

Marietta down for one year

The Marietta (Ga.) Country Club will close for up to a year while a \$1.8 million reconstruction takes place after the city takes over the club in September.

The city is purchasing the club for \$6.6 million and will issue a revenue bond for \$9 million to cover the purchase and reconstruction costs.

The course will close Sept. 30 and remain so for the next 10 to 12 months. The city manager sent out requests for proposals to design and/or manage the course. Responses were due back July 25.

Charcoal looms as high-use product

Charcoal could become a growth product in Japan where it is being used to improve soils and absorb chemicals on golf courses.

Japan's charcoal production peaked at 2.22 million tons in 1956, but has declined steadily since, according to The Japan Economic Journal. Today it is used primarily for cookouts by campers and yakitori (grilled chicken) chefs.

Charcoal is a low-tech product

made produced by heating wood (often scrap wood) in the absence of air. Water is driven off, leaving behind innumerable pores and giving it enormous porosity.

The pores trap various kinds of molecules making it an ideal absorbent for golf courses.

According to Japan's Forestry Agency, charcoal could be used to absorb chemical residues from grass that otherwise could pollute ground

water.

It can also improve certain types of acidic soil.

The calcium and potassium in charcoal provide a favorable environment for bacteria that enrich the soil with nutrients used by plants.

Charcoal also improves soil's capacity to retain water. Approximately 17,000 tons of charcoal are used annually to improve poor soil conditions in Japan.

Cleveland votes to remodel Manakiki

The Cleveland Metroparks Board of Park Commissioners has voted to improve 70-year-old Manakiki Golf Course at a cost that could reach \$1 million.

Architect Craig Scheiner of Dublin

is designing a master rehabilitation plan for the Donald Ross course that could include a continuous cart path.

Scheiner said he will concentrate on the course's drainage problems as well as the need for bigger tees and

more hazards.

The analysis should be completed by mid-August with work beginning by October.

The facelift is expected to take two to four years to complete.

NEWS

LPGA complex gains approval in Florida town

The Ladies Professional Golf Association and the city of Daytona Beach, Fla., have finally reached an agreement on the development of a new LPGA headquarters, two new courses and a resort hotel.

The potential economic benefit to the area could reach \$1 billion over the next 20 to 25 years, developers predicted.

The first championship course is tentatively scheduled for completion by Dec. 31, 1992, and the second a year later. The courses, LPGA headquarters, 225-room hotel, mixed residential and commercial development will be located on 3,700 acres located between Interstate 95 and 11th Street.

Consolidated Tomoka and Indigo Development Inc. own the property and donated 350 acres for the courses, LPGA headquarters, practice facilities and clubhouse.

"We're just delighted," LPGA Commissioner Bill Blue told the Daytona Beach News, adding the agreement is "the second step. The first was getting us to come here, and the third will be getting the effort underway."

Plans are to begin work immediately on a concept plan, seek proposals for a possible LPGA Hall of Fame, and select a course architect. The city will select the designer with input from the LPGA.

Cushman grants scholarships

Cushman Inc. has awarded \$250 scholarships to two students in Lake City (Fla.) Community College's School of Golf Course Operations.

Nancy L. Harris and Arthur W. Faris of Lake City received plaques and the scholarships to help them attend the three-year program that prepares students for work as golf course superintendents and assistants.

Cushman service personnel have provided instructional assistance to LCCC for more than 20 years, teaching basic golf course mechanics students the skills to maintain and repair turf maintenance equipment.

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