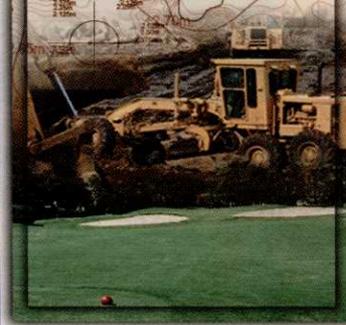


DEVELOPMENT & RENOVATION



BRIEFS

WET WEATHER DELAYS LAKE JACKSON OPENING

LAKE JACKSON, Texas — In the wake of an abnormally wet summer last year, which featured two tropical storms, the city of Lake Jackson has been forced to postpone the opening of The Wilderness Club. Grassing on the Jeffrey Brauer-designed layout was originally scheduled to begin this month, with an eye toward an October opening. As a result of the setbacks, grassing should begin this fall, with the opening pushed back to spring or summer 2004.

SUGARLOAF TO UNDERTAKE FINAL RENOVATION PHASE

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine — Sugarloaf/USA will begin the final phase of its three-year, \$800,000 capital improvement project this spring. This year's work includes installing a computerized irrigation system and expanding the ongoing water and drainage management program. Sugarloaf will also pave the car paths, rebuild all the bunkers and connect a second source of water for course irrigation. Future improvements at the course will include building a new clubhouse and pro shop. In addition, boosted by a PGA For the Good of the Game Grant, Sugarloaf will host hundreds of children for golf camps, intensive instruction and after-school programs.

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY AT FARMLINKS' FIRST TEE FACILITY

SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Pursell Technologies Inc. (PTI) has broken ground on a First Tee facility that will complement its Pursell Farms project and serve as a demonstration area for the company, as well as for other First Tee suppliers. The Hurdzan-Fry design, which is being built by Landscapes Unlimited LLC, will occupy 3,000 acres near the entrance to PTI's Pursell Farms. It will initially include a driving range and three holes, but will eventually be expanded to nine holes.

Oakland's Metro opens after eight years of obstacles

By DOUG SAUNDERS

OAKLAND, Calif. — The newest public golf course in the northern California region, Oakland's Metropolitan Golf Links, opened to players April 16. This Johnny Miller-designed venue brings a challenging layout to a wide-open 125-acre site near San Francisco Bay that sits under the landing patterns for Oakland Airport. The course is a first-rate replacement for the former Lew Galbraith Golf Course that closed back in 1994.

"Johnny Miller and I have designed a course that all players will enjoy as well as a superior practice facility that should draw families from the community," explained co-designer Fred Bliss. "We feel that in time Metropolitan Golf Links will be considered one of the best public venues anywhere."

While it took nearly three years to complete the 7,045-yard course, that hardly begins to explain how this course came about as a critical part of solving an extremely complex issue for the city of Oakland.

The old Lew Galbraith Golf Course provided the first golf experience for thousands in the Bay Area during its 30 years of existence. But the course was built over a landfill that was mandated by the EPA to be closed down properly in 1992. This closure process called for capping the old

landfill with a one-foot thick clay cap.

The city took the initiative to tackle two problems at once. Along with the need to deal with the old landfill, the Port of Oakland was preparing to dredge the

Oakland estuary in order to bring larger ships into the bustling port. While the city was in need of capping material, the port was in need of a place to dump dredge material. The Galbraith site be-

Continued on page 18



Oakland's reconstruction of the old Lew Galbraith Golf Course is complete and the course reopened in April.

Photo: Freddy Bird

ASL, developer overcome Cape Cod regulations

By DEREK RICE

MASHPEE, Mass. — When ASL Construction and Willowbend Golf Development collaborated on adding a third nine holes to Willowbend Golf Club here, they had to overcome a number of strict environmental and historical regulations, said ASL's Jim Despres.

"That area is heavily regulated and rightly so," Despres said. "It's a small parcel of land. It's incredible with the traffic in the summertime. It's a very intense place."

To meet the stringent demands, ASL used rubber lining in some fairways and on all tees and greens surrounds.

"The lining was used because there were historical preservation areas on the property. The areas that received the lining were not disturbed with any machinery or traffic," he said. "The lining went

Continued on page 16

Doak giving 'a leg up' with internships

By DEREK RICE

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — The response to golf course architect Tom Doak's search for interns to learn about golf course design first-hand has been greater than even he anticipated.

"We've waded through about 60 applications," Doak said. "We got a bigger response than we expected."

Doak and his staff at Renaissance Golf Design pored through the applications and chose two interns in early April.

"It was really hard to sort through them," Doak said. "Now I know what college admissions officers feel like. You just get a lot of good applications and it's hard to try to pick among them."

The two interns Doak and his



The positive reception to Tom Doak's Pacific Dunes in Bandon, Ore., has led to 'at least two jobs' for Renaissance Golf, Doak said.

staff selected were George Waters, 24, who is a master's candidate at the University of Guelph in Ontario, and Philippe Binette, 21, a junior at the University of

Montreal. Doak said the two would probably begin working with the company in early May.

While Doak has had interns

Continued on next page

Winterstone GC to play around excavation

By DEREK RICE

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — With above-ground construction completed on the 18-hole Winterstone Golf Course here and an opening scheduled for this month, there are still four years of below-ground construction

to contend with, said Rick Boylan, president of Mid-America Golf and Landscape Inc.

The course's developer, Rocca Processing, is mining 4.5 million square feet of underground warehouse space, which will be linked to nearby Carefree Indus-

trial Park via a tunnel under Interstate 291.

The blasting below the course began while construction above ground was still in progress, Boylan said.

"That's been going on for two years," Boylan said.

Continued on page 16

Doak hopes to open doors for future architects

Continued from previous page

before, this is the first time he has gone through a formal process, he said.

"We've had interns at various times over the last 10 years, but it's been hard to do a formal program because our workload varies so much from one year to the next," Doak said.

Going forward, Doak said he plans to award at least two internships a year to college students pursuing a career in golf design through a landscape architecture or turf management curriculum. Each internship will consist of three parts: a month in the firm's Traverse City office, four to six weeks of work on the site of a current project and at least two weeks of travel with Doak or a senior design associate to see projects in the planning phase, including an opportunity to see and play some of the great golf courses built in the last century.

"We want to give them not only office experience, but some experience in the field and if we didn't have much going to construction in a particular summer, it was hard to set anything up," Doak

'I feel like whoever we do pick, we're giving them a leg up like I had 20 years ago. As far as my career went, having that experience was crucial to my being able to get out on my own.'

— Tom Doak

said. "We do 25 percent of the design in the office and 75 percent out in the field. Certainly, if there's a chance for them to work with us longer term, that's where they're going to contribute."

The positions will pay \$5,000 for three months, plus housing and expenses while in Traverse City, as well as all travel expenses while on the road.

The program Doak has proposed mirrors his progression as a golf course architect. Upon graduation from Cornell, Doak received a scholarship to study the great golf courses of the British Isles, an experience he followed with an apprenticeship with Pete Dye. These two experiences helped shape Doak's design style and gave him an entry into the design field that others may not have had.

"I feel like whoever we do pick, we're giving them a leg up like I had 20 years ago," he said. "As far as my career went, having that experience was crucial to my being able to get out on my own."

One reason Doak decided to formalize the internship program at his firm was the volume of work Renaissance will have this year, he said.

"We've got enough lined up for the next couple of years that we've got some interesting things going on," he said. "This summer, we have a couple of renovation things we're doing and we'll have somewhere between one and three golf courses

start construction and we're still looking at other new projects."

Among the projects Renaissance has lined up is a private equity club on the shores of Lake Oconee in Georgia called the Harmony Club.

Doak's highly-rated Pacific Dunes Golf club in Bandon, Ore., has led to some of the work his firm is currently undertaking, he said.

"We've gotten at least two new jobs out of people that played the golf course and loved it," Doak said. ■

Heritage, SAJO merge

HOUSTON — Golf course builders Heritage Links and SAJO Golf recently combined their companies in an effort to offer a full range of golf course construction services. The combined company will operate under the Heritage Links name.

Founded in 1988, SAJO Golf won *Golf Course News'* Small Builder of the Year Award in 1997 and is a certified builder with the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA). SAJO president Sam Sakocius is a member of the GCBA board. He will serve as president

of golf construction for Heritage Links. Terry Brown, SAJO's vice president, will manage the newly created utility group for Heritage Links under the name HL Construction.

The merger made sense because the two companies are so complementary, Sakocius said.

"Heritage Links is a great match for us," Sakocius said. "Together, we will be able to offer a broad base of knowledge, the latest tools and technologies, integrated utility services and strong financial stability to assure our customers that every new project is the best it can be."



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