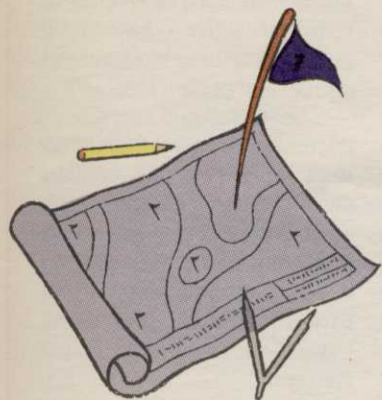


BRIEFS

**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

Continued on page 26

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

Continued on page 27

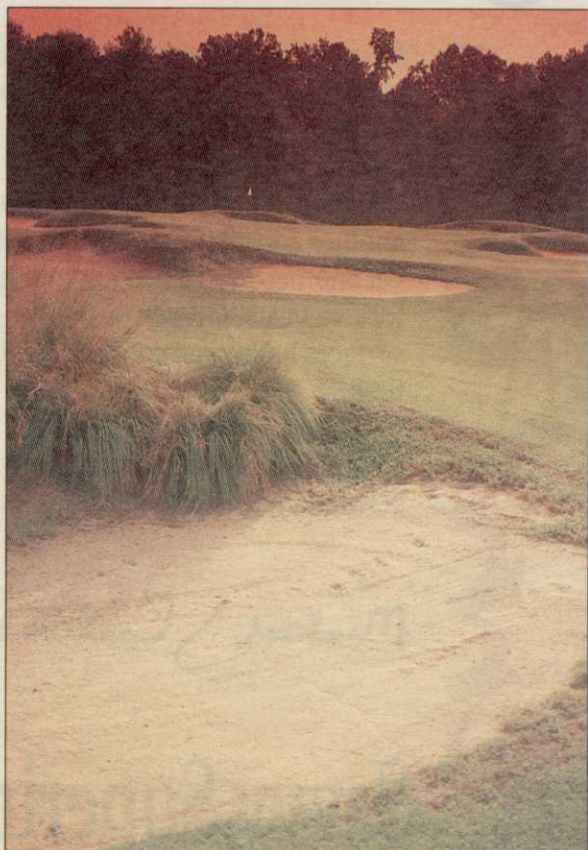


Photo by D. Michael O'Bryon

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-

Continued on page 30

QA & 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

Continued on page 28

Bunker sand a major construction item in cost and aesthetics

Continued from page 23

quarter millimeter to one millimeter. Particles within that range will be more compatible with the surrounding turf and will not present mowing problems around the green. Play will also be faster because golfers will not have to remove pebbles from their line of putting.

Another reason to have the smaller particles is the threat of injury, which Gockel says can happen if a golfer is hit by sand larger than two millimeters.

Besides physical injury, golf course architects and superintendents are concerned with "injuries" to a player's score — and their egos — if poor sand contributes to escalating handicaps. Coarser types of sand, rather than rounder types, seem to be better for playability.

"Sands on the coarser side pack better. They create a better sand shot for the average player," says Beebe. "Most of the silica sands are used. They're fairly angular in the

'Bone-white beach sand in the middle of Nebraska doesn't make sense.

Yellowish-brown belongs there. In coastal courses, more white sand blends into the area.'

— Patrick Wyss

particle shape and not more rounded. Rounded sand would not pack down as well."

"If sand is very rounded, it will be less stable. The particles will shift against each other sand you'll have more buried lies," says Oatis. "If the sand is platey [flatter or more angular] it will be tighter and could be too hard. You want a sand that's firm, but not too hard. It's a subjective thing."

Patrick Wyss, a golf course architect based in Rapid City,

S.D., also favors firmer sand because the ball stays up better in the bunker, which is good for new golfers, and because it stays in place better in high winds than soft, fluffy sand. Wyss will also try to have sand on his courses that stays smooth and maintains a nice texture after a rainfall.

"In a sand bunker, one thing that's important is what's happening under the sand," says Wyss. "I'll use sand that won't wash out during a rainstorm. I'll use a grainier sand in a wetter environment for air space so the water can percolate out. It keeps moisture at a lower level below where you're hitting. I'll use less-grainier sand in a drier environment."

Playability is the prime factor in selecting the type of sand you want for a golf course, but the color of the sand is also important. Bright sand may look great on television, but it can turn a potential Picasso into just another Venus Paradise paint-by-the-numbers portrait.

"I look at colors as a model backdrop," says Wyss. "Bone-white beach sand in the middle of Nebraska doesn't make sense. Yellowish-brown belongs there. In coastal courses, more white sand blends into the area."

Gockel says muted sand colors are good for golf courses in a retirement development because they'll be easier on the senior citizens' eyes.

"It will still give the same definition, but it's not as strong a contrast between the bright white and the green [of the golf course]," says Gockel.

Price is also very important in selecting what type of sand to use. Wyss says trucking fees add about 75 percent to the overall costs for sand. As a result, many courses try to use local sand. With all the companies selling the product, local sand is available in many areas.

"We try to use local sand if it's a good quality," says Beebe. He adds that if it isn't good, his company tells the owners to get outside sand.

"There are different prices for different grades of sand," says Beebe. "I don't think there's a huge difference from company to company. Most costs are in freight."

Clearly, golf course people go to great lengths to have the best sand their players can enjoy. But, in the end, do all golfers really know that no matter what their individual results may be, the sand they're playing out of has been judged as what's best for them?

"Bunker sand is extremely subjective," says Oatis. "Golfers are poor in knowing what's good and what's bad in bunker sand."

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