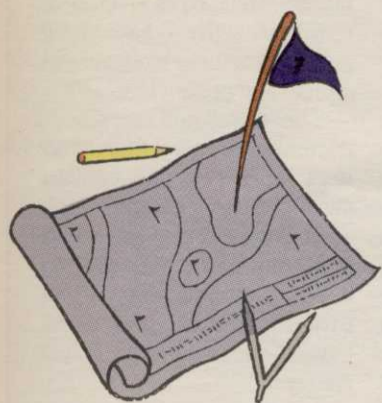


## BRIEFS

**PIERMAN EXPANDS TO SOUTHWEST**

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Pierman Golf Co. of North Palm Beach, Fla., has opened an office here to handle business in the Southwest. President Jerry Pierman said, "I am very optimistic about the Southwestern part of the United States. I think it is getting well again." Pierman has already contracted to build one golf course in the area. His firm will build the Keith Foster-designed, nine-hole Pebble



Jerry Pierman

Creek course that will be the centerpiece of a residential development in Goodyear. The Scottsdale office, under Vice President Mark Jaynes, is located at 7350 East Evans Road, Suite B103, Scottsdale 85260; telephone 602-483-1678.

**EASTERN CITED FOR SAFETY RECORD**

SHELTON, Conn. — Eastern Land Management, Inc., which specializes in landscape management and the construction and maintenance of golf courses, has received a safety award in the Associated Landscape Contractors of America's (ALCA) Annual Employee and Fleet Safety Contests. The Fleet Safety Contest recognizes landscape contracting firms with good vehicle safety records. Headquartered here, Eastern Landscape Management received a Fleet Safety Award for "No Vehicle Accidents" for not having any fleet accidents during the contest year.

**JENSEN ADDS ARCHITECTS**

DENVER— The land-planning and design firm of David Jensen Associates, Inc. has added five landscape architects/planners to its staff. They are Kevin Crehan, John K. English, ASLA, Dimitri Laddis, Matt Lancaster and Douglas K. Nicoll. Diana Duffly, a marketing promotions/graphics specialist has also been hired. David Jensen, president of DJA, attributed the additions to his firm's growth over the last year. DJA offers a broad range of planning and design services to developers and builders in Colorado and across the United States.

**PATE CREATES AT BLUEWATER BAY**

NICEVILLE, Fla. — With the opening of the Jerry Pate-designed Magnolia course, the golf complex at Bluewater Bay is complete. Bluewater now offers four nine-hole layouts — the original 18 holes by Tom Fazio, with "instrumental" consultation from Pate. Magnolia's four sets of tees create distances ranging from 2,499 to 3,307 yards.

## ASGCA report

## Wadsworth calls on architects to design parity into the game

By MARK LESLIE

PHILADELPHIA—The man who is credited with creating the profession of golf course construction accepted the annual Donald Ross Award here, then asked architects to design tracks to "equalize" golfers.

Accepting the award, Brent Wadsworth told members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects: "Handicaps help to equalize the scoring opportunities, but you as designers have the final power to equalize all types of players.

"By your designs, you can give the game — in addition to all the other enrichments — a parity that not even the handicap system can produce. I just hope you won't lose sight of this opportunity for the future of golf."

Wadsworth's call to action climaxed the ASGCA's annual banquet, held April 26 at

the Philadelphia Cricket Club. The Ross Award is presented in honor of the famous course architect whose name it bears and who was a founding member of the ASGCA.

"In the early years of golf course design, architects all had to have their own shapers and builders because there was no golf course contractor," said Rees Jones of the ASGCA. "Brent Wadsworth really started the profession of golf course contracting, which has made it easier for us to institute our ideas. And we are very, very pleased to honor him tonight."

In 1958, after three years designing golf



Brent Wadsworth

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## Gary Roger Baird steps into a 'new frontier' — Mainland China

By MARK LESLIE

CHINA — Mainland China is "a new frontier" for golf, says Gary Roger Baird, who is designing golf courses for two projects in this country.

"It's similar to the development burst that is starting to happen in Vietnam," said Baird, of Nashville, Tenn., adding, "What is happening in Vietnam is probably what went on in Hawaii 30 or 40 years ago.

"China will be very, very active, particularly in the next 10-15 years."

For his part, Baird is involved in a 36-hole project about 70 miles north of Hong Kong and a 27-hole facility on an island.

The practice range is complete and construction is about to begin on the first 18 holes of the 36-hole International Dongguan Ban Woo Country Club — "a

very exclusive resort/country club," Baird said. Developed by Camdor Harbor Group of Taipei, its second course is expected to be built in two or three years, he said.

The 600-acre facility is near a new international airport and across the highway from a major business and industrial complex that is being built.

"The government has chosen to develop resources and bring people in there. Golf is part of that attraction," Baird said. "Essentially, it is providing recreational amenities to businessmen from various countries — Taiwan, Japan, China, Korea and Asean countries. It's kind of a new frontier."

International Dongguan Ban Woo Country Club sits on farmland owned by

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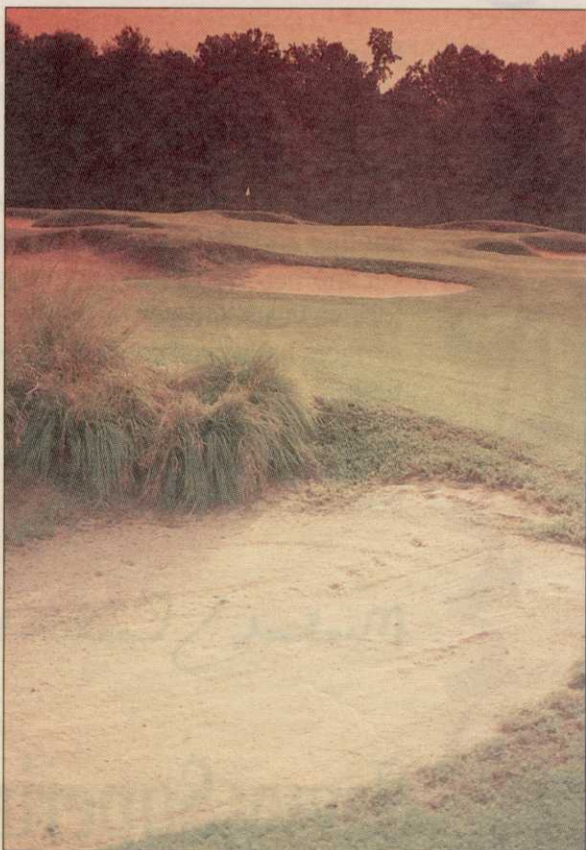


Photo by D. Michael O'Bryon

Tanglewood, designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr., exemplifies the importance of sand with numerous large bunkers.

## Sand: The good, the bad & the ugly in construction

By BOB SELIGMAN

SELECTING sand for a golf course bunker would seem to be such an easy procedure. You just contact a company dealing in the material, buy several tons of the stuff, and let players experience all the joys and frustrations a bunker shot can provide.

But choosing what you feel is the right sand for your bunkers is, as Mike Beebe, an architect for Orange Park, Fla.-based Mark McCumber and Associates, says, "an inexact science."

According to Judith Gockel, president of Agri-Systems, a Tomball, Texas-based firm that tests sand for playability, there are 22,000 to 23,000 types of sand, each one slightly different from another.

David Oatis, director of the United States Golf Association

Green Section's Northeast Region, estimates that approximately 2,000 companies sell bunker sand. If you take into account such factors in selecting bunker sand as texture, size, and color, as well as cost, the odds of buying the perfect sand for your golf course are probably equal to the odds of winning the lottery.

"It gets involved, to say the least," says Bob Plechner, general manager of H. Bittle & Sons, a sand supplier based in Medord, N.Y. "With so many people (suppliers) and so many different types of sand, it all depends what the buyer wants."

One generally accepted rule of thumb is that buyers want small grains of sand for their bunkers. The USGA has no specifications for the size of sand, but recommends that particles be one-

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QA &amp; A

President  
Matthews  
speaks  
his mind

Editor's note: This is the first of a new monthly series in *Golf Course News*. Each month we will interview a person involved in golf course design and construction.

*Golf Course News* caught up with

Jerry Matthews at the annual meeting of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in Philadelphia. Matthews, of Lansing, Mich., was elected president of the organization for 1993-94.



Jerry Matthews

**Golf Course News:** Over the last few years the golf industry has faced a number of issues — the nation's financial problems, environmental restrictions, the Allied Associations of Golf maybe not being as coordinated as it might be. What do you expect will be the major challenges in the year that you'll be president?

**Jerry Matthews:** The financial picture to me is important because I think it is rather important for us in the industry to somehow get to the banking industry and inform them that golf courses aren't all bad from the financial aspect. I think the banking industry needs to know that golf courses are not necessarily financial failures because a real-estate development failed somewhere that was poorly planned and badly financed to begin with. Virtually all the courses I have ever done are still in business and still making money. I work in a

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## Wadsworth given Ross Award

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courses with Larry Packard, Wadsworth started Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. Today, it is headquartered in Plainfield, Ill., and has offices in Florida, Arizona and Hawaii. The firm has built about 400 golf courses and employs 300.

When Wadsworth asked to have a photograph taken of him and all those in the room who had been his clients, nearly everyone joined him.

ASGCA outgoing President Art Hills read a statement from Wadsworth employees which said their boss "has set a high example of what can be accomplished. His hard work and dedication are qualities that we can look up to with the greatest respect and admiration."

"I think that kind of statement coming from his employees is the highest tribute that we might pay to him," Hills said, adding: "He has rare insights into the game of golf, the design field, and what it takes to build an outstanding golf course. He is an outstanding person, and a great contributor to the game."

Wadsworth said that in the last 15 years ASGCA members have been "responsible for a great Renaissance in this profession."

"You are the innovators. You are the guys who set up the programs. You are the leaders. All we do is follow. You've done a wonderful job the last few years, and I believe that part of our surge in this industry is due to what you fellows have done," he said.

Although saying he has earnestly avoided revealing his thoughts on design in the past, Wadsworth asked the architects to sincerely live by the recent catch phrase: "Building a golf course to be a challenge for low-handicappers and playable for high-handicappers."

Multiple tees and occasional bailout areas can help close the gap between golfers, he said. And this would be "very beneficial for the future growth of the game."

"We've got to provide for the majority of golfers," he said. "I might add, it also enhances the desirability of the golf course design... In order to stay on par with the better golfers, the less-skilful golfer needs a larger

playing field."

A 1951 alumnus of the University of Illinois, with a degree in landscape architecture, Wadsworth interned three summers with founding ASGCA member Robert Bruce Harris. He entered the military for two years, then joined Packard's firm in 1954.

The Ross Award recognizes Wadsworth's "ongoing contributions to the game of golf and the profession of golf course architecture through his innovative construction work for

nearly four decades, and especially his amazing ability to work with a number of golf course architects and interpret their individual plans to produce the distinctive and challenging courses that make this one of the most exciting eras in the history of American golf.

"And, most importantly, for taking the time to understand the architect's perspective and designing nuances on each project, and therefore to help build unique golf courses that will stand the test of time and bring pleasure to hundreds of thousands of golfers."

## Baird joins pioneers in new frontier

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families for several hundred years that was covered by lichee nut trees.

Builders have to preserve as many trees as possible because of compensation for every tree taken down.

The 27-hole project, handled by a Hong Kong developer, is awaiting final approvals and Baird anticipates beginning construction within a year.

Accessible only by hovercraft, the facility may include a

casino.

"We'll know in six to eight months," Baird said. "It's exciting. The site is all sand dunes and native vegetation. It will be a links-type golf course out of the same vein as some of those in Scotland or Ireland."

Baird said 27 holes of golf provide a 54-hole combination. "The challenge is to make certain that no matter how you combine those holes, they are all of equal interest, challenge and aesthetic quality," he said.



## Furry Creek advances

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada—As Furry Creek Golf & Country Club works toward its July 31 opening day, more than 100 people are busy laying turf, planting trees, and building the members' clubhouse. In addition, an "alternative centre" is being designed to become an integral part of Furry Creek Golf & Country Club community. A retreat for small groups, scientists or artists in residence, the Alternative Centre at Furry Creek will be devoted to explorations in art, architecture, and ecology.