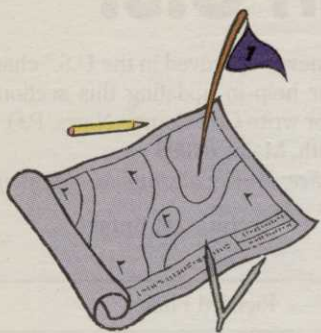


## Briefs



## JAPAN CITES VON HAGGE COURSE

Von Hagge Design Associates of Spring, Texas, has learned its Horai Country Club in Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, north of Tokyo, will receive the country's Best New Course award for 1990.

Earlier, Robert von Hagge accepted "Le Premier Trophée Du Meilleur Golf De L'Année" (the first trophy for the best golf course of the year) for France 1990 for the Golf du Seignosse.

Last year, the firm's Golf International "Les Bordes" received the only new five-star rating in 20 years on the European continent.

Recently, associate and lead architect Rick Baril and Mr. and Mrs. von Hagge attended the opening of another von Hagge Design Associate course, Golf Club National.

The Golf National, outside Paris, is the first stadium-style golf course on the European continent and will be the permanent home for the French Open.

## PALMER PUTTING IMPRINT ON LAYOUT

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Arnold Palmer is adding his personal touch to Plantation Pointe here, with a 18-hole championship golf course carved from the woods along the shores of Lake Murray.

Palmer and the Palmer Course Design Co. team will master-plan the remainder of the more than 550-acre community surrounding the lakefront course.

## INDIAN TRAILS NEARS OPENING

BUCK GROVE, Ill. — The back nine of the new 18-hole Indian Trails Golf Course should be ready for play in March, and the other nine playable by early to mid-summer.

Course superintendent Paul Pierceall said he irrigation system is in place on the back nine and the holes seeded.

The course is on 145 acres, five miles south of Mattoon. Lakes come into play on seven holes.

PGA professional Kelly Spaulding will be course director.

## YOUNG, CLASSIC GOLF ON PROJECT

MARIETTA, Ga. — Mike Young Designs, of Watkinsville, Ga., and Classic Golf Management of Athens, Ga., will redesign and renovate the former Marietta Country Club.

Construction of the 18-hole layout is under way and the course, purchased by the city, is expected to reopen as the Marietta Municipal Golf Course early in the fall of 1991.

The clubhouse dates back to before the Civil War, when it housed the Georgia Military Academy.

## GOLFSCAPES CHOSEN FOR COURSE

LINCOLN, Neb. — Golfscapes of Arlington, Texas, will design the 18-hole Highlands golf course in the northwest section of the city.

The course is a major aspect of the development plan in the Highlands, annexed into the city in December 1989.

Construction is scheduled to start next fall, grass to be seeded in August 1992 and the course open in June 1993.

# Pesticides last hurdle for major Sherman Hollow project in Vermont

By Vern Putney

HUNTINGTON, Vt. — The proposed golf course at Sherman Hollow here, which since 1984 has suffered more rejections than 5-6 Atlanta Hawks guard Spike Webb attempting a scoop shot on basket-guarding Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks, tried for the umpteenth time to live up to the Tenth Commandment of the state Environmental Board.

The board held rigid to its dictum, "Thou shalt not permeate the ground with pesticides not meeting our standards."

Developer Paul Truax and Sherman Hollow

Inc. associates, cleared on nine counts, have been relentless in pursuit of golf course approval, considered a necessary first phase to transform this chosen land into a destination resort, bedecked with a hotel, restaurant, conference center and swank condominiums.

The original project price tag was \$22 million. Truax and partners, while declining to be specific on costs aimed at obtaining approval, won't quibble with a "hundreds of thousands of dollars" guesstimate. The current cross-country ski area can not survive unless allowed to expand, Truax ventured.

Town officials, hard-pressed for the Yankee dollar, can break their expenditure down to pennies.

Residents fighting Sherman Hollow claim the town has spent \$13,422.76 on legal expenses defending and supporting the project since 1985. That kind of coin buys a lot of hay and maple syrup in the belt-tightened Green Mountain State.

Project opponents find it especially galling that their taxes are being used to further the pro-golf course lobby. Despite this, Huntington

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The par 4, 331-yard 4th hole at Cypress Knoll Golf Course in Palm Coast, Fla., is vintage Gary Player design. The tee shot is critical, carrying a wild-growth area. The second shot is a short iron to a green guarded by three pot bunkers.

## Int'l golf future bright

By Peter Blais

The opportunities for overseas golf course development are excellent in most of the 126 countries where golf is played, according to a panel assembled at November's Golf Summit 90.

The panel was moderated by Gary Wiren, president of Golf Around the World and master teacher at PGA National Golf Club.

Panel members included John Gordon, managing editor of Score magazine, Canada's largest monthly golf publication; Jillian Yorke, editor of the magazine Japan Golf Report and vice president of International Golf Research Institute; Australian journalist Douglas Mason; Lage Engebo of the Swedish Golf Federation; and John Laupheimer, staff vice president of International Management Group.

## CANADA

Canada's population of 25 million, about the same as California, is spread over a land mass larger than the United States, Gordon said. Yet, 95 percent of Canadians live within 100 miles of the U.S. border.

Gordon said there are 5.1 million golfers in Canada that represents 21 percent of its citizens, giving Canada the highest participation rate in the world.

Canada has 2,000 courses with 200 more under construction or planning. The hotbeds are southern British Columbia and Alberta in the west and southern Ontario farther east.

In the past 15 years, the number of golfers and courses has doubled.

Canada has a rich golf history. The Royal Montreal Golf Club founded in 1873 was the

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# Blenders, golf courses a perfect mix

By Mark Leslie

A million things can kill a green and there is no excuse for opting for the cheap choice in mixing soil, according to experts in the soil-blending industry.

"The top architects and the aggressive leaders in the industry are specing the blending into contracts," said Troy McNeill of Transamerican Soil Blenders in Lubbock, Texas. "The greens are the heartbeat of the golf course. If you don't have good greens, people won't play your course."

"A first-class green only costs two to three percent more than a third-class green. The

money saved won't be saved a year later when you have to rebuild a green," said Tom Briddle of Tectonic, Inc. in Longmont, Colo.

Briddle, who said he recently blended the soil for a 22-green facility for \$18,000, could only question why a developer would choose to mix the soil with a front-end loader or rototiller.

Golf course architect and builder Jim Fazio of Juno Beach, Fla., agreed. Putting the cost of blending for 19 holes at \$30,000, he said: "On a \$3-million golf course that's only one-tenth of one percent. The average cost of buying the materials and building 19 greens is \$275,000 to \$300,000, and no one's going to

take a chance with that kind of money of not having it right."

Though there are only a handful of blenders in North America, the field is expected to grow, since, as Briddle said: "Anything that's successful always attracts more players."

Christine Faulks, president of Greensmix of Waupaca, Wis., explained the rising importance of blending: "In the past five years or so the whole industry has become more sophisticated. And, in turn, a lot of contractors have been burned—gotten into lawsuits, and had jobs shut down—because their mix was not accurate."

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# International Sherman Hollow faces pesticide hurdles

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between 36 and 54.

• Twenty-four percent of golfers, approximately 72,000, are juniors. The SGF tries to keep it at this level or higher through inexpensive junior memberships. Engebo said his 10-year-old son pays \$30 annually for his membership.

• The climate is similar to Canada. One-fourth of Scandinavia is beyond the Arctic Circle, where play is limited to three to four months a year. Warmed by the Gulf Stream, play in the south extends 10 to 12 months.

## EUROPE

"Europe is undergoing a metamorphosis in golf," Laupheimer said.

Golfing interest was basically limited to the United Kingdom and Ireland until the mid-1970s. But since then interest has spread throughout Europe.

"Europe has become the most exciting and fastest growing continent in terms of golf development and participation in the world," Laupheimer said. "But remember, we are starting from a low base."

From 1974 to 1989 there was a 231 percent increase in golfers and a 70 percent jump in courses, higher on both counts than any other continent.

But Europe is "at an embryonic stage of development" compared to North America. North America has 21,000 courses and 23 million golfers. Europe, including Scandinavia, lists only 3,600 courses and 4.2 million golfers.

With a geographic area comparable to the United States and a surge in golfing interest, the number of golfers is expected to more than double to 10 million by the year 2000. A 25 percent growth in courses is expected over the next two years.

Increases in leisure time and disposable income are the driving forces behind golf's new status as the "No. 1 growth sport in Europe," Laupheimer said. Then there is the success of professional golfers like Nick Faldo, Ian Woosnam, Sandy Lyle, Seve Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer as well as the European Ryder Cup team. Television coverage and tournaments have also increased.

The increase in incomes and courses have opened the game to more people. But the growth is different in various countries.

Laupheimer divides Europe into four development categories. Great Britain and Ireland are traditional golf nations; Spain and Portugal are holiday golf nations; France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg are emerging golf nations; and Eastern Europe consists of potential golf nations.

Demand exceeds supply throughout most of Europe, Laupheimer said. Public courses are in very short supply since 82 percent of Europe's courses are private.

Environmental restrictions and financial difficulties are the two major stumbling blocks to building the necessary facilities, he added.

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selectmen have sent out another round of letters to Chittenden County's state senators, declaring that the controversial Act 250 process has let them down. They contend that "during the Sherman Hollow permitting debacle, several other (golf courses) are now operating with little or no opposition and/or scrutiny." Truax concurs, accusing the District Commission of holding Sherman Hollow to tougher environmental standards than other Vermont golf courses.

Michael O'Connor, serving as representative on the Vermont Industry Policy Board, an executive board under the Vermont Golf Association, strongly disagrees.

O'Connor, course superintendent at Basin Harbor CC, Vergennes, perhaps is the most knowledgeable and informed on the Sherman Hollow infighting. He's been president of the Vermont supers and prominent on area and state environmental boards.

Said O'Connor: "Currently the industry, comprising 54 golf facilities in Vermont, has expended more than \$25,000 just in meeting the current pesticide regulations adopted Oct. 25, 1990. The Vermont Industry Policy Board has raised an additional \$25,000 just to comply with the industry's need to hire a turfgrass position within the Vermont Department of Agriculture."

O'Connor is concerned with golf's good name in the wake of develop-

ment. While it bothers him that Vermont is perceived by the rest of the country as the villain, he applauds the applicant's decision to appeal.

Decisions like this, left untouched, he said, set a precedent that others would have to overcome. He hopes for a settlement soon in a case that has become known as "Politics, Pesticides and a Permit."

Opponents contend they must come up with their own Stamp Act and propaganda campaign to counter "official" mailing. "They (town fathers) might as well have a franking privilege," commented one dissenter.

While project opponents lack the impressive array of scientists enlisted

by Sherman Hollow advocates, they have a distinguished voice.

Dr. Hugh Brown from the University of Vermont, representing naysayers, testified that when he used his input data, he found three times as much runoff and 40 to 90 times more leaching than the model had shown by Sherman Hollow.

If the state board overturns the second and latest District 4 Commission veto, Sherman Hollow can proceed with course construction.

Should the Board dash Sherman Hollow hopes, the Vermont Supreme Court appears the next step. Or, Truax could start from scratch with a new set of hearings studying all potential impacts of the golf course.



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