

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 7
JULY 1994 • \$4.50

Vol [6]

INSIDE

Lightning Liability

Can a golf course actually prevent court action if lightning injures a player? An attorney speaks out 13

Grow-in Gurus

Gary Grigg and Steve Maas ply their nurturing trades wherever new courses emerge 16 & 31

Legislative Agendas

The seed industry awaits Congressional decisions on PVP, while EPA promises pesticide reform 45

Kiawah purchase blocked

By PETER BLAIS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Believing the potential buyers could not live up to environmental deed restrictions imposed on the property, a bankruptcy judge has nullified the Resolution Trust Corp.'s sale of the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island to the New York Audubon Society and financial partner Virginia Investment Trust.

The RTC opted not to appeal the judge's ruling and will auction off the property again at some as-yet-unspecified date.

South Carolina District Court Judge Falcon Hawkins' ruling reflects the sensitive environmental nature of the Ocean Course, portions of which are located within the boundary of the Coastal Barrier Resources System covered by the federal Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990.

In his six-page order, Hawkins said VIT told the court that a deed restriction in the closing documents was not part of its original bid agreement and would make it difficult for VIT to operate the facility.

Continued on page 41



TOM'S RUN

The idyllic par-3, 8th hole at Tom's Run Golf Course at Chestnut Ridge, a new Ault, Clark & Associates design outside Pittsburgh. The daily-fee Tom's Run opened for play this spring.

Course development booming on Indian land

By HAL PHILLIPS

Indian culture and golf would appear, on the surface, to be strange developmental bedfellows. But the sovereign-nation status enjoyed by many Native American groups — plus the creation of destination resorts alongside gaming institutions — have resulted in more and more (tee-time) reservations on the reservation.

- In Riverside, Calif., the Temecula Band of Luiseno Indians is planning a \$15 million complex with casino, hotel, golf course, entertainment and shopping center. Under a proposal from the Alex Michaels Group of Companies, each of the 500 tribal members on the Pechanga Reservation would receive \$300,000 over the next seven years.

- In Ledyard, Conn., the wildly successful Foxwoods Casino — run by the

Continued on page 33



RECOGNIZING THE APACHE SPIRIT

"The Nomad," sculpted by Michael D'Ambrosi, rises to its new home overlooking the 18th green at Desert Mountain's Renegade Course in Scottsdale, Ariz. "I hope my monument to the Apache will help us recognize the free spirit within all of us," said D'Ambrosi. "Our soul is our only real possession."

Winter kill a boon to sod growers

By MARK LESLIE

A nightmare spring of winter kill has left superintendents in the Southeast frustrated, but fertilizer producers and sod growers ringing the cash registers. "There are a couple

things for sure: It's a good year for sod producers and fertilizer companies. And a good year to be a turf consultant," said Patrick O'Brien, director of the Southeastern Region for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section.

Saying the turf industry "can't handle anything with this magnitude of loss," O'Brien said: "[Superintendents] have got to get on the [waiting] list to get a sprigging machine and to buy sod. Sprigging machines and Bermudagrass sod in the Southeast are in

Continued on page 47

New zoysias may provide the best of both worlds

By MARK LESLIE

In a perfect world, a golf course superintendent could choose a turfgrass that uses as little water as buffalograss and can thrive even if that water is low-grade effluent; a grass that is heat-tolerant like Bermudagrass but with far better disease and pest resistance; a grass that, at the same time, provides golfers a quality playing surface.

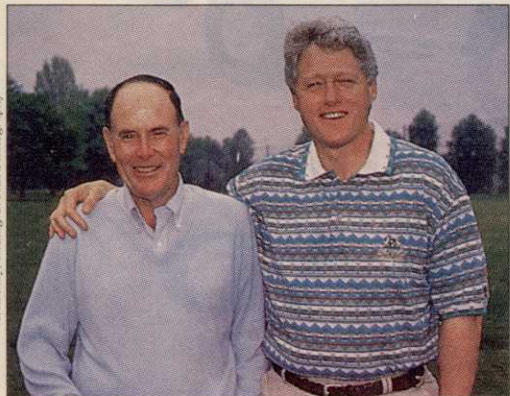


Kevin Morris

According to some, that perfect world now exists in certain areas of the country, with the advent of the new generation of zoysiagrasses.

"Nobody's sure how big the potential is, but it's big," said Kevin Morris, director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program administered by the U.S. Depart-

Continued on page 19



PRESIDENTIAL PARDON?

Could it be President Bill Clinton has pardoned architect Pete Dye for his diabolically penal designs? No, the two recently played a charity event at Crooked Stick in Carmel, Ind. For the story on Pete's publishing career, see page 32.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

GCSAA continues shake-up at headquarters 15
Savvy Super recommends atrazine soil testing 17
Remodel your greens without closing them 20

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Homestead builds 9; courts deadlocked on 18 3
Q&A with Jay; Tom forms own firm 31,37
Smyers, Faldo collaborate on British design 31

COURSE MANAGEMENT

AGC takes aim at private club market 40
Marketing Idea: Strength in numbers 40
Golf Communities USA buys Pinehurst tracks 42

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

What's new in the marketplace? 44
GCSAA will return to Golf Asia in '95 45
Vicksburg names K-Power sales managers 49