

Ault, Clark undertake 'best projects ever'

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and green surrounds, and Bermuda and fescue roughs.

The 18-hole private facility, built for Cooper Communities, Inc., has "terrific views of the Ozarks" and boasts seven new ponds and four holes bordering Roark Creek.

Diamante is the sixth 18-hole private course in Hot Springs Village designed by Ault-Clark. It stretches over an immense 7,500 yards — the longest track in Arkansas. Cooper

Communities and ClubCorp. of America retained the designers and expect to open the course next spring or summer.

Clark promises "a heckuva test of golf" at The Woods Course, which opened in late September as the latest complement to the golf community Kingsmill on the James.

Designed by Clark and PGA Tour star Curtis Strange, The Woods Course boasts an

Augusta National look. Sitting next to Busch Gardens, but with no homes, the track joins the Pete Dye-designed River Course, Arnold Palmer-designed Plantation Course and Clark-designed nine-hole Bray Links. Kingsmill hosts the Anheuser-Busch Golf Classic which Clark hopes one day will play over The Woods layout.

"It has a tremendous variety of holes, with all the shot values," Clark said — from a

285-yard par-4 to a 230-yard par-3, a 130-yard par-3 and a 600-yard par-5.

Pointing out that there is no rough on the entire course, Clark said, "We wanted an Augusta look where you get a terrific lie anywhere."

The Woods Course measures 6,800 yards from the back tees, and plays over "tremendous gullies" and around the five man-made ponds.

Official opening will be next spring.

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Clark and partner Brian Ault

are also excited about Ft. Belvoir (Va.) Golf Course.

Ft. Belvoir added 23 holes to its existing 18-hole Robert Trent Jones golf course, cutting out some Jones holes and parlaying the mix into four nine-hole tracks, all leaving from the new clubhouse.

Ready to open in late September or early October, two of the nines are all-new and comprise a 7,000-yard championship-caliber course.

The other two nines combine existing and new holes to comprise a 6,700-yard layout.

Planning four nines leaving a clubhouse, "is a good practice," Clark said, because it allows course officials to assign golfers to play wherever is most efficient.

The large practice area, chipping complex and putting green can accommodate 40 to 50 golfers.

The site, Clark said, is "a pretty, rolling property but segmented by roads, archaeological areas and wetlands. We had just enough usable land left over for these holes."

The design/build project, coordinated by Ault-Clark, included C.A. Barrs of Newport News, Va., as the course builder and Zeigfried Construction as general contractor and clubhouse builder.

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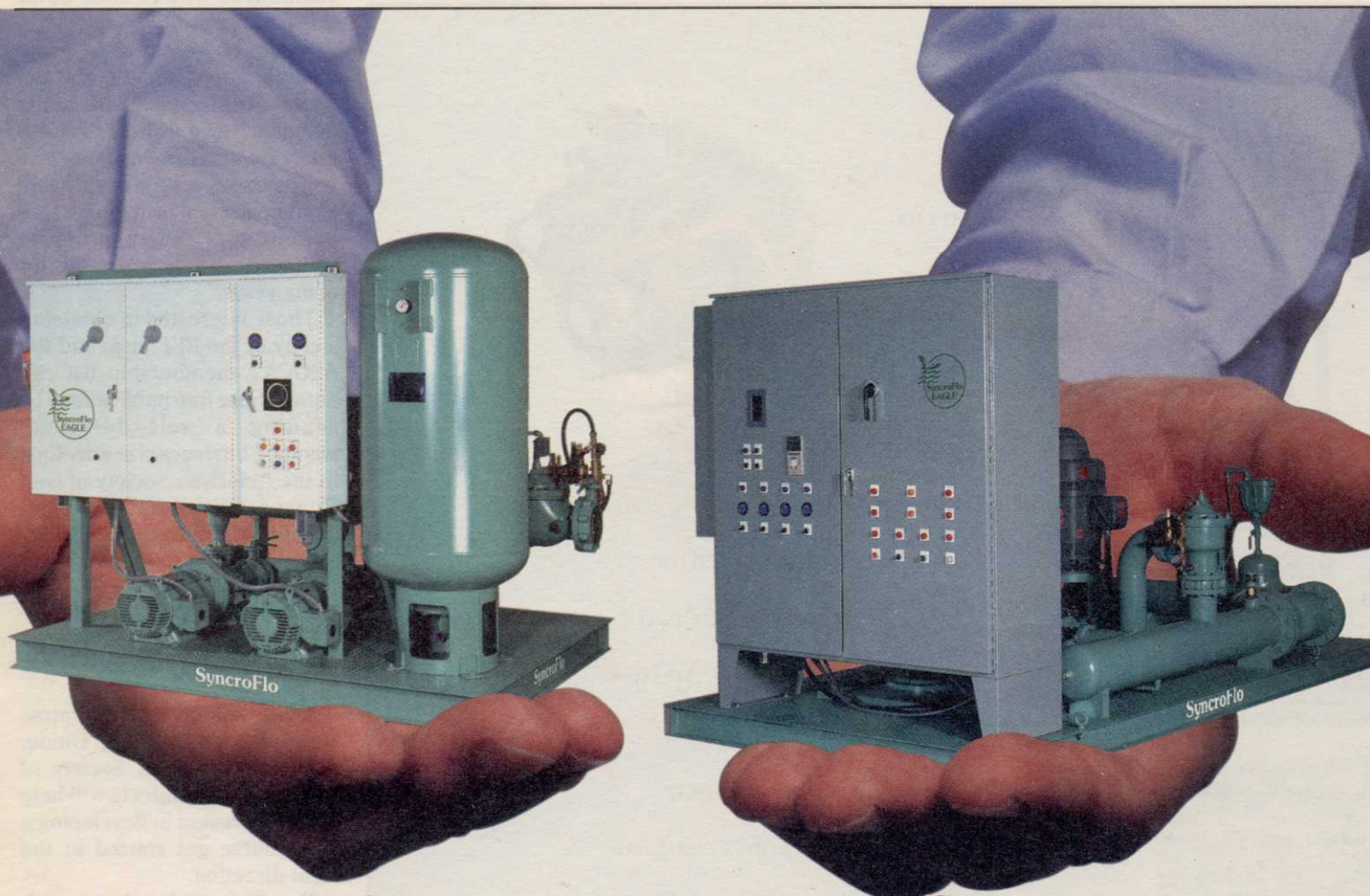
Meanwhile, the firm opened three projects over the summer — a Bill Love-designed 18-hole addition at Tom's Run Golf Course in Blairsville, Pa.; the second nine at Culpeper (Va.) Country Club, designed by Ault; and a renovation of the 18-hole Overbrook Country Club, designed by Clark, in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Houston track will boast Finger, Dye, Spann imprint

HOUSTON — Finger, Dye, Spann will design the daily-fee Palmetto Hills Golf Course now under proposal for development on a 500-acre parcel of piney woods, 80 miles north of here.

Palmetto Hills will be an 18-hole, par-72, 7,045-yard wooded course, with four tee areas per hole. Planners are due to complete a final analysis and make recommendations to the county's zoning administrator. If all goes well the project will open in the fall of 1996.

The course is being developed by the limited partnership, Palmetto Hills Golf & Conference Center, whose principals are currently scouting for a senior management firm to complete their development team.



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