

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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ORNAMENTALS COME OF AGE

Giant reed grass (above) is one of the many ornamental species used for both style and substance. See page 11.

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NGF study compares maintenance budgets

By MARK LESLIE

JUPITER, Fla. — Golf course superintendents, often asked to "perform magic with the same old things," may find artillery for their budget struggles in a new National Golf Foundation report, according to its project manager.

"A lot of superintendents get hammered pretty heavily because they are in charge of the biggest expense on a golf course," said Jerry Hinckley, who coordinated the report, *Understanding and Comparing Maintenance Budgets*. "Member committees and various people are constantly demanding more, yet aren't always willing to pay for it. They want [the conditions] they see on TV, and their expectations are very high."

Dividing the country into four regions and showing acreages and budgets at actual courses, the report demonstrates the relationship between expenditure and the number of acres maintained.

Most golf courses, Hinckley said, are "investing fairly heavily in improvements and new equipment every year. If you decide not to put any money back into the facility, above and beyond the basic maintenance, you're actually slipping back."

A panel of eight highly qualified golf course agronomists surveyed a

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Lake Michigan and skyscrapers frame the Family Dye's par-3 and practice-range project in Chicago.

Dyes take their act downtown

By MARK LESLIE

CHICAGO — People stuck in congested, downtown Chicago with a mere 90 minutes on their hands will soon have a chance to play nine famous par-3s from the Family Dye.

The Vintage Group, formed by ex-Dye Equities president Charles Tourtellotte, is in the midst of developing a one-of-a-kind golf facility on a tiny bit of property that used to be the Illinois Central Railroad yards. Come next spring, golfers can walk through the underground pedway that connects all of the office

buildings and hotels in the area, take the elevator to the clubhouse and tee off at the Illinois Golf Center — a mere long drive or two from Chicago River and Lake Michigan.

Tourtellotte hired the Denver-based Perry Dye to design a nine-hole par-3 course because "Perry has a reputation for being able to work with small sites."

Tourtellotte has leased the 30-acre plot for 15 years from Metropolitan Structures and the Whitman Corp., the partnership that owns and manages Illinois Center,

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More pump manufacturers join forces

By HAL PHILLIPS

DALLAS — Following a distinct industry trend, Pumping Systems Inc. (PSI) and Flowtronex International have merged, promising immediate benefits to customers.

The merger follows two other marriages: Commercial Pump Service Inc. and Watertronics; and Syncroflo Inc. and Western Pumping Systems. Only Carroll Childers Co. of Houston stands "alone" among pump manufacturers in the golf industry.

Flowtronex, PSI merge; Childers the lone holdout

Carroll Childers, who formed PSI in the early 1970s before leaving to create his current company, said the merger "comes as no surprise as there have been numerous such mergers and also closings of pump station manufacturers in recent years due largely to overpopulation in the industry and to downturn in

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The Paiute Indian Reservation will be home to a 72-hole, Landmark-developed golf and gambling resort.

Ex-Landmark employees re-emerge

By PETER BLAIS

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — A proposed 72-hole golf resort on the Paiute Indian Reservation is among several major projects being developed by newly formed Landmark Golf Co.

Several former Landmark Land Co. executives teamed up earlier this summer to form Landmark Golf. The limited liability corporation offers design, golf operation and real estate development expertise. The firm already has offices in Palm Desert, Calif., and Scottsdale, Ariz.

In addition to the Las Vegas venture, the firm has

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83 acres of office buildings, apartments and hotels.

Twelve acres are being fashioned into the nine-hole course, while the other 18-acre parcel will be a double-ended practice facility open for winter play. Both the course and practice area will be lighted and open until 11 p.m.

"The driving range is the primary revenue generator," said Tourtellotte. "We have 112 stalls and it takes that many to make this profitable enough to be able to build the par-3 course, which is the sizzle of the project.

"And 70 percent of range income

Chicago complex stars Dye Family 3s

is generated after 5 o'clock. It was the lifeline of the project to be able to stay open as late as we could."

Dye and Tourtellotte chose to duplicate, in order, the 17th hole at Harbor Town; 16th at LaQuinta's Mountain Course; 3rd at Crooked Stick in Carmel, Ind.; 12th at Riverdale Dunes in Brighton, Colo.; 5th at the Ocean Course at Kiawah, S.C.; 6th at Crooked Stick; 7th at the Karsten Course at Arizona State University; 11th at The Country Club Glenmoor in Japan's Chiba Prefecture; and the famous island

green 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass.

Perry Dye designed the hole at Riverdale; co-designed the hole at Glenmoor with his father, Pete; and built the hole at Karsten, a course designed by Pete. The other courses represented at the Illinois Golf Center are Pete Dye designs.

The holes range from 56 to 150 yards long, according to Jeff Potts, Dye's lead designer on the project. The major design challenge was to keep golf balls in the field of play, while the contractor, Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., has other

entanglements to overcome.

"We've directed people the correct way by placement of hazards and tees," Potts said. "There's some questionable or a little too tight. Protective netting will be around the whole driving range.

"We've put the shortest holes in the tight areas and the longer holes in more-open areas, angled them away from the streets, and placed tees next to the boundary lines. We gain a little bit of usable space by doing that, as well as keep the balls

contained within the course. We've also placed hazards between holes in tight areas so players play away from snug areas."

The main street level of downtown Chicago is about 50 feet above the course, Lake Michigan and Chicago River. Designers are constricted by — and Wadsworth crews confronted by — the physical engineering issues of the site. Storm drainage passes through the property at certain elevations and the course must gravity drain to those areas.

Because it is an abandoned rail yard, crews must check abandoned utilities, avoid utilities in use, and obey city codes concerning separation from certain utilities.

"Then, we're also limited by the availability of good soil," Potts said. "We're having to separate good soil from bad and use the bad soil for foundation work and good soil as a growing medium.

"To stay within budget we can't import as much dirt as we would like to in order to put a cap over everything."

The driving range and practice tees were scheduled to be planted and sodded at the end of September. The range should open in the springtime. Potts hopes shaping of the course will be finished before the ground freezes. It so, it will be dormant seeded, and, in the spring damaged turf will be repaired so play can begin next year.

"It's certainly unique," he added. "I've seen others try to do the same thing. I don't think any will be near the magnitude of this project, where you can play nine holes of golf."

Catamount project takes giant step

Continued from page 3

come without cost. Browne said developers have already spent millions of dollars in the permit process.

"We impacted about eight acres of wetlands. More than half of that was just a depression in a hayfield that holds a little water right after a big storm," Browne explained.

"We spent \$1 million for a 700-acre ranch to mitigate the wetlands. We built 20 ponds and more than 100 acres of new wetlands."

The former Steamboat owners and Mitchell Energy form an experienced team.

Steamboat is the third busiest ski area nationwide. The former Steamboat owners played a major role in the area's success and will contribute their knowledge in that arena.

Mitchell is the principal developer of The Woodlands complex outside Houston. The community boasts 81 golf holes with another 99 planned for the future.

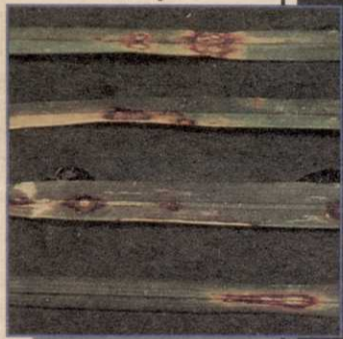
Carlton Gipson, Mitchell's in-house architect, did a preliminary routing for the two courses.

"We'll bring in other finish architects to do the final routing. We haven't decided who that will be," Browne said.

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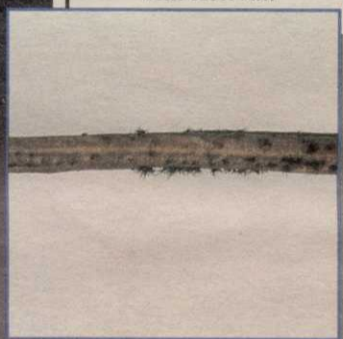
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