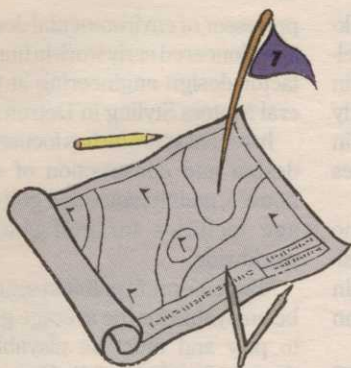


## Briefs

**EPA DEMANDS MAN 'UNDO' NINE HOLES**

WEST BEND, Wis. — Owner Jim Korth was "pretty proud" of the nine holes he almost single-handedly had added to the 18-hole Hon-E-Kor golf course.

Now he's been told by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency he must restore the area to pre-construction condition, in effect moving the tees and greens south, or face more than \$100,000 in fines for wetlands habitat violations.

Restoration cost is estimated at \$20,000.

Korth had dealt with the county Land Use and Park Department and the Army Corps of Engineers.

**MICH. GOVERNOR RESURRECTS PLAN**

ACME, Mich. — Gov. John Engler has resurrected a controversial proposal to replace wetlands along the Leelanau Peninsula's Crystal River with an 18-hole golf course and housing development.

EPA Administrator said the agency has re-evaluated its decision to block the proposed expansion of the Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor. Developer Robert Kuras seeks a permit to fill almost four acres of wetlands near Crystal River.

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources wants to approve the project.

"If the EPA allows the golf course development," said Sierra Club's Great Lakes program director Brett Hulsey, "it will be open season on wetlands in Michigan."

**LIBERTY STATE PARK OPPOSED**

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Scott Weiner does not believe advocates of an 18-hole golf course at Liberty State Park have demonstrated a need for it.

The state environmental commissioner questioned whether the course could generate enough money to be self-sustaining and finance improvements in other sections of the park. He did not rule out consideration of a golf course or other public use of the park if a financial and environmental need could be demonstrated.

The golf course would cover 150 to 160 acres of park land and accommodate 50,000 to 60,000 golfers a year.

**VOTERS REJECT PUBLIC FINANCING**

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — Public financing to help pay for a private golf course and housing development here has been rejected by the Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association.

The watchdog group opposed use of tax increment financing for the Glen Oaks Golf Course Community because it was a private venture and a residential golf course development.

Insurance executive Gary Kirke had asked West Des Moines to designate 435 acres of farmland an urban renewal area to help development of the course, clubhouse and executive housing. Cost to prepare the tract for development was estimated at \$50 million.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

# The best of 1991

## Wadsworth repeats for 3rd time as top builder...

By Peter Blais

**F**or the third straight year, Wadsworth Construction Co. has been selected the top golf course builder in the Golf Course News annual golf course architects survey.

While the Plainfield, Ill.-based contractor garnered 36 percent of the votes, three other companies — Paul Clute & Associates Inc., Landscapes Unlimited Inc. and Guettler & Sons Inc. — registered strong showings.

"We appreciate the architects giving us this consideration. It's a good feeling. We also appreciate the efforts of the developers

Best conditioned resort course on pro tour: Story on page 17  
Best resort developer. Story on page 45

we've been able to work for," said John Cotter, Wadsworth's vice chairman of the board.

Despite the slumping national economy, Wadsworth opened 16 courses in 1991 and has another 12 planned openings set for 1992.

The 1991 openings include (with architect in parentheses) University Ridge, Madison, Wis. (Robert Trent Jones Jr.); Chicopee Woods Golf Course, Gainesville, Ga. (Denis Griffiths); Seven Bridges Golf Club,

Woodbridge, Ill. (Dick Nugent); Bonita Bay Golf Course, Naples, Fla. (Arthur Hills); The Golf Club of Georgia, Alpharetta, Ga. (Arthur Hills); Green Acres Country Club, Northbrook, Ill. (Roger Packard); Bardmoor/Bayou Club, Largo, Fla. (Tom Fazio); Cobblestone Creek Country Club, Victor, N.Y. (Michael Hurdzan); Cedar Creek Golf Course, Aiken, S.C. (Arthur Hills).

Also, Deer Creek Golf Course, Savannah, Ga. (Tom Fazio); Hyatt Regency Kauai, Koloa, Hawaii (Robert Trent Jones Jr.); Conway Farms South, Lake Forest, Ill. (Tom

Continued on page 42

## ...while Fazio garners most designer votes

By Mark Leslie

From a Baltimore course he calls "a modern-day Augusta National" to a California site that "is so strong it even shocks me," Tom Fazio is thrilled about his 1991 golf course designs.

Chosen in a Golf Course News poll of course architects and builders as the Architect of the Year for the third straight time, Fazio said, "The courses I did this year are the best I've ever done."

Fazio received more than one-fourth of the votes cast in the annual survey, gaining the nod over runners-up Rees Jones and Pete Dye. Twenty-two architects received votes.

Jones drew praise for his extensive renovation work on championship courses, and for his new Atlantic Club on Long Island, which, one architect said, "shows a culmination of years of experience of sensitivity to golf environment and people."

Another said: "Rees is not influenced by fashion. He uses bedrock concepts of classic design. And he can work within budgets."

Dye, whose major work of the year was the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, was praised for his innovative designs and advanced technical applications.

Fazio's supporters attributed their votes



Pelican Hill Ocean Course's 12th hole, a 212-yard par-3 called Pelican's Nest, features a large green nestled among rock outcroppings, with a large waste area in front of the green. The course was designed by Tom Fazio.

to his courses' versatility, playability, challenge and sensitivity to the environment.

"He has great versatility in style; no two courses are alike," wrote one.

"(He designs) great but playable courses that are sensitive to the environment," wrote a second.

Another said Fazio produces "fair, challenging and beautiful design work."

Fazio himself said he would stake his fu-

ture on courses he designed in 1991.

Talking about the Golf Course of Tennessee in Nashville, he said: "I'd stake my future on this golf course — it's that strong. Hole after hole after hole. And I'd do the same with the others this year as well."

Reviewing the courses he worked on in 1991, Fazio reported:

• Golf Course of Tennessee, a private

Continued on page 40

## Golf Course Builders Ass'n maps strategic plan

By Peter Blais

Golf Course Builders Association of America officials plan to unveil a first draft of the association's new strategic plan at February's annual meeting.

The initial gathering of the nine-member planning board was held Oct. 25-26 in Chicago. The board will meet again Jan. 15-16 in Dallas, according to GCBA Executive Director Phil Arnold.

The strategic plan, Arnold said, will detail where the organization is headed and address such issues as in-house educational programs for members; builder certification programs; membership growth; and revenue-producing activities, such as seminars for non-members.

The committee's recommendations will

be a working document that members will discuss at the annual meeting in New Orleans. That input will be incorporated into the final strategic plan, which should be drafted sometime in 1992, the executive director said.

"This is the first time anyone has sat down and really thought about what direction the association should be heading in," Arnold said. "A strategic plan gives you a road map for figuring out where you want to go and how to get there."

Arnold sees the GCBA heading in a positive direction. Membership grew from 72 to 110 members during the past year and could eventually reach 150 or more, he said. The association has about a dozen interna-

tional members and Arnold expects additional growth in that area.

"We get frequent calls from overseas," he said.

Arnold also hopes to begin a golf course construction cost data base.

"No organization I know of has a wide body of construction cost data," he said.

The members of the strategic plan committee include Arnold, GCBA President Perry Dye, Paul Eldredge of Wadsworth Construction Co., Jerry Pierman of International Golf Group, Jim Kirchdorfer of Irrigation Supply Co., John McDonald of McDonald & Son Construction, David Truttmann of Buckner Inc., Doyle Jacklin of Jacklin Seed Co. and Paul Clute of Paul Clute & Associates.



# Fazio says great competition pushes himself, colleagues

Continued from page 27

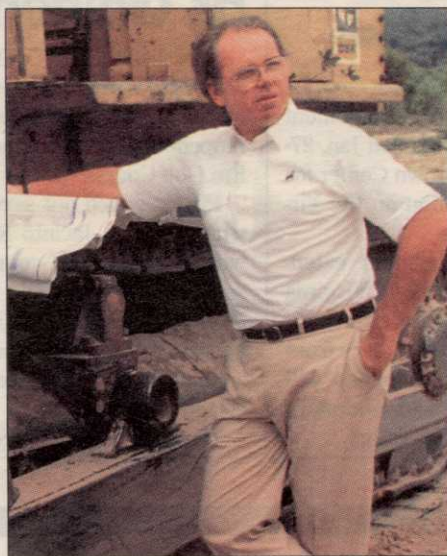
course that opened in March — “We had so much land and so many great opportunities, with no restrictions, that it worried me.”

But he is happy with the results — the “individual character of the holes and the playability characteristics, and the features, creeks, trees, rock outcroppings, sheer cliffs, long-range and short-range views, the forms and shapes of greens and bunkers, and the vegetation.”

• Caves Valley, a private Baltimore course that opened in July — “It’s tremendous — a modern-day Augusta National. It has great variety in rolling terrain, with the strength, character and style of beautiful, natural golf lands of the Northeast. Everything was perfect when it opened... It looks like it’s been there a long, long time.

“This is a club of the next century — what clubs will be like. It’s a tremendous environment. And the quality of maintenance, landscaping, setting for golf, the attention to detail... Every phase of it is just wonderful.”

• Champion Hills, a private course near Fazio’s home in Hendersonville, N.C., that opened in July — “It’s a Wade Hampton-type of site, only more dramatic in a lot of different ways — maybe less dramatic in some.”



Tom Fazio on site.

• Porter’s Neck, a private course in Wilmington, N.C., that opened Oct. 1 — “The site had sand-based soil with high contours that allowed us to dig the golf course into the ground and create some unique features. It has major clusters of oaks and enough variety of tree to give us a good feeling.

“Plus we had (Jack) Nicklaus and (Pete) Dye courses nearby at Landfall. So that added

the degree of challenge for us to do it. If you have great competition, a good piece of land and a client with a commitment to quality, you have it all.”

• Pelican Hill Golf Club’s Ocean Course, the first 18 of a 36-hole resort facility in Newport Beach, Calif., which opened Nov. 1 — “The course is in such magnificent condition, has such a tremendous environment, and is so strong that it even shocks me. The whole course was sodded. We planted a lot of trees. It’s like Shadow Creek (in Las Vegas) in that way.

“I was more nervous (about Pelican Hill) than with Shadow Creek. My concern was that when you go to Newport Beach and see the oceanfront, you expect a lot. I was nervous to the point that I second-guessed myself about being involved with it... People could see this property and say it should be another Pebble Beach. There will never be another Pebble Beach.

“But I am well satisfied with it now.”

Fazio also opened Osprey Ridge along with a new Dye course at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., on Jan. 2, and gave that layout high marks.

“It has some of the qualities of Lake Nona and Black Diamond, some of the feelings of

John’s Island West and of the ridges and open spaces of Jupiter Hills, features like Hammock Dunes and some of the interior holes at Long Point, all rolled up into one.”

## CHANGES OVER YEARS

Fazio, who broke into the industry working for his famous designing uncle George, said much has changed in the last 29 years.

“The expectation level of a new golf course has changed substantially from what it was in the 1960s,” he said. “Back then, if you did a new course, people would say, ‘It will be a good golf course some day when it grows in and matures.’”

“That was the mark of excellence. In the last five to eight years it has evolved to where a new course is compared to the best courses in the world. That’s the expectation level to some degree in a lot of places.”

Fazio said such thinking is “a tribute to the industry, to all the designers, the technology and the dedication to quality throughout the industry.”

The high expectations have evolved for many reasons, he said, including course rankings in the media and the society’s outlook overall.

“We’re all into ‘now,’” he said. “Nobody wants to wait any more. We’ve learned how to not even wait for nature. We just move nature in. Instead of waiting for grass to grow, we put sod in. Instead of planting small trees and waiting five or 10 years for them to grow, we plant trees with 20-year maturity on them. It just amazes me.”

Maturity has also been enhanced by sophisticated irrigation systems, maintenance programs, equipment, and the technology of maintenance itself, Fazio said.

## COMPETITION

Fazio also said competition is keener for keeping course design at a high level.

“There are many quality designers, contractors and developers out there. The competition of business, your product, the pride of authorship permeates through the whole society, not just in golf,” he said.

## Fazio layout turns into Pine Valley star search

By Mark Leslie

Pine Valley has long been Tom Fazio’s favorite golf course on Earth. Now he is doing things at that venerable Clementon, N.J., property he has never done before.

“We built a bunker and put a tree in it. We built greens as severe in contours as ever. We built several uphill shots to greens,” he said.

The project started as a simple one. Pine Valley chairman Ernie Ransome thought it a good idea to have a par-3 course, or a few more holes, to play after finishing a round. He asked long-time member Fazio to design a 10-hole practice course on 120 acres.

But the project took a major — and novel — turn during a topographical map-reading

session, and it hasn’t been the same since.

Indeed, if you were to choose your 10 favorite shots at the George Crump-designed Pine Valley course, you might be able to take them all on Fazio’s little par-3 gem.

Why? Fazio and project manager Andy Banfield were looking over the topo map one day and Banfield remarked: “This is exactly the same elevation change and in the same direction” as the second shot on the 2nd hole.

“That’s one of my favorite shots anywhere,” Fazio said. “It lies uphill, which I don’t like, but it’s a great shot.”

Then the same thing happened on the 10th hole. “I didn’t want to duplicate the hole. But what would be wrong with simulating it? I

would love to hit that shot 100 times,” Fazio said.

That set the two to looking for other similar contours. And, voila!

The second and third shots on the par-5 15th followed, and others took shape as well on similar terrain.

“It’s a 10-hole practice course you can play and love,” Fazio said.

Most holes have no tees but the same contour and slope as the originals.

Is it popular among Pine Valley members?

“The risk factor was high,” Fazio said. “I was always worried and nervous. I have a hundred friends who are members there. I see them every spring, and if it didn’t turn out — well...



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# Wadsworth garners Best Builder plaudits for third time

Continued from page 27

Fazio); Four Seasons Golf Course, Lake Ozark, Mo. (Ken Kavanaugh); Laurel Oak Country Club, Sarasota, Fla. (Gary Player); The Grasslands at Oakbridge, Lakeland, Fla. (Pate/Cupp Designs); Bighorn Golf Course, Palm Desert, Calif. (Arthur Hills); Porter's Neck Plantation, Wilmington, N.C. (Tom Fazio).

The Golf Club of Georgia was Golf Digest's top new private course and Loch Lloyd in Kansas City, another Wadsworth project, was fifth.

Scheduled 1992 openings include courses in Hawaii (3), Michigan (2), California, Virginia, Ohio, Oregon, Guam, South Carolina and Pennsylvania.

The company is also looking at expanding into the international market, pursuing jobs in Canada and Saipan near Guam, Cotter said.

The demand for new golf courses continues strong, although the lack of financing is affecting the course construction industry, Cotter said.

"Fortunately, we've been able to pick up several projects the past few months," the Wadsworth executive said. "Many courses have their permits and are ready to go. They just can't get underway because they can't get the financing."

"But I have heard of several banks that are re-opening negotiations on projects they turned down a few months ago. So maybe things are starting to improve."

*Many courses have their permits and are ready to go. They just can't get underway because they can't get the financing.'*

— John Cotter

*Wadsworth vice chairman of the board*

Clute agreed lack of financing is a major stumbling block.

"Demand for new courses is fine," said the Hartland, Mich.-based contractor. "But we aren't insulated from what's happening to the economy. Our industry is tied to the housing market and that's affecting us."

"Financing and environmental permitting are the two big issues and will continue to be for some time. Two years ago, permitting was the major item slowing down construction. Today, lack of financing has probably passed it by."

Although they are competitors, a strong mutual respect exists between the top vote-getters in this year's survey.

"I have very fond memories of working there," said Clute, who worked eight years for Wadsworth during the late 1970s and early 1980s. "I feel like I was a part of what the company did during that time. The people at Wadsworth have a high degree of competence and integrity."

Said Cotter of Clute: "They are doing some excellent work. We're friendly competitors."

Paul Clute & Associates, which Clute started in 1984, finished second in the balloting with 13 percent of the votes. Clute, who entered the golf course construction business in 1965, attributes his firm's strong reputation to providing personal service to architects, owners and developers coupled with an experienced workforce.

That workforce fluctuates between 100 and 200 employees. The average job requires 40 to 50, and can go as high as 90. That's up from the 10 to 15 required when he first entered the business 25 years ago.

"The biggest change I've seen is the increased attention to detail and that requires more people," Clute said. "The detail we used to put into the green has spread all the way back to the tee."

"Developers want cart paths, irrigation, drainage, turf and everything else ready to go from the first day. People used to say it took two to five years for a course to mature. Now they want it to look mature right away. And that's driven the cost up."

"We could build a course for \$20,000 a hole

25 years ago. Now it costs that for the average green."

Clute's 1991 revenues will be in the \$10 million-to-\$15-million range, about the same as two years ago.

"1990 was our highest revenue year ever," he said. "We had a couple of high-dollar projects that just happened to both be completed that year. It was unusual. This year will be about the same as 1989 and next year should be about the same again."

Clute opened seven courses in 1991 — Naperbrook (Ill.) Golf Course (Roger Packard); Brighton Crest Golf Club, Fresno, Calif. (Johnny Miller/Gene Bates); Trapper's Turn, Wisconsin Dells, Wis. (Roger Packard/Andy North); The Golf Club of Tennessee, Kingston Springs (Tom Fazio); Hills Course of Palmetto Halls Plantation, Hilton Head, S.C. (Arthur Hills); Emerald Bay Plantation, Destin, Fla. (Robert Cupp); and Ibis Golf Course, The Heritage and The Legends, West Palm Beach, Fla. (Jack Nicklaus).

Under construction are Coosaw Creek Country Club, Charleston, S.C.; Gibson Bay Golf Course, Richmond, Ky.; Glenmoor Country Club, Canton, Ohio; Eagle Brook Country Club, Geneva, Ill.; Tree Tops Country Club, Gaylord, Mich.; and Cupp Course of Palmetto Hall Plantation, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Landscapes Unlimited finished third in the survey. Like Clute, President William Kubly praised Wadsworth.

"They do a quality job, have a professional

Continued on page 43

When it comes to covering a lot of ground, the competition isn't the only thing



## Wadsworth

Continued from page 42

staff and pay attention to detail," Kubly said. "I'm always happy to be included on a bid list with them. It lets us know that the developer wants a quality job. A local contractor's bid could blow us both out of the water, but the local contractor wouldn't deliver what Wadsworth and we do."

Cotter returned the praise.

"Landscapes Unlimited is an excellent contractor and is doing some outstanding work, too," he said.

Lincoln, Neb.-based Landscapes Unlimited received 9 percent of the architects' vote. The staff includes 80 full-time and another 40 to 80 part-time employees. Among them are five project managers, 15 construction superintendents and 20 shapers.

"Very simply, we try to deliver quality," Kubly said. "We have a strong back-up staff to help out on projects throughout the country."

Despite the slow economy, revenues are expected to exceed \$20 million this year.

"We've been barraged by people looking for work," Kubly said. "We're working at 95 percent of capacity. But a lot of our work is in the Northeast, which is being hit hard by the recession. Subcontractors up there have been offering to work at some very low prices."

Landscapes Unlimited averages six to 10 course openings annually, Kubly said. Openings in 1991 included Woodloch Pines Golf Club, Hawley, Pa.; Uwharrie Point, Albemarle, N.C.; Eagle Run West Country Club, Omaha, Neb.; Jackson Country Club, Jackson, Tenn.; Huntsville Country Club, Huntsville, Ala.;

Windtree Golf Course, Nashville, Tenn.; Sunset West Golf Club, Raleigh, N.C.; and The Oaks Golf Clubs, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

Others under construction are Bentcreek Golf Club, Lancaster, Pa.; Glenmore Golf Club, Charlottesville, Va.; Glenmaura Golf Club, Scranton, Pa.; Hyatt Golf Course, San Antonio, Texas; Sapphire Country Club, Cashiers N.C.; and Wildwing Plantation, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Kubly, a registered landscape architect, received his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1971 from the University of Wisconsin. He worked in the golf course construction and design field five years before opening Landscapes Unlimited.

"The biggest change I've seen is the amount of work," Kubly said. "When I first got out of school, I thought all the course work would dry up in a few years. There has been a lot more work than I ever thought there would be."

Guettler & Sons Inc. was the choice of 5 percent of the architects. The Fort Pierce, Fla. firm has served primarily the Southeastern United States since 1954. Peter F. Guettler is chairman of the board.

Guettler course openings in 1991 included the Fairwinds Course at St. Lucie County Golf Course, Ft. Pierce; Valkaria Airport Public Golf Course, Palm Bay, Fla.; and Windsor Golf Course, Vero Beach, Fla.

Courses under construction are Northport at the Lake, Lake Ozark, Mo.; Old Tabby Golf Links, Spring Island, S.C.; and Sandridge, Indian River County, Fla.

## Sawgrass takes Tour's resort honors

Continued from page 17

The course that Nature had savaged with winter wind and storm fury was attacked and renovated by man on a major scale. Needed changes were defined. An earlier end to daily play prior to the tourney was deemed advisable. Shutting down the course the Monday before tournament practice was a practical stroke.



Fred Klauk

The course was closed in the fall for winter seeding. The week's shutdown permitted uninterrupted germination of the grass.

A tree-trimming program added course sunlight.

Three months before the late March event, three persons were added to the workforce.

Ball marks on all greens were seeded. There were no fairway divots. Sawgrass was ready.

Greg Norman, who had led the chorus of criticism in 1990, this time observed, "Perfect."

Fellow Australian and winner Steve Elkington said, "I don't think there's a harder course in the world to play than this one when there is this kind of wind (42 miles per hour the second day), but course conditions couldn't be better."

Klauk, who said his mission in 1991 was to make the course the best ever, did just that in a rousing vote of confidence from those most

knowledgeable and most demanding — tour pros.

"We were very focused the entire year and accomplished our goal," he said.

He cited this "team" for making it possible: Bob Clarkson, assistant on the Stadium course; Gene Baldwin, assistant at the Valley course; chief mechanic Mark Sanford, landscape assistant Lee Rowe and office manager Cathy Macormic.

Gary Wilder and Callaway Gardens' Mountain View layout, most testing of the resort's 63 holes, made a remarkable run for tour laurels. Time wasn't on their side.

Wilder, superintendent at Harbour Town and a veteran of 10 tourney events, was contacted last March by Callaway Gardens officials. The Buick Southern Open, a 27-year fixture at Green Island Country Club in Columbus, Ga., had been switched to Callaway Gardens Sept. 26-29.

Wilder was offered the job of whipping the course into tournament shape. Bunkers were to have priority. Wilder, who had much sand experience, arrived early in May and launched renovation operations.

The course was closed for the summer.

Wilder rebuilt bunkers that contained from one to two feet of sand. Greens received major stripping and fumigating attention, and fairways were sprayed heavily with a plant growth regulator that encouraged grass to grow from side to side and thicker. The ball set up well as the result of this concentrated treatment.

Pros responded favorably to the intense course face-lifting, as witness the flood of voting backing.

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