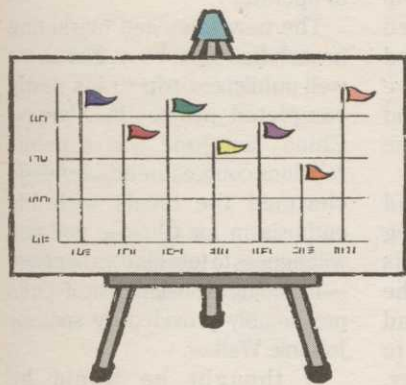


## BRIEFS



## SERAFIN WRAPS UP ADDITION

BUCYRUS, Ohio — Serafin Golf Course Design, Inc. is completing a nine-hole addition to the Bucyrus Country Club here. The builder for the project is Quality Golf, Inc. of Sunbury, Ohio. In addition, Serafin has begun construction on a nine-hole addition to Memorial Park Golf Course in Kenton, and The Links at Echo Springs, an 18-hole public course in Johnstown. Serafin Design also has been chosen by the city of Piqua to design a nine-hole addition to Echo Hills Golf Course. The Echo Hills project includes renovations to the existing nine holes as well as a new driving range and clubhouse.

## WILLIAMSBURG GROUP MOVES

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc., has relocated to 516 South Henry St., Suite B, here. The consulting firm of President Ronald Boyd and Vice President Mike Kelly will continue to have the phone number 804-220-6869.



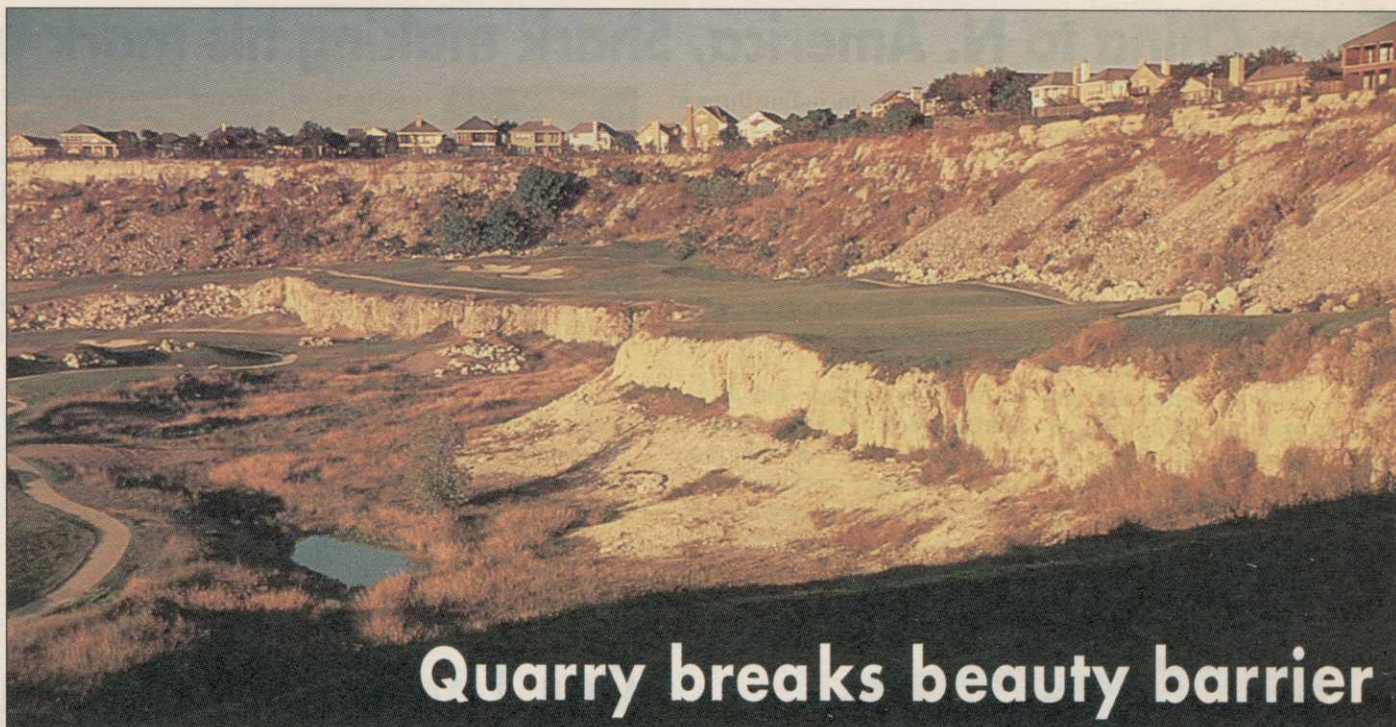
## RIDGEWOOD LAKES TOUGH SEMI-PRIVATE

POLK COUNTY, Fla. — Ridgewood Lakes Golf and Country Club, a master-planned community near Haines City, debuted as an 18-hole course in late November, 1993. "First and foremost, this new course promises to be lots of fun for golfers with challenge for all skill levels," said designer Ted McAnlis. "Though not severe, Ridgewood is no pushover." The 7,016-yards, par-72 layout stands as a semi-private club open for public play. Ridgewood is managed by GolfSouth, based in Greenville, S.C.

## MUNI INDIAN PEAKS OPENS

LAFAYETTE, Colo. — Indian Peaks Golf Course, a Hale Irwin-designed municipal course, has opened for play. A 168-acre, 18-hole golf course located within a 650-acre residential community, Indian Peaks was built on the Beauprez and Pizek family farms. The development concept focused on outdoor living, sensitivity to the environment and a feeling of open space. "This is not going to be Colorado's most difficult golf course. That's not the intent," Irwin said. "This won't be unplayable, it will be fun. It should have enough variety and challenge to appeal to people of all abilities."

GOLF COURSE NEWS



## Quarry breaks beauty barrier

By MARK LESLIE

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — From a mine quarry to a golf course. From a 130-foot-deep hole in the ground to a breathtaking string of golf holes with names like Alcatraz, Escape from Alcatraz, Fire in the Hole, Reload and The Wall. From a vacant lot to a tourist attraction, The Quarry has now been unveiled by its developers.

The Quarry joins a new Tom Weiskopf-Jay Morrish resort course, LaConterra for USAA Insurance at Fiesta theme park, and the Art Hills-Keith Foster collaboration at Hyatt Hill Country Resort as additions to the city's golfing scene. All public, daily-fee facilities, they could be a tourist boom for San Antonio.

"This hits the upscale market, which is

really unaddressed in this area," said Bill Ellis, president of Club Consultants Inc., which is operating the course for developers Jack and Bill Parker and Jay Eddy. "There are 11 municipal courses and one daily-fee, but no one had addressed this particular need."

"We think with [theme park] Fiesta Texas, the Riverwalk and Sea World,

Continued on page 52

## Congress in action on environmental front

## Endangered species expansion forecast

By JOE DYSART

While endangered eagles and butterflies have often scuttled golf course maintenance and development, it appears the industry has not seen anything yet. Newly proposed rules for the Endangered Species Act promise to create more headaches for those trying to build new golf courses, or maintain existing ones.

Pro-business interests mobilizing against the new rules — which are being pushed in Senate bill S.191 by Sen. Max Baucus (D-Montana) — say the changes will make it more difficult for regulators to



Wetlands and endangered species face changes in the minds of the lawmakers. This footbridge is typical of those bridging wetlands these days.

consider economic hardship before they rule on golf courses subject to endangered species protection.

Moreover, the new rules also call for government regulators to step in earlier to prevent a

Continued on page 49

## Wetlands regulations revision gains support

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — While developers await National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recommendations on wetlands delineation, Congress may move forward on legislation that could revolutionize construction in wetland areas.

The NAS study is due out at the end of 1994 and a new delineation manual might not be implemented until 1995 or beyond, according to Mike Kelly, vice president of Williamsburg Environmental Group in Williamsburg, Va. But the Congressional bill (H.R. 3465) awaits action. It was introduced

Continued on page 48

Q &amp; A

## Kaneda: Putting Japan's architects on golf's map



At a time when golf construction is at a crossroads in Japan, golf course architect Takeaki Kaneda has stepped to the forefront with famed colleague Shunsuke Kato to form the Japanese Society of Golf Course Architects. They face major struggles but have the background needed to do so. Kaneda graduated from Waseda University and attended graduate school at Ohio State University and then the University of Maryland as a graduate assistant. An accomplished golfer, he has been a producer and commentator for Japanese television and is an adviser for Golf Illustrated and Fortune magazine.

**Golf Course News:** You and Shunsuke Kato formed Japanese Society of Golf Course Architects partly to improve members' skills and improve golf in your country. How will you do that?

**Takeaki Kaneda:** We want to contribute to the Japanese golf world through our activities. The biggest problem Japanese golf has is, golfing expenditures are so high. The number-one priority is build more municipal courses. We can do this with the help of local government. Japan is a very centralized country. People have to make a decent living, and when it comes to living standards, in terms of income only, the center of living is not income but how they live and enjoy their lives. I think we can really help.

A big problem is that expenditures of golf are getting higher. We have to do something about the caddy because the caddy makes more money than anybody else. In Tokyo, the female caddy makes \$3,000 a month and doesn't even carry the bag. The golf bag carrier is remote-control. The golf club has to do everything possible for the caddy. One club I know is spending more than \$1 million to have caddies. It has to provide uniforms,

Continued on page 45



## Q&amp;A: Kaneda

Continued from page 43

transportation, meals, babysitters. It's crazy.

But if the economy is so poor, we have to change some things. One of the golf courses changed the policy from caddy to golf cart so it could lower the green fees almost \$100 — down to \$130. Now they're booked solid for two months.

**GCN:** To satisfy the craving for golf courses, are you seeing public courses built with private money?

**TK:** Yes, there are some, but they are very expensive.

**GCN:** Your society has 25 members. How many other Japanese are designing courses?

**TK:** Probably 20 to 25 more. But some are not fully qualified. And we tried to eliminate the professional golfer.

**GCN:** What percentage of new golf course design work goes to Asian architects?

**TK:** Probably most are by Japanese. The exceptions are Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Jr., Jack Nicklaus and Perry Dye.

**GCN:** But we do see more and more American architects working in the Asia-Pacific. Do developers there look at Americans first, and why wouldn't they use people from their own area?

**TK:** In Japan, name comes first. If they hire a big name, they think they can get more money from members. But I'm not satisfied with American architects these days. They are doing a little sloppier work. They used to do much better work. Now they are sending not-so-great shapers. American architects cannot visit Japan every two weeks. So if the shapers are wrong, nothing can be created well. I'd like to see, when the time goes by, how people appreciate these courses.

I think the time now in Japan is a very similar situation to the United States in the 1910s and 1920s. You had the George Thomas book and Mackenzie's, and other publications that promoted the knowledge of golfers.

We don't have that yet in Japan and we need it. Education is very important for leisure sports.

**GCN:** Golf course design and construction is quite different in Japan than the United States. How so?

**TK:** In Japan each section of the country has different ideas, how to control the earth-moving and so forth. It's not logical at all. It is trouble and there is almost no written code but it is left up to the bureaucrats for every section.

Environmental restrictions are so hard. We need more land now than ever before because of stupid regulations. We some-

## Japanese architects organize, set priorities to improve golf

TOKYO, Japan — Aiming to elevate their profession, the country's leading golf course designers have formed the Japanese Society of Golf Course Architects (JSGCA).

Headed by the nation's most widely known architect, Sunshuke Kato, the society is open to people who have designed at least three courses that are now open and have a minimum of seven years experience.

Chairman Kato is joined by Vice Chairman Takeaki Kaneda and others in the society, which number 25. According to Kato, the Society's goals include:

- improve members' skills;

- put together professional and social exchanges with colleagues from other countries; and

- initiate activities that support golf in Japan.

Hirofumi Zaitu is executive director from the JSGCA headquarters in Minato-ku. Serving as governors are Kowashi Arai, Sho Ohkubo, Hisamitsu Ohnishi, Taizo Kawata and Mitsuaki Kobayashi. Yoshihiko Komuro and Ken Sato are the society's auditors.

Zaitu can be reached at 101 Azabu-Homes Annex, 1-2-20 Nishi-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106; telephone 03-3403-1122; fax 03-3796-8787.

times have to build the Great Wall of China to protect the earth-moving on the golf course.

**GCN:** Is golf not treated fairly, do you think?

**TK:** We try to break up the regulations because farmers are using more pesticides than everybody else. A crop of rice in Japan is less than three percent of the world and yet they use almost 60 percent of all the chemicals of the world. They don't talk about that at all because farming is farming, but golf course is thought a sinful thing, for some people. So to do something sinful they cannot use pesticides. That is the point.

Pesticides is just on the surface. Inside, they have anti-golf goals.

**GCN:** Is this a rich versus poor syndrome?

**TK:** After the war, the Japan Golf Association volunteered to pay 1,000 yen each time we played. That money goes to the local government. It's a volunteer tax. It's now almost 10 times that much. Still, people think golfing is a rich man's game. Yet there are 4,500 driving ranges in Japan besides 2,000 courses. Golf must be one of the largest participating sports in the country.

But the politicians don't realize that. And politicians don't have any market research. They depend on the media for information.

That is another very important activity we have to do: Educate mass media people about this size, chemicals and the golf course itself. Japan is a very small country and I try to see where else we can preserve nature. But I think the golf course is the only place we can do it.

You have EPA. So has Japan. Japan's EPA made a study two years ago taking the ground water out of 144 golf courses. They took sample water to try to find out chemicals contained in the water. They found 0.0002 percent combination of all chemicals — almost none. That was amazing. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture don't give a damn for that research. They act as if there were no results whatsoever.

I think the responsibility is on journalists in Japan. They try to agitate people so they sell more.

**GCN:** Was the Japanese Society of Golf Course Architects formed in response to this?

**TK:** That and other reasons. We dearly had to incorporate internationally.

**GCN:** Is there work in Japan on using wastewater?

**TK:** We don't use it in Japan, but I hope we will in the future.

**GCN:** What other specific problems do you have to contend with?

**TK:** We're not allowed to build many golf courses, and yet we have [hundreds of thousands of acres of rice paddy land] sitting idle to keep the price of rice up. Seventy-five percent of Japan is mountains and almost 65 percent of our land is forest, and what can we do about it? For housing we use only four percent. That is one reason land is so expensive.

**GCN:** You can only build in the mountains because they won't let you build on farmable land.

**TK:** Right. We are literally changing mountains to golf courses. I think that's the way we should do it, provided we pre-

serve nature. In fact, we really develop nature and try to grow the nature with the help of God's hand.

**GCN:** How does course design differ in Japan than the United States?

**TK:** The way to design golf courses has a pendulum tendency. It goes to an extreme undulation and then back to ordinary playing greens. Depending on the length of the course, I prefer undulating greens, as long as we can maintain them economically and not hold up play. Scottish links have such beautiful undulation. And, of course, Japanese are not as strong golfers as Americans. I like to build shorter courses — 6,500 or 6,700 yards long, rather than 7,000 or 7,200. Americans try to aim for 7,000 all the time.

**GCN:** Is the boom in Japan continuing?

**TK:** Right now it's in a freeze. The economy is so bad.

**GCN:** What about the rest of Asia?

**TK:** Other countries are doing much better than Japan. In Thailand and Taiwan and all those areas.

**GCN:** Are there any frontiers there that haven't had golf but may be open to it? Vietnam/China/India?

**TK:** In China, especially Hong Kong, they are mainly Japanese developers.

**GCN:** Are golf course builders in Asia-Pacific getting better at it?

**TK:** Yes. The USGA greens specifications are very helpful. We don't have good laboratories like in United States. So when Jack [Nicklaus] comes over the workers send the samples to the United States.

**GCN:** Is there a difference between an Indonesian developer, a Thai developer, etc.?

**TK:** I think they have their own good industries, mostly tin or rubber. Their rich people are really rich. In Japan, most of the rich are corporations. But the individual in Japanese is not so rich because the taxation system is so high. It is a socialist country.

**GCN:** What about the golf facilities in these other areas like Indonesia and Thailand?

**TK:** There are not too many golfers there yet. They build golf courses to attract tourists.

**GCN:** Are they spending more on their facilities?

**TK:** Labor costs are smaller in those areas than in Japan, so they can spend more. But I don't think they spend such crazy money [as Japan]. Japan did it because of what we call a bubble economy which, depending on the price of the land, causes extraordinary costs.

**GCN:** How do you see the future of golf in Japan?

**TK:** We have to lower these extraordinary costs or the future is not so bright.

# MELEX HIRBIT

We're anxious to show you what 20 years of building electric and gas golf cars has taught us. See us at Booth 1525 at the PGA Show and Booth 3348 at the GCSAA Show.

For full product information or to find a distributor near you call 1-800-334-8665. Melex USA, Inc.



**MELEX**  
GOLF CARS  
Golf's Most Dependable Drive