

# Clemson officials pushing ahead on handicapped-accessible course

## Financing hits snag but planners positive

By MARK LESLIE

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson University officials are still struggling to win final approval and gain financing to build a golf course designed as a handicapped-accessible "working laboratory."

Jeff Martin, director of conference and guest services at Clemson, said he feels confident

final arrangements will be made. But he couldn't set a date.

"If we're lucky, we're probably talking a minimum of six months before we can break ground — maybe longer," said Dr. Lawrence Allen, head of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management.

Legislative and academic officials in the state support the project, which will also eventually include a conference center and, possibly, a hotel.

"We're working on the financing mechanisms," Martin said.

Plans call for the non-profit Clemson Foundation to donate about \$2.2 million and for membership fees to total \$1.5 million to produce the amount needed to build the course.

But the foundation must first arrange with the Internal Revenue Service so it does not risk its tax-free status.

Martin is not concerned about getting final state approval. That

will come in the form of a vote by the legislature's Joint Fund Review Board.

Clemson students and faculty expect to use the course property as a living laboratory to study such things as turfgrass, water quality, wildlife and hotel management.

Officials in the therapeutic recreation program hope to use it for the physically challenged and to become a national clearinghouse for the needs of the handicapped.

Allen said: "Our big push now

is to address the accessibility issue. The program is geared toward that and the long-term impact will relate to that specifically. Our mission is to build a championship course that integrates the disabled golfer but still is very challenging for able-bodied.

"There's a tremendous payoff in this for everybody — the industry, golfers and the disabled."

Riverside Golf Group architect Steven Melnyk of Jacksonville, Fla., will design the course.

## Hills shows off Morgan River's oaks on 2nd 9

BEAUFORT, S.C. — Construction has begun on the second nine holes of the Morgan River course at Dataw Island. The course was designed by Arthur Hills and is scheduled to be completed in the fall.

The front nine of the Morgan River course was opened two years ago and construction of the second nine is one year ahead of schedule, according to Dataw Island President William Cochrane.

Hills describes the 13th and 14th holes as "our picture holes."

"The 13th hole goes out into a huge oak grove," he said. "So, in effect, the hole will be framed by the massive trees. It's some of the prettiest property on the whole course. The 14th hole meanders along the Morgan River and has limitless views of the river and nearby islands. It's very dramatic."

## ASGCA stressing ADA, environment at annual convention

PHILADELPHIA — The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) will hold its 47th annual meeting April 25-29, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel here.

ASGCA President Art Hills said the meeting's professional development seminars will focus on several key areas, including the environment, how the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) impacts golf course design, and ways in which architects and builders can cooperate to prepare better construction specifications.

The ASGCA also will present the Donald Ross Award to golf course builder Brent Wadsworth at a banquet Monday, April 26, at Philadelphia Cricket Club. Wadsworth, chairman of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., has built more than 350 golf courses throughout the United States during the past 35 years.

Members also will spend a full day at USGA headquarters in Far Hills, N.J., discussing green specifications, modern golf equipment and its relationship to course architecture, and course ratings.

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