



The Sanford-designed Waimea Country Club is high in Hawaii's mountains in Kamuela.

IN HAWAII

Sanford takes to the mountains

Sanford & Associates has just completed a project in Kamuela, Hawaii, and is working on others in the U.S., Egypt and China.

The Kamuela course, Waimea Country Club, is located 3,500 feet above sea level. Its mountain location and cold air allowed Jupiter, Fla.-based Sanford to use bentgrass on the 18-hole, par-72 course.

Sanford also hopes to open Quest Golf Course in Houghton Lake, Mich., this summer. Designed with professional golfer Ken Green, the 14-hole course is

part of a new resort/residential community there.

Two recently announced projects include The Sharm El-Sheikh Resort & Golf Club in Sinai, Egypt, to be routed through cliffs overlooking the Red Sea; and the Great Wall Country Club in Beijing, People's Republic of China, which is still in preliminary design.

Other current projects include: Hickman Hills Golf Club, East Fishkill, N.Y., designed with Lee Trevino; Sawmill Golf Club, Saginaw, Mich.; and Quarry Hills Golf Course, Quincy, Mass.

Grand Cayman gets first full-length track

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI—On an island known more for diving and snorkeling, visitors to the Caymans can now add "teeing off" to their list of vacation activities. Golfers can test their skill at The Links at SafeHaven, Cayman Islands' first 18-hole championship golf course. Located five miles north of George Town, the new 6,500-yard, par-72 course cost \$8.5 million to develop and complete.

Designed by Roy Case, and built by Gregori International SARL of France, The Links at

SafeHaven was built according to U.S. Golf Association standards. SafeHaven Ltd. Chairman Owen Matalon noted the challenges his international team of developers overcame in completing the project.

More than 60 acres of the 103-acre course were planted with hybrid Bermudagrass which, for the first time in the Caribbean, was cultivated using spraying technique hydro-mulching.

The landscape is planted with more than 4,000 indigenous tropical trees and shrubs,

including coconut and thatch palms, mahogany, cordia, oleander and mahoe.

Case, who has designed more than 50 courses throughout the Caribbean and southern United States, said that, because of the originally "hostile" environment, The Links at SafeHaven provided critical information about the problems of growing grass in soil-less, salt-laden material.

"It's by far the most difficult project I have ever undertaken, and I am extremely proud of the results," he said.

Attitude Adjustment, anyone?

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Instead of golf industry proponents going into a fray at a public hearing wearing nothing but a flak jacket, the world will see environmental scare-ists tied up in straight jackets.

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One warning for an Attitude Adjustment: Many in the golf industry have over-reacted in the past against people who have released "balanced" reports that not only point to the ecological harmlessness of golf but address practices or products that should be improved. "Shame on you," people holler when there are any negative tones to a report from the Green Section or Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Listen up! If there were no balance, if only the rosy research findings were released and if the unflattering were withheld, the golf industry would sink to the level of the Sierra Club, Worldwatch and their cronies. Golf would lose all credibility.

Let Sierra bury itself in the eyes of the public with its one-sided, self-serving rhetoric. Then unstrap the heat-seeking missile from your hip.

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WHAT YOU SAY?

Statements coming out of D.C. are sometimes bewildering, aren't they?

Carol Browner told an audience in July: "My job is protecting the health of the people of this country and the health of the resources we all share — the air, the land and the water. But I can't do my job if the people of this country don't have health care."

What? You can't keep the environment clean if we don't have health care? A bit of a stretch there, Ms. Browner. As the protesters have said: "The deal is raw. Take it back to Arkansas."

Then there was President Bill Clinton who, during a speech at a church on Aug. 14, referred to the presidency as a "ministry." Seed Research of Oregon Director of Marketing Skip Lynch responded: "That's a short leap from the bullypulpit to the pulpit."

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Trouble with poa annua being trafficked onto your course from other courses on golfers' spikes?

Try what Kevin Ross at Falmouth (Maine) Country Club and Terry Buchen at Double Eagle in Galena,

Ohio, are doing (and I do think you guys swiped my brilliant idea!). That is: Set up a spike brush station at the pro shop and require golfers to clean their cleats before walking onto the course.

Ross is putting up a sign: "Due to weed seed from other courses, all golfers must clean their spikes."

He joked that members at his private club can hassle their guests: "Clean your spikes before you walk on my course, you weed-smuggler!"

Informing club members through newsletters, signs, or other media will help them all pitch in. No one wants to "ugly up" a course they play on.

If you have valets at your course, they can help you with your bag and shoes from the car and just pass it onto a person to clean the shoes.

Meantime, arming golfers nationwide with Softspikes could resolve much of the poa annua problem, too.

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Instead of Jack Nicklaus, it will be Nicklaus the First who will win the Russian Open, joked Robert Trent Jones Jr. about Moscow Country Club in Nahabino, Russia.

Building a course during the turbulence of the late 1980s and early 1990s in the former Soviet Union was not without challenges. Jones said that at the time of the "revolution" the standing comment was: "When a Russian says, 'Take a shot on our golf course,' do you drink, duck or hit it?"

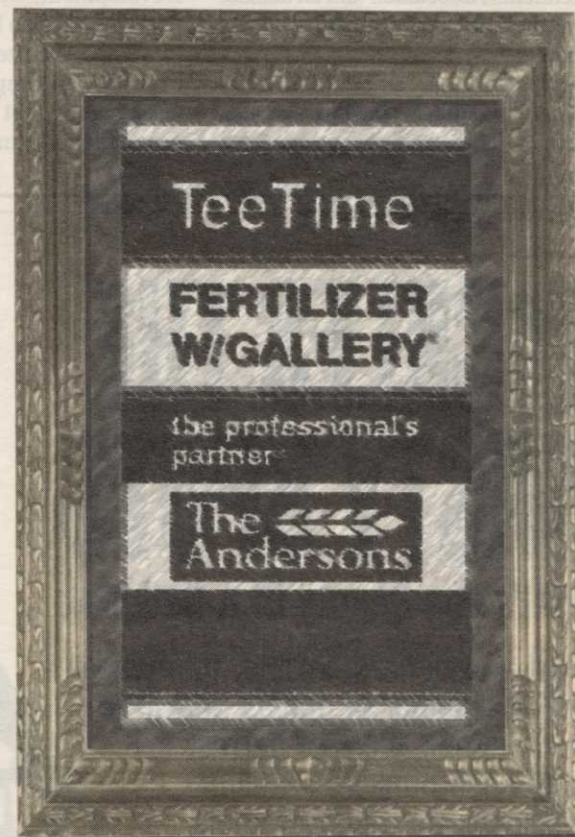
The deal for Jones to design the course was actually signed at the summit in 1988 between then-Soviet Foreign Minister Chevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz. "Schultz said, 'Now that you're going to have fewer weapons, you ought to play golf and try to get those little missiles in the correct targets,'" Jones recalled.

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Global gadabout Bobby Weed, the chief golf course designer for the PGA Tour, made this observation: "Golf is not really a fad in Japan. But you could relate it to all the fads that have ever come down the pike in the United States — Hoolahoop, skateboard, Frisbee, everything — roll them all into one and that's how the Japanese feel about golf."

Observation Number Two: "Golf is the most migratory game in the world. It's enjoyed by the biggest, most diverse age group in the world."

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