

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.

•••

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

Continued on page 12

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

Continued on page 12

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."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

Publisher

Charles E. von Brecht

Editorial Director

Brook Taliaferro

Editor

Hal Phillips

Managing Editor

Mark A. Leslie

Associate Editor

Peter Blais

Contributing Editors

Terry Buchen, CGCS
Vern Putney

Editorial Advisory Board

Raymond Davies, CGCS
Virginia Country Club
Kevin Downing, CGCS
Willoughby Golf Club
Tim Hiers, CGCS
Collier's Reserve
Dr. Michael Hurdzan
Hurdzan Design Group
Mary P. Knaggs, CGCS
Hazeltine National GC
Roger Maxwell
Management Consultants
James McLoughlin
The McLoughlin Group
Kevin Ross, CGCS
Falmouth Country Club
Brent Wadsworth
Wadsworth Construction

Production Manager

Joline V. Gilman

Circulation Manager

Brenda Boothby

Editorial Office

Golf Course News
PO Box 997
38 Lafayette Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096
(207) 846-0600

Advertising Office

National Sales:
Charles E. von Brecht
7901 Fourth St. North, Suite 311
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(813) 576-7077

Western Sales:

Robert Sanner
Western Territory Manager
2141 Vermont
Lawrence, KS 66046
(913) 842-3969

Marketplace Sales:

Mary Anderson
(813) 576-7077

United Publications, Inc.
Publishers of specialized
business and consumer
magazines.

Chairman
Theodore E. Gordon
President
J.G. Taliaferro, Jr.



Copyright © 1993 by United Publications, Inc. All rights reserved and reproduction, in whole or in part, without written permission from the publisher is expressly prohibited.
POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Circulation Manager, Golf Course News, P.O. Box 3047,
Langhorne, PA, USA 19047.
(215) 788-7112