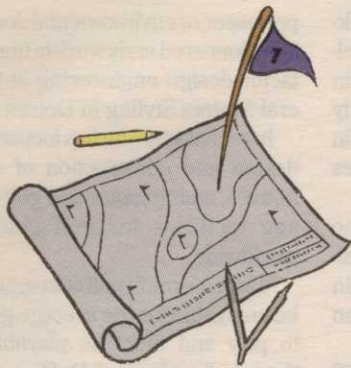


## Briefs

**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

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## ...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

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## 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.