

Jarrell commentary

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than "F"s. The problem is that this kind of a poll has not been taken; that people will lie and distort the truth to achieve their goals; and that active minorities will achieve political success over silent or misinformed majorities.

As one who cares about the environment, it greatly disturbs me that a noble cause is being subverted by groups with hidden agendas, individuals seeking personal gain, hypocrites who ask others to make sacrifices they won't make themselves, and religious fanatics trying to impose their values on others.

America is a democracy, and people cannot be denied their choice of beliefs, but they must be given factual information upon which to vote their choices.

I happen to believe that wise-uses strategies based on good science are the mechanisms to satisfy the desires of a majority of our population, but I may be outnumbered. Most Americans who believe in protecting the environment are middle to upper class who are far removed from the natural resources they depend on for their high standard of living. Those who know the least about managing natural resources are those most critical of natural resource industries, and support environmental legislation no matter what the issue or the cost. They believe "environmentalists" over scientists by about 5 to 1.

It is estimated that we now spend about \$1.7 trillion annually for all environmental regulation, with costs continuing to escalate.

Can we afford to continue passing legislation on the basis that it might be good for the environment? I wonder how many of us really understand the economic implications of environmental legislation, or the precarious position our country will be in if we continue down this path?

I urge all superintendents and all members of the golf course industry to dig deeper into the environmental issues, learn what lies below the surface, and help educate your members. It is much more than your job that is at stake.

The new Woods nine on Mackinac Island was designed by Jerry Matthews, the outgoing president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, who does much of his work in Michigan.



Matthews' new nine on Mackinac blends with island's old-world feel

By KATHRYN A. CLARK

Something old. Something new. Golfers traveling to Michigan's Mackinac Island had better leave their automobiles behind. Motorized vehicles have been banned on the 2,200-acre island since the turn of the century, so transportation is by horseback, horse-drawn carriages, bicycle and by foot.

Yet, brand new to the historic resort area is a Jerry Matthews-designed nine-hole public course that opens this month.

Developed by Grand Hotel owner Dan Musser Jr., the Woods Golf Course is perched high on a limestone bluff, overlooking St. Ignace, the Straits of Mackinac and Mackinac Bridge. The hotel's first nine-hole course, The Jewel, was built in 1910 on land that once was the town's public cow pasture. A two-year renovation was completed on that track in 1987.

The first tee of the new Woods course is a 17-minute carriage ride from the 9th green of The Jewel.

Golf carts are available at both courses. The carts arrive by ferry

each spring. Each is harnessed to a horse to be pulled to the courses. (The carts actually motor under their own power. It just appears the horses are pulling them.)

The new nine, adjacent to the airport, is nestled among white pine, cedar, hemlock, white birch and maple trees.

Players will use three sets of tees, the longest yardage slightly more than 3,000 yards.

Matthews' layout required only minimal blasting, and that was to remove a seven-foot limestone ridge on the 4th hole. The course was carved out of rolling forested terrain, punctuated by numerous rocks and outcroppings that provide spectacular elevated rock tee areas and fairways accents.

A hill beside the cart path on the 5th hole has a historic British/American gun emplacement during the War of 1812.

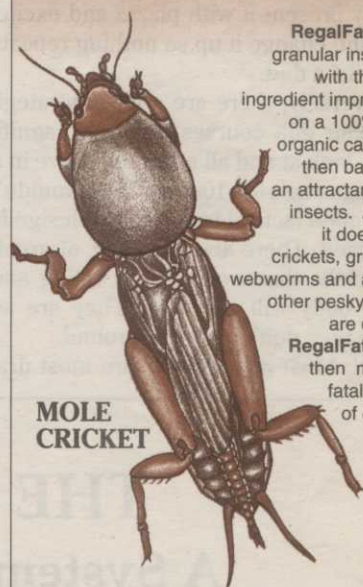
All construction equipment had to be transported to the island by ferry. According to Matthews, the difficult item was 900 yards of sand for the 30 bunkers.

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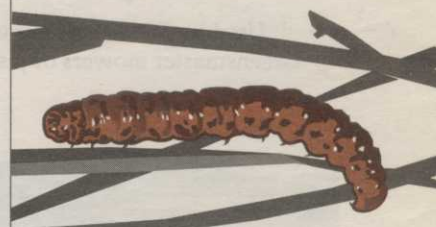
The Golf Course Builders Association of America has published its updated membership directory. The 128-page booklet contains names, addresses and descriptions of its member companies and the other Allied Associations of Golf, as well as an explanation of the GCBAA Builder Certification Program and a list of the 1994 Certified Golf Course Builders. A new feature in the directory is a seven-page construction reference section that contains measurement conversions and other useful construction information. Copies are \$10 each, and can be requested by contacting GCBAA headquarters, 920 Airport Road, Ste. 210, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514; phone 919-942-8922.

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