

Hearty welcomes to our new Advisory Board members

A quick glance to the right reveals a new set of additions to the *Golf Course News* Editorial Advisory Board.

Superintendents Tim Hiers and Kevin Downing have provided our staff with a wealth of knowledge and valuable feedback. These two Floridians will continue to serve, but we felt the board should feature more geographic diversity.

With that in mind, we welcome Kevin Ross, head superintendent at Falmouth Country Club in Falmouth, Maine; Mary "Patty" Knaggs, head superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn.; and Raymond Davies, head superintendent at Virginia Country Club in Long Beach, Calif.

We have also added Roger Maxwell, former senior vice president at Marriott Golf, to the *Golf Course News* Advisory Board. We wanted to supplement our coverage of management issues, and we're sure Roger will fit the bill.

While welcoming new board members, I should take this opportunity to thank our current stock of experts — Hiers, Downing, architect Dr. Michael Hurdzan, consultant James McLoughlin and builder Brent Wadsworth — for their ready willingness to share opinion and expertise.

More thorough stories about each of the new additions to the *Golf Course News* Editorial Advisory Board appear on page 3.

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The November edition of *Golf Course News* will be the last issue for 1993. As was the case last year, we will publish our annual Buyers' Guide in December. Publisher Charles von



Hal Phillips,
editor

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NIMBY? No way! Property rights activist on the mark

Property ownership. To some people it is more important than freedom of speech and worship. The world over, land has been attacked by foreign countries, overtaken by native insurgents and gobbled up by power-hungry expansionists for 6,000 years.

Today, in the United States, the attack is from within the framework of our own society. And it is insidious because the property owner doesn't see a militia approaching to confiscate his land. The "militia," in fact, is his town, county, state or federal government whose "weapons" are its land-use and environmental regulations.

It is debatable how principled or unprincipled this group is. I think they are generally OK folks. Fine. Upstanding. Yet, just like "We are all sinners and have gone astray," so this group — which would tell you what you can and can't do with your land — has gone astray.

But I think if we educate them, many can be "saved," so to speak. We can turn their weapons into plowshares by feeding them right scientific knowledge instead of the pseudo-science they operate in — especially in the realm of golf course development where they constantly claim chemical use is as dangerous as on tilled farmland. We often report on scientific studies disproving that notion. And we can show them one of the main ingredients that made the country strong was people immigrating in search of their own land.

These government regulators — many of them our neighbors — are simply misinformed many times, and can be dissuaded.

For instance, whoever authored my town's regulations just didn't consider all the scenarios when writing the mobile home ordinances. On my country lane, I would not like my home to be surrounded by mobile homes (Consider me a NIMBY?). But if



Mark Leslie,
managing editor

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Letters

BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

To the editor:

Thank you for running our interview in *Golf Course News* (Q&A, Oct. 1993). Your questions were certainly relevant. I hope my answers proved interesting to at least some of your readers.

I am trying to complete an updated write-up about "compact" golf courses. These are any smaller, less costly, easier and faster to play courses. Included are executive, par-3, Cayman and other varieties. Such courses have real advantages to a rather large segment of our golfers, plus potentially to scads of would-be golfers.

Also, more compact courses, in many situations, would better fit the needs of golf course developers than "championship" or "regulation" courses. Based mainly on habit and at a high price, we too often assume such big layouts are the only ones worth their tee markers.

Keep the good golf course news coming!

William W. Amick, ASGCA
Daytona Beach, Fla.

HIGH SIERRA DRAMA

To the editor:

As someone who has spent his entire life enjoying the outdoors, I am continually offended by the semantics of the golf vs. radicalism debate. I don't give much weight to political correctness, so I will speak freely.

The Sierra Club/Earth First lobby [Leslie comment, GCN September 1993] is universally referred to as "Environmentalist."

In fact, the proper description for their minions should be "Greens" (a reference to the current European political movement, akin to the 19th century Luddites). Few members of the "environmentalist" movement are professionals in the environmental industries (farming, golf course and landscape maintenance, et. al.). Fewer still do anything more than donate their money and go back to eating their hydroponically grown, organic tofu.

These "Green" organizations care very little for the factual research of scholars like Dr. Stewart Cohen in Cape Cod, Dr. Tom Watschke at Penn State, or Dr. Harry Niemczyk at Ohio State. Hard, cold facts are blasphemous, and run contrary to the pseudo-scientific dogma of these zealots. The real goal of the "Green Movement" is, and has always been, political power in the form of anti-capitalistic extremism.

The tragedy of all this is that the Greens seem to have the attention of far too many uneducated members of our society. These "eco-warriors" (lawyers and lobbyists, all) have worked very hard to place guilt on all who do not side with them ("...those who are not with us, are surely against us.") They convince the citizenry that golf is inherently "elitist" and "destructive" to bunny rabbits and people, alike. They easily sway local, state and the federal governments with gloom-and-doom predictions, making it easier for elected officials to side with pseudo-science (who among us would vote to

"willfully destroy the ecosystem"), than to stand beside fact.

I applaud the editorial staff of *Golf Course News* for its coverage of these issues. Those of us who love the game of golf, and are working to make our industry good stewards are the true "environmentalists." Still, we must endure having our hard work vilified and our successes grossly ignored.

We have much good news to tell the non-golfing public. I know that mine is just another voice in the choir of golf advocates. I would suggest that we make a concerted effort to stop our "preaching to the choir," and start "shouting from the mountains."

Skip Lynch

Nat'l Technical Representative
Seed Research of Oregon

EXECUTIVE DEFENSE

To the editor:

We read with interest your article on "executive" golf courses in the August 1993 issue of *Golf Course News*. We were even instrumental in its preparation by assisting Jan Beljan of Tom Fazio's office, our architect, in taking updated photographs of our facility here at Riverbend Golf Club in Tequesta, Fla.

We are somewhat dismayed, however, at the negative impression left by the article regarding this type of course. Even Fazio is quoted as saying "They failed." We amend that to read "Some have failed." Ours is far from a failure!

Riverbend not only represents excellent course design but in-

cludes the necessary adjuncts of a complete driving range, with sand trap and a practice putting area. Furthermore, it is peopled by a full complement of dedicated owner/members.

As for the term "executive," we don't use it.

Many of our members are alumni or non-resident members of the top clubs in the country and most of them are seniors. We enjoy the top-flight challenge which is provided by Riverbend, even though "distance" is not one of the prerequisites.

We look at Riverbend as a layout enabling us to preserve hard-won golf skills and as an excellent real-estate investment as well.

We thank Tom Fazio for the opportunity.

Robert C. Costello, President
Riverbend Golf Club, Inc.
Tequesta, Fla.

Ed. While Riverbend has enjoyed success, no one can deny the "executive" course phenomenon — especially the moniker — has fallen flat. However, far from leaving a negative impression, we felt Mark Leslie's story offered multiple ideas that might help resurrect the worthy genre. We felt the headline, overall tone and conclusion of the story were quite positive. In Mr. Fazio's defense, we offer his closing quotation: "One of my favorite courses I've ever done is an executive in Tequesta, Fla., called Riverbend. I'd have no problems taking any future client to that project and showing that as representative of my work... It's absolutely sensational golf."

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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Phillips commentary: Buyers' Guide

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Brecht and Data Base Editor Cathy Finn have worked overtime this fall, stocking the Buyers' Guide with all the vital information on most every supplier to the golf course industry.

We'll return with the next issue of *Golf Course News* early in January 1994 — and what an issue it will be! A complete preview of the Dallas show... An address to *Golf Course News* readers from EPA Administrator Carol Browner... The annual GCN Awards, including Best Maintained Course on the LPGA Tour and Architect of the Year... The first installment of our United States Golf

Association Research Report... A special package on golf courses which have taken an environmentally pro-active stance... plus our usual complement of news and views.

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As you may have read on page 36, GCSAA has significantly reduced its presence in Asia-Pacific. The same cannot be said, however, for *Golf Course News*.

Our sister paper, *Golf Course News Asia-Pacific*, has been named the Official Golf Publication of Singapore-based Golf Asia '94, the largest golf course industry trade show outside the United States, scheduled for March 24-27. *Asia-Pacific* served the same role at Golf Asia '93.

Meanwhile, *Golf Course News Asia-Pacific* has also been named Official Publication of the Pan Asia Golf Conference, Nov. 22-23, in Hong Kong. This is a purely educational symposium concentrating on golf course development on the Chinese Mainland.

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Our friends at the University of Guelph will hold the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Jan. 5-7, 1994. American readers in the Midwest may want to consider a trip north of the border.

Year in and year out, this proves to be a fantastic program, featuring professional development conferences accredited by the Canadian and American golf course superintendent associations. Dr. John "Trey" Rogers of Michigan State University is the keynote speaker this year.

For more information on the education program and trade show, contact Kelly Wilson, Office of Continuing Education, 159 Johnston Hall, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1. He can be reached by phone at 519-824-4120, ext. 3814; or by fax at 519-767-0758.

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Everyone here at *Golf Course News* wishes our readers a happy, healthy holiday season. See you in 1994.

Leslie comment: Landowners' rights

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that's what they can afford, who am I to stop them? The other day I was talking to a fellow a mile away who lives in an ancient mobile home. He had bought a less-ancient mobile home and moved it onto his lot, only to discover that our town has outlawed mobile homes of a certain age. He must now dispose of his "new" home and continue to live in an eyesore because of this law.

Certainly the persons who wrote this law thought they were merely keeping the town from going the way of Hobo Village. They are nice folks, these law-writers. Heck, we don't allow not-nice people in my town. We've made them illegal. The sign-maker is probably busy right now creating signs to put up at the entry roads to our town, reading: "Do not enter if you are not nice, have an old mobile home in tow, plan to build two or more outbuildings, intend to raise pigs, if you drive a gas-guzzling vehicle, or if you're from Jersey City."

Seriously, land use **should** be controlled where the environment will be harmed. But we have to use some judgment as to what is tolerable. The newly formed Council on Property Rights (see story, page 1) could be the answer. According to founder David Lucas, former owner of Wild Dunes: "Anybody concerned about protecting private property in this country should be concerned enough to make a contribution to this [organization]."

Lucas claims the issue of land-use is not about environment. "It's pseudo-science and a bunch of no-growth advocates who don't want

anybody out there without the means to drive a Volvo anywhere near them... It's to keep minorities away from them. It's very hypocritical. It's fear-driven and the state legislatures go along with it."

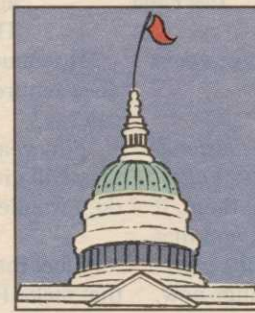
He adds this intriguing thought: "The people who made this country fled poverty and lack of opportunity. There was no way to climb the social ladder in these other societies. And that's why they came here. So what are we doing today but closing off those same venues? We are trying to do what European and Asian governments have done in the past. Those governments were captured by special interests and run by special interests for special interests. "America was a wide-open, free society. Now they're trying to put, under different guises, the same kinds of restrictions."

Although the country can't let developers run amuck, and although we can't build golf courses wherever we might like to because of the environment, Lucas **does** have a point. Generally, you cannot buy a piece of land and build low-cost housing. Rules, regulations and restrictions have made that possibility an oxymoron.

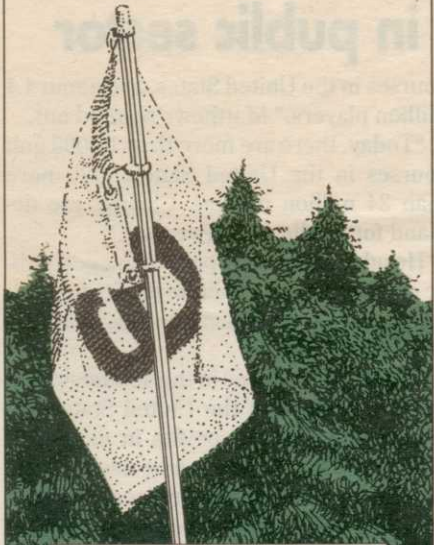
And, too often, no-growth advocates hold up projects in the courts for so long that the developers run out of money or patience.

A fellow by the name of Le Roi Jones once said, "The landscape should belong to the people who see it all the time."

I don't have any idea who Mr. Jones is. But I like his line of thinking.



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