

Maine Golf Guide best of Northern N.E. trilogy

By Vern Putney

The Maine Golf Guide, the third volume in a Northern New England golfing trilogy by Bob Labbanca and David Cornwell, is the largest and most comprehensive of the three books.

All 104 public courses in Maine are covered in detail, with additional sections on private clubs, courses that no longer exist, and layouts under construction. Course maps for 52 of the clubs, together with 144 photographs, illustrate the book's 208 pages.

Summary boxes for each course list date established, number of holes, yardages, pars, slope figures, 150-yard markers, approximate season, amenities, whether starting times are needed, directions and phone numbers.

A chart of 1990 fees includes weekday, weekend and twilight fees, carts, lessons and special package rates, and appendices include the history of Maine golf, golf course architects, driving ranges, club pros and superintendents, and even miniature golf.

Travel maps begin sections for the northern, central and southern regions of the state.

Maine is a big state to cover in terms of territory, and the Vermont-based authors needed some help to pin down routes leading to some rather remote links. Coming to their aid as correspondents with strong area knowledge and game experience were Rick Denison, Gene McNabb, Mark Putnam and Pete Webber.

Even so, Labbanca and Cornwell nabbed little sleep the past two summers as they hit the road early and frequently arrived home in the wee hours a couple of mornings later. Finding courses off the beaten path led to adventure and misadventure, and the golf game sometimes suffered because of fatigue.

Often, though, they were rejuvenated by unique sites at their destinations. Labbanca was particularly impressed with many of the seaside and coastal layouts, terrain and structure he termed visual treats.

Though private courses are dealt with in narrative form, like the earlier books on Vermont and New Hampshire courses they don't get the complete public course treatment.

Explains Labbanca, "The books are aimed at the public golfer and the golfing public. Coming into a new state, the stranger is at a loss to locate a course he's heard about or one where he's in the vicinity but can't pinpoint. Maps, road routes and details we've provided make the course findable, and save a lot of mileage woes we encountered the past five years."

Labbanca and Cornwell took a lot of wrong turns and dead ends in their explorations that

began as a hobby and became a project, almost an obsession.

The \$15 guide is available in bookstores, golf pro shops, sporting goods stores and from the publishers, New England Golf Specialists, Box 17, Stockbridge, Vt. 05772.

Asked when they plan to tackle remaining New England states—Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island—the pair fall silent. Both have full-time jobs.

Labbanca maintains a particularly punishing pace. He works 15 hours weekly for another author, golf course architect and historian Geoffrey S. Cornish of Amherst, Mass. As research editor, Labbanca is updat-

ing "The Golf Course," the world courses and architects' "bible" Cornish wrote in collaboration with Ron Whitten.

Whitten has gone on to other projects, but will add a chapter to Part One, which deals with the history of golf course architecture. Labbanca is entering the 1,000 new courses built since 1986 publication. Part III of the master course list will be listed in new form, easier to read, with redundant information eliminated.

Labbanca is pleased that Cornish noted in his foreword of The Maine Golf Guide, "a job well done in every respect ... a service of immeasurable value."

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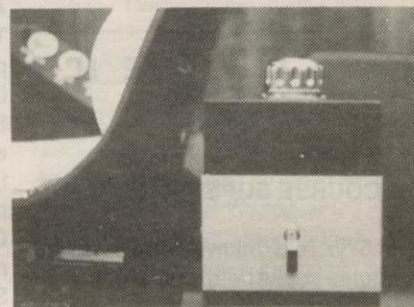
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New book details best plants of inland Northwest

PULLMAN, Wash. — From Arabis to Zelkova, "Landscape Plants for the Inland Northwest" provides descriptions of nearly 500 trees, shrubs, vines and ground covers that grow well in the region.

Descriptions include the height and width plants reach when full grown, growth habit, whether they prefer sun or shade and soil conditions to which the plant is adapted.

Information in "Landscape Plants for the Inland Northwest" sometimes differs from that in other references. This is because it is based on observations of the plants under Inland Northwest climate and soil conditions.

The 70-page, spiral-bound publication groups vines, trees, shrubs and ground covers separately and includes common and scientific names.

It is available for \$3 from Bulletin Office, Cooperative Extension, Cooper Publications Building, WSU, Pullman, WA 99164-5912. To obtain a copy, send a check or money order payable to Cooperative Extension Publications. Ask for EB1579.

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