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getting ripped in the press," Safford says. "We need to let people know the industry isn't anti-environment but that those in the golf industry are as concerned about the environment as the public is."

"We as golf course superintendents have been trying to articulate this problem and address it for a decade," says Tim Hiers, golf course manager at John's Island Club in Vero Beach. "We felt that we had the truth about the environmental impact of golf courses. However, the truth isn't going to win if the people don't know about it. And no one has taken the time to disseminate this information. As a result, the negative information gets the publicity. And this has cost us dearly already."

Golf course designer Tom

Fazio says that on one Florida project, the regulations were changed three separate times. It not only took time to conform to the new regulations, but Fazio says it also cost an additional \$150,000.

David Smith, president of Lake Poinsett Development Co., has been involved in the permitting process for nearly five years. His proposed 800-acre residential and golf development on Lake Poinsett and the St. John's River has received the necessary permits from the St. John's Water Management District. But now an environmental group has challenged the permits, and Smith is, at presstime, going into a hearing brought on by this challenge.

Oliver admits that the council is not a panacea. But by pooling its resources, she says,

the industry will have its interests represented with the legislators and the regulators.

Fazio feels that the council should take a page from the environmentalists' success. "If they are going to make the grade, they must have specific agendas and issues they will go after that will build the council into an organization that has clout.

"This is what the environmentalists have done."

USGA to hold two Green Section conferences in Fla.

The USGA Green Section will conduct two Green Section Educational Conferences in Florida this year. The addition

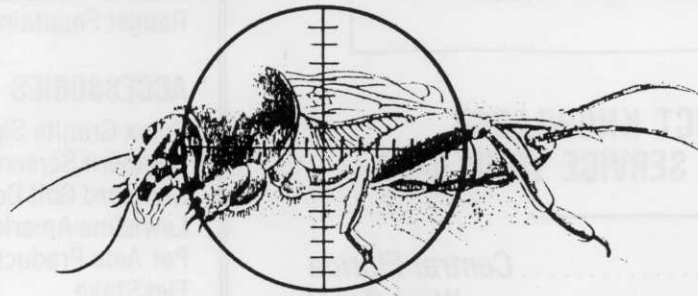
of a second conference was prompted by the growth of USGA Turfgrass Advisory Service subscribers in Central and North Florida.

The first conference will be March 12 at The Royce Hotel (Airport) in West Palm Beach. The second will be two days later at Orange Lake CC in Kissimmee. Both will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Featured speakers will be the same at both conferences:

- Ron Dodson, president, The Audubon Society of New York State, Inc., who will discuss the new USGA-Audubon "Cooperative Sanctuary Systems" program.
- Dr. Bert McCarty, Environmental Horticulture Department, University of Florida, will speak on Inte-

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- Jim Moore, Director, Mid-Continent Region, USGA, will speak on Computers in Golf Course Management.
- Brian Silva, golf course architect, will speak on the history of golf course design. Other topics will include:
- The future of golf course irrigation in Florida
- Fuel and pesticide storage
- The construction and management of USGA spec greens in Florida

CEUs will be given for members of the GCSAA, CMA and PGA. Club officials, managers and golf professionals will benefit from the program, according to the USGA.

Seating at both sessions will be limited. Preference will be given to those who pre-register

by calling Shelly Foy at the USGA Green Section Regional Office in Hobe Sound, at 407-546-2620 or by faxing the names and addresses of those attending to 407-546-GOLF.

Brochures for the Green Section Conference will be mailed in early February.

NGF honors six Fla. public courses

Six Florida golf courses are among 50 across the nation to be honored by the National Golf Foundation for special achievement in public golf. Although the awards recognize efforts in promoting public play, the recipients were quick to credit the role played by su-

perintendents in their efforts.

"The bottom line is, you have to have a course that golfers want to play," said Jerry Comeau, general manager of the St. Clair Shores (Mich.) Golf Club, cited by the NGF as its showcase winner for the variety of programs it offers.

"No matter what you do to get people on your course the first time, you won't get them back unless the superintendent is doing an outstanding job."

Florida courses honored were Melbourne Beach Municipal; Marriott's Orlando World (Layton Overstreet, superintendent); Metro West CC (Steve Sorrell, superintendent), Orlando; Mangrove Bay GC (Marshal Edgren, CGCS, superintendent), St. Petersburg; Twin Brooks GC, St. Peters-

burg; Sandridge GC, Vero Beach.

Lake City CC seeking OJT sites

Students in golf course operations, landscape technology, and turf equipment management at Lake City Community College will be seeking internship sites for summer 1991. The three-month practical field training (May through July) is a mandatory part of the LCCC curriculum.

Firms interested in participating should contact John R. Piersol, chairman; Golf Course Operations/Landscape Technology; Lake City Community College; Rt. 3, Box 7; Lake City, FL 32055; phone 904-752-1822, ext. 225.




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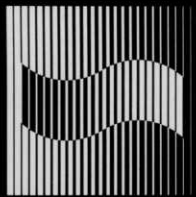
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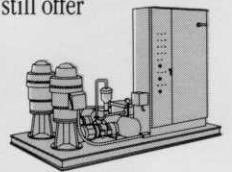
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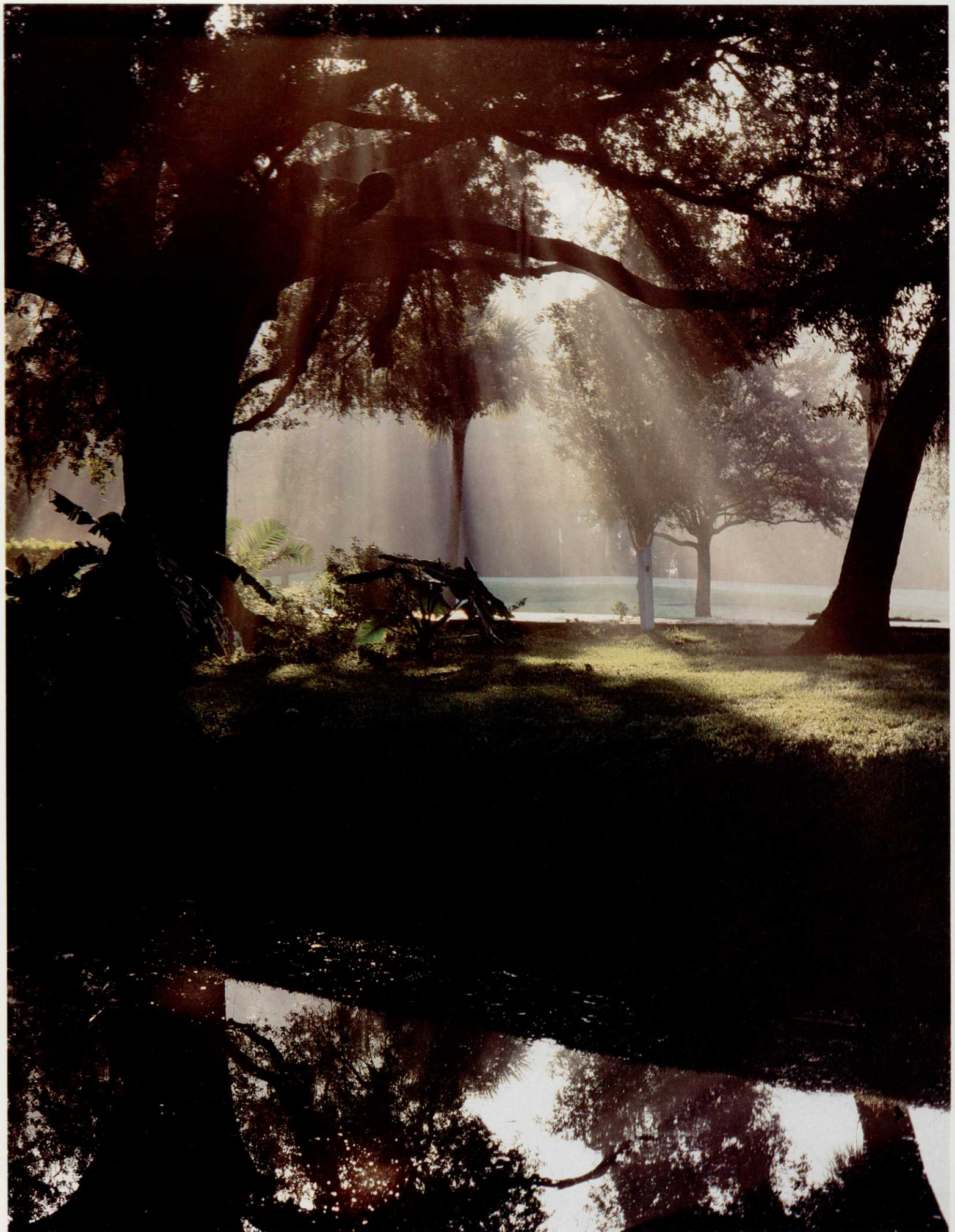
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The 700 members of the Country Club of Orlando gave their golf course a 72nd birthday present: 18 rebuilt greens and 32 new bunkers.



EVERHART/PHOTOGRAPHICS

Grand old lady gets a facelift

BY LARRY KIEFFER

At the Country Club of Orlando, the pride is back.

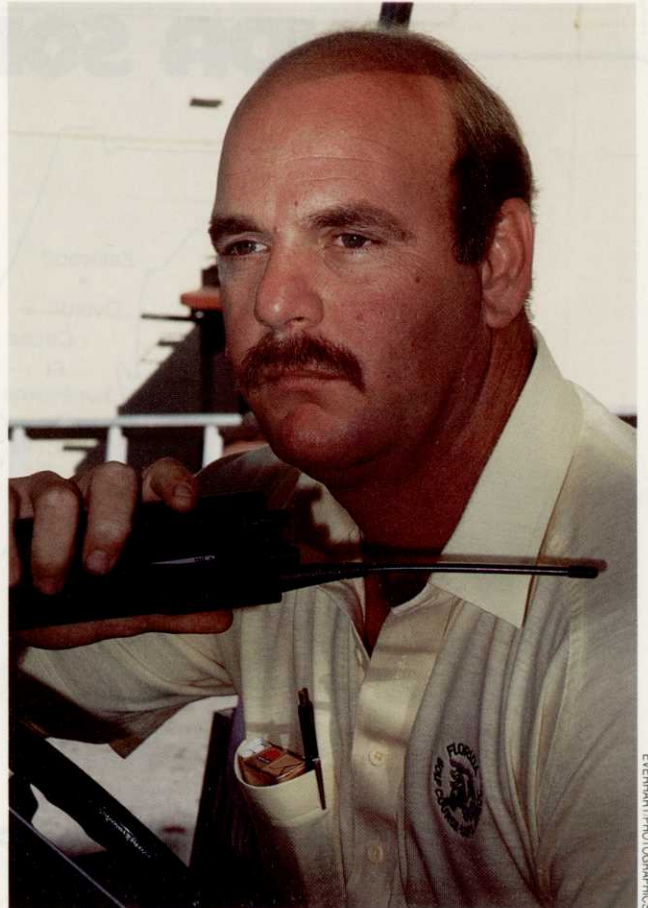
"We paid the price," says Tom Scarborough, chairman of the CCO greens committee. "And every time we walk out onto the golf course, we get our reward."

The price paid by CCO members was \$800,000 and loss of their golf course for five months.

The reward is a decidedly Donald Ross-flavored golf course with 18 completely rebuilt greens that will hold up to summer rains and heavy traffic.

"It was definitely worth it," says Scarborough. "I love playing Pinehurst No. 2 and Seminole, and now I can truthfully say I love playing my home club."

Above, the first hole sports five new bunkers and a chipping area. Bunkers at CCO will be hand-raked from now on, according to Superintendent Cary Lewis, CGCS, right, who helped sell the members on the renovation project. Mature oaks around 12th hole, left, show the dignity with which CCO wears her age.



EVERHART/PHOTOGRAPHICS



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For the uninitiated, the No. 2 course at Pinehurst, N.C., is universally acclaimed as the best course by Donald Ross, the architect whose prolific work between 1912 and 1947 still influences American golf course design. Seminole GC in North Palm Beach is another outstanding Ross course.

As reported in the Spring 1990 issue of *The Florida Green*, CCO is credited to Ross although there is no proof that the architect himself ever visited the site when the course was built in 1918. It has enough Ross characteristics, however, that most experts count it among the more than 200 courses built by one of Ross's construction superintendents.

CCO's small greens, built mostly on muck with World War I-era techniques, could not withstand the heavy traffic of the club's 700 golf members. Scars from three major surgeries on the greens, all done with limited budgets, destroyed much of the Ross character.

When it came time for surgery number four, the CCO members decided to follow the advice of superintendent Cary Lewis and architect Brian Silva: Completely rebuild the greens, this time to USGA specifications and rework the surrounds to inject some Ross flavor.

In particular, Silva wanted to put Ross-style chipping areas next to several greens.

Everyone was excited and optimistic as the project was described in that issue last year. How did it turn out?

"The chipping areas came out better than my wildest dreams," Silva said. "Keep in mind that we were not following any kind of a Donald Ross plan. We were just trying to inject the essence of the Ross flavor."

"Fantastic," reports Lewis. "We finished on time, on budget and I have not heard a single complaint from the members."

"I haven't heard a complaint either," says greens chairman Scarborough, "not one complaint since we re-opened the golf course Sept. 28."

"A greens chairman at a club with 700 active golfing members who hasn't heard a single complaint in three

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months? That's unheard of!" says Silva. "But then so is just about everything else with this project.

"I have never before been involved in a project of this magnitude with so many people where everybody left his ego at the door. That's really what made it work.

"These were all reasonable, rational, down-to-earth people. From the general manager to the committee members to the superintendent to the contractor to the members, I have never seen such a diverse group so single-minded of purpose.

"It was the greatest work experience I have ever had.

In separate interviews, all three principals agreed that planning and commitment to excellence were the keys to success.

"You must give yourself adequate time to analyze the program and plan the project," says Lewis, who put in 18 months of preparation before construction began. "Take a hard look at your golf course with the idea that you are going to have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to solve some problems.

"Think about where materials are going to be staged, and how the tight areas of your golf course are going to be accessed. The core of a green is 400 tons of material. Moving it can damage the soil, bridges, paths, and so on. And you've got to do it 18 times.

"Make sure you can put the puzzle back together again."

"You must have the right people," says Scarborough. "Even if it's a turn-key operation, the superintendent must have construction experience. And you must have the right contractor. We did not put the job out for bids and I think that's why it was successful."

Silva stresses the single-mindedness of purpose.

"Because we wanted to inject a Donald Ross character at CCO, we all had to be of one mind what Ross character was and what we could do about it," he said.

To that end, Silva, Lewis, contractor Jeff Harstine of Central Florida Turf,

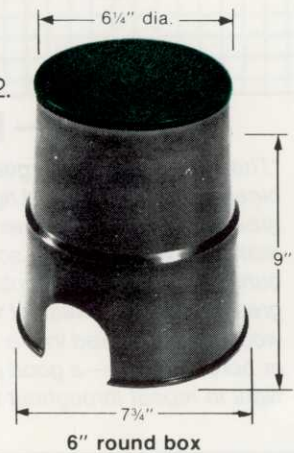
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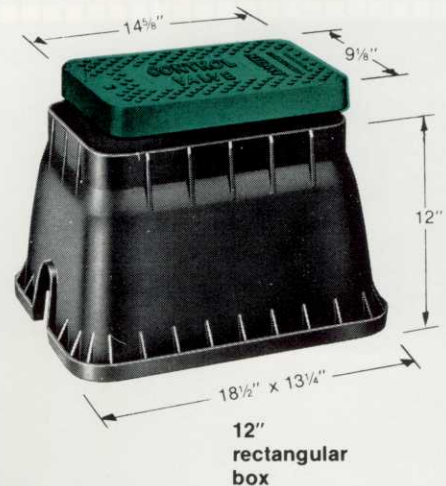
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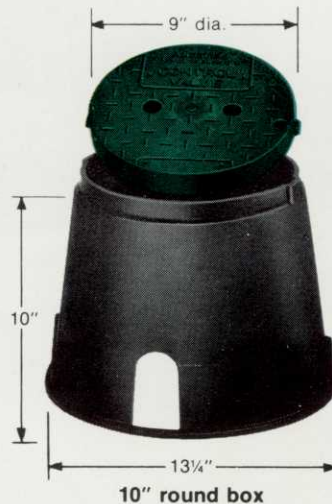
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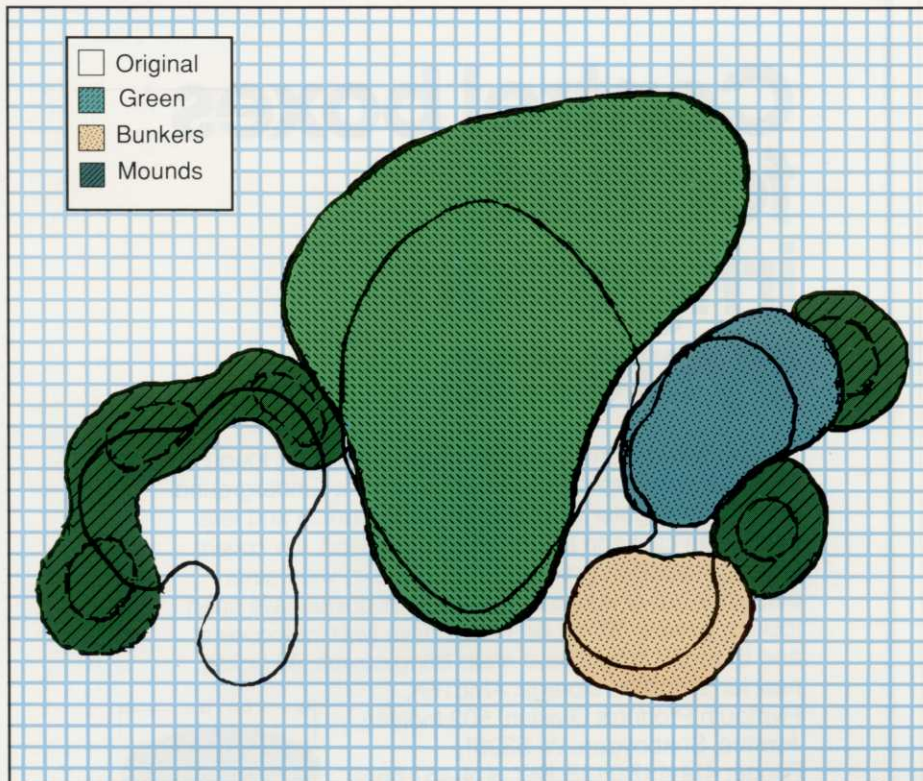


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No. 1 — Lots of Ross character left

"The current green is a good example of a Ross-style plateau green that bleeds off to the left and right rear. The proposed green would restore the green to its former size, extending the green to the left rear, rear and right rear. This would restore some very strategic pin positions. The right front bunker would be re-cut into a Ross pair that sets against the fill pad of the green so as not to restrict visibility of the putting surface. The left bunker would be re-worked into a Ross-style chipping area maintained at fairway or apron height — a good precursor to a classic Ross hazard that we want to repeat throughout the course."

-Brian Silva



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EVERHART PHOTOGRAPHICS



**Before and after
a tale of two greens**

Was the renovation at County...
ful? Judge for yourself. Left is a
renovation with Silva's sketches
of the finished product. Right is
"before" photo of the fifth hole

