

Travis Point members OK major renovation

Members of Travis Pointe Country Club in Ann Arbor, Mich., have voted to spend \$1.4 million to renovate the clubhouse, funding the project entirely through assessments of the 800 members.

The member-owned club expects "significant savings" from the remodeling, according to board president George Lind-

strom. The work will consolidate all food-service operations on the main floor of the club, refurbish and redecorate the clubhouse, create new social and informal dining areas and reorganize lower-level spaces such as the tennis and golf pro shops.

The renovation will be done over the first four months of 1990.

Shrine Garden

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building, replacing a moat that encircled the area. A plaque dedicates the gardens to golf course superintendents around the world.

The project began in 1988, was completed in August and was publicly dedicated Nov. 2.

The project is an attempt to give superintendents more of the recognition they deserve, said Mike Hoffman, director of marketing for the Toro commercial products division.

'Golf course superintendents are key members of the golfing industry...'
— Mike Hoffman

"Golf course superintendents are key members of the golfing industry who have made major contributions to the game," Hoffman said. "Through the Shrine Gardens, we hope they receive the

recognition in this special Hall of Fame that they have earned through their hard work, expertise, and commitment to the game."

The majority of the superintendents in the United States, or 9,000, are members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The Professional Golfers' Association of America, the world's largest sports organization, consists of more than 16,000 members and apprentices and is represented at more than half of the nation's 13,400 courses.



Palmetto Dunes CC, Hilton Head, SC

Connor

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foresees are the special trademarks of the various masters — just like Ross' bunkering. The industry should save those trademarks, he said.

"Part of the reason Seminole and Pinehurst dropped out of the top 10 courses was erosion of their architectural integrity over the years," Connor said.

"Golf courses are living, changing things .. always being changed by top-dressing, weather, what-have-you. Having the courses permanently recorded on a computer disc is a very valuable tool because those measurements never change."

Connor also bemoaned his feeling that "so many dead architects are getting compromised on a lot of these courses (that are being renovated)."

He hopes officials at old courses decide to retain the features that are trademarks of their designers rather than hire a present-day architect to add his or her touch to the courses.

"What we think we've brought to the industry with this type of technology is the chance for an old club to make alterations," Connor said. "Say you have a Ross bunker that's beautifully shaped and proportioned and nicely contoured and you're very happy with it except it's in the wrong location.

The new clubs and shafts and balls have made the location of the bunker complex 200 yards off the tee completely out of play. All the new guys are driving the ball right past that bunker, so you want to move it down 30 or 40 yards but save its basic shape and configuration.

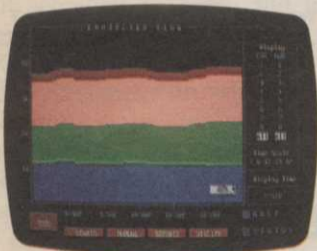
"This is a tool you can use to do that. Just make a computer image of it and you can go down the fairway and rebuild it.

"It takes the subjectivity out of the process of restoration."

The PGA's Stillwell added, "For somebody to take a bulldozer, tear up a green and replace it the way it used to be, that's a magical feat.

"It is a way of the future."

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