrews, with a bunker to the right of the green filling the role of one of the most famous stretches of pavement in golf.

Mountain Lake is a private club surrounded by a gated housing community that was founded 1915 and landscaped by Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. ■

Golf Industry Show

Continued from page 1

GCSAA past president Michael Wallace.

"We have a duty and an obligation if we're going to put on a show like this to deliver buyers to that arena," Wallace said. "We take that very seriously. We see this as one way of doing that because we see buyers and superintendents coming together and working

toward that common goal."

At the press conference to discuss the merger, some in attendance expressed

concern that this show would blur the lines between the two associations, but the NCGOA's Walt Lankau, who owns Stow Acres Country Club in Stow, Mass., dismissed those concerns.

"I have two people here, my superintendent and head of construction, and there's plenty of room for all three of us. I really enjoyed being with them. I haven't had the chance to do that in the past," Lankau said.

"They know what they want and I know what I want, so I don't think that's going to be an issue at all. When we have our combined conference, we're going to have separate educational stuff, but I'm hoping there will be some cross-pollination there as well. It's a huge win-win for everybody."

Wallace agreed and praised the potential the combined show will present.

"Realistically, the ability to bring owners to a show and be able to take them around the floor and be able to explain to them or show them what different options are open to them as far as equipment purchases, it's huge," Wallace said. "It enables them to come to a place where they can see what

options are available to them. I think it allows the superintendent to gain some credibility and it allows the owner to see that the super has done due diligence."

Because very few superintendents have free reign with a checkbook, Wallace said, the Golf Industry Show will enable owners to make more qualified purchases more quickly.

"Now you've shortened the chain in that decision-making process and hopefully the

decisions will be made quicker and the industry will have the ability to interact directly with the ultimate decision-

makers," he said. "As superintendents, yes, we make a lot of decisions on what piece of equipment we're going to recommend, what purchases we're going to suggest, but when it comes down to the ultimate decision-maker, it's usually going to be the owner. It's his pocketbook and he's the fellow who's writing the check. I think this is a very good partnership."

Newly elected GCSAA president Jon D. Maddern said his experience with bringing an owner to the GCSAA Show has been nothing but positive.

"Owners are able to see first-hand the things he's looking at, the things he may like or what he feels he needs. They can talk to the manufacturing reps to ask their questions and whatever else," Maddern said. "I did the same thing when I went to Elk Ridge. I brought them here to the show to purchase everything we needed for the golf course because I wasn't going to ask every company to bring it in and for the owner to make a decision. It was the best thing I ever did. I can't encourage members to do that enough because I have never seen a negative with it."

'As superintendents, yes, we make a lot of decisions on what piece of equipment we're going to recommend ... but when it comes down to the ultimate decision-maker, it's usually going to be the owner.'

—Michael Wallace

Maddern also said vendors would realize major benefits from having qualified buyers on hand at the combined show.

"It's what the vendors want. They want the people that are going to be making the decisions and making the purchases," he said.

Mona said there may be opportunities for even more associations to get involved with the show, which would add even more value.

Mona said he knew what the financial breakdown of the combined show would be, but declined to be specific.

"Both organizations have skin in this game," Mona said. "We have incentives to make these shows grow and become better shows as one." ■

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MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

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The Board of Munster Parks & Recreation is seeking letters of interest from management companies to finance, construct and operate a 9-hole golf course, driving range, clubhouse, entry road and parking lot at Lakewood Park in Munster, Indiana. The majority of the golf course and driving range will be located on a town-owned, closed sanitary landfill site. Interested parties should contact Chuck Gardiner, Director of Parks & Recreation at (219) 836-7275.

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