

since 1983 is the 1991 recipient of the Donald Ross Award, given annually by the American Society of Golf Course Architects to "an individual who has acknowledged the importance of golf architecture to the game and who has encouraged others to recognize great design."

He will be presented the award at a special banquet in Broughton, England, April 23.

• Golf instructor **Paul Runyan**, winner of 28 PGA Tour events, was presented the Award of Merit by the National Golf Course Owners Association during its annual meeting at the Registry Resort in Naples Jan. 7. The award recognizes "achievements which reflect the proud traditions, elevate public awareness, and contribute to the advancement of golf as a lifelong recreational and competitive activity."

**Florida still leads nation in course development**

Florida opened more new golf courses in

**LEADING STATES IN GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT 1990**

Openings	Under Const.	Planing	Total
1. Florida ..... 41	1. California ... 43	1. California ..... 116	1. Florida .... 1,011
2. South Carolina ... 21	2. Michigan .... 42	2. Florida ..... 93	2. California ... 853
3. California ..... 17	3. Florida ..... 39	3. Michigan ..... 35	3. New York ... 781
4. Michigan ..... 15	4. Georgia ..... 28	4. Pennsylvania ... 38	4. Texas ..... 756
4. North Carolina ... 15	4. Ohio ..... 28	4. Virginia ..... 30	5. Michigan .... 749

Source: National Golf Foundation

1990 than the next two states combined, according to the National Golf Foundation. With 41 openings last year, compared to South Carolina's 21 and California's 17, Florida now has 1,011 golf courses. California is second with 853.

Another 39 courses were under construction in Florida as of Jan. 1, the NGF reports, with 93 others in the planning stages.

California (43) and Michigan (42) were

slightly ahead of Florida in the number of courses under construction while California also led the Sunshine State in the number of courses in planning with 116.

Nationally, 289 courses opened for play in 1990, one short of the 290 that opened in 1989. In 1988, the total was 211. Prior to that, the nation had been averaging fewer than 150 course openings per year.

Despite the economic slowdown at the end of the year, a total of 560 courses were



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under construction across the nation, the NGF says, significantly more than the 463 under construction at the end of 1989. The number of courses in the planning stages also rose from 603 to 781.

Of the 289 course openings last year, 206 were new facilities and 83 were expansions (nine holes or more) of existing facilities.

A significant number of the courses now listed under construction are carryover projects from 1990 that had set opening dates in the third and fourth quarters but were unable to meet them. The NGF attributed the delays to weather, financing, and environmental and other permitting difficulties.

A recent membership survey by the American Society of Golf Course Architects revealed that virtually every firm is experiencing increased difficulty in getting permits because of environmental considerations... with some encountering delays of several years.

The NGF's analysis of its data revealed three major points:

- Real estate continues to drive golf course development in Florida to a significantly greater extent than the national average. Of Florida's 41 new courses, 31 (76 percent) were linked to real estate projects, compared to the national average of 47 percent.

- On the other hand, more than half of Florida's new courses (22) are open to the public in some manner, reflecting the ratio of public to private among the state's existing courses. Nationally, 70 percent of all new courses were accessible by the public.

- Among the 206 new courses opened for play in 1990, 60 were nine-hole courses, of which 38 had no plans for further expansion. In Florida, 10 of the 41 new courses were nine-holers. Overall, nine-hole courses today make up 40 percent of the nation's supply of 13,951 golf courses. In Florida, 102 of the state's 1,011 courses — just over 10 percent — are nine-holers.

### **Florida's Taylor retains USGA post; Michigan owner to head NGCOA**

C. Grant Spaeth, an attorney from Palo Alto, Calif., was elected to a second one-year term as president of the USGA at the association's annual meeting in January.

Among the nine members of the executive committee re-elected was F. Morgan "Buzz" Taylor of Hobe Sound, longtime member of the Green Section Committee.

Jeff Hoag, owner of Scott Lake CC in Comstock Park, Mich., was elected president of the National Golf Course Owners Association at its annual meeting in Naples in January.

Vince Alfonso, The Rail GC, Springfield, Ill., was elected vice president and Gibson Lunt, Lakeshore CC, Rochester, NY, was elected to another term as secretary/treasurer.

The NGCOA serves about 100 public golf course owners in Florida.



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