

NEWS

Monks lose cause, plan wins approval

The Clark County (Va.) Board of Supervisors has approved a golf course along the Shenandoah River despite the protests of environmentalists and silent opposition of 25 Trappist monks who lived across the river.

The supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of the special-use permit to build the \$2.5 million course scheduled to open in the spring of 1992. Their environmental concerns were largely satisfied by the developer's integrated pest management plan.

The 151-acre course sits opposite the Holy Cross Abbey where the monks "bake bread to support a contemplative lifestyle based on silence and solitude," according to the Washington Post.

The Natural Resources Defense Council and several local groups vigorously fought the proposal, although it was often portrayed as a showdown between developers and the monks. The monks remained silent on whether the course would force them to move.

Verplank and Wood partners in design firm

Touring professionals Willie Wood and Scott Verplank have formed a golf course design firm and already have a course lined up.

Wood and Verplank "feel that golf course design needs to get away from target golf and return to traditional concepts," Wood said.

Wood-Verplank Design Consultants has signed a design consulting agreement with Oxford Development Corp. of Oklahoma City, Okla., and architect Randy Heckencamper of Tulsa, Okla., for a daily fee course in Oklahoma City.

"We are excited about our first design project, which will be ready for play in the fall of 1991, and we are looking forward to future projects," Verplank said.

They are headquartered at 6305 Waterford Blvd. in Oklahoma City.

Brighton Crest cited as top community plan

Brighton Crest, a planned golf course community in Fresno, Calif., won the Gold Nugget Grand Award for Best Planned Community Site Plan over 100 Acres at the Pacific Coast Builders Conference in San Francisco in June.

Judges said David Jensen Associates of Denver, Colo., "made good use of the natural topography and preserved the site's natural quality."

An 18-hole course, which architect Johnny Miller says is "breath-taking and challenging," is a cornerstone of the development which will include additional courses, homes, shopping facilities, boating and horseback riding.

Millerton New Town Development is developer of the project.

USDA honors Dr. Funk for work in turf breeding

The U.S. Department of Agriculture bestowed the Distinguished Service Award in June on Dr. C. Reed Funk, of Rutgers University's State Agricultural Experiment Station.

Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter presented Funk the award for "distinguished scientific achievements in turf breeding and outstanding contributions to the turf industry and the general public."

At ceremonies in Washington, D.C., Yeutter cited Funk for el-

evating turfgrass breeding to "an appreciated and respected status."

Yeutter said Funk's impact on the turf industry has been unparalleled, and mentioned Funk's development of the perennial ryegrass Manhattan, Rebel tall fescue, and the turf-type cultivar of *Poa trivialis* — three "landmark cultivars."

Funk also developed the first successful method of producing Kentucky blue-

grass cultivars by means of intra-specific hybridization of apomictic parents.

More recently he and his students have been involved in the discovery that endophytic fungi are associated with many instances of enhanced performance in perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, hard fescue and chewings fescue.

With his students, Funk developed a number of turf-type perennial ryegrasses containing high levels of endophyte.

SIUE pursuing proposals

The Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Planning and Budget Council has recommended that President Earl Lazerson obtain proposals from potential developers for the school's controversial golf course.

Lazerson and university officials have begun putting together stipulations for a proposal request to develop the 300-acre tract that includes the former Mississippi River Festival site.

Preliminary stipulations require no university funds be spent to build or manage the facility, reduced green fees for students and employees and the use of natural fertilizers, according to the *The (Alton) Telegraph*.

Acceptable proposals will be turned over to the chancellor and voted on by the SIU board of trustees.



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