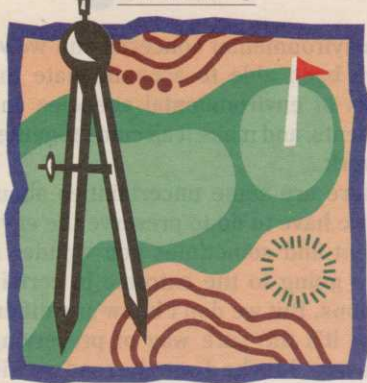


BRIEFS



FREUND JOINS FAIRWAY

TEMECULA, Calif. — Fairway Construction has appointed Ron Freund manager of its new Irrigation Division. Freund, who has worked in the irrigation industry for more than 16 years, will be based at the company's headquarters here. "The creation of a new Fairway Irrigation Division will help us provide a broader range of professional services for the golf course industry," said Gosch. He was previously affiliated with High Tech Golf as an irrigation sales representative for Southern California, and worked with Hunter Industries.



Ron Freund

WATER OF ALL SORTS AT TURTLE CREEK

O'FALLON, Mo. — The Falls At Turtle Creek, an 18-hole daily-fee golf course here, opened for play May 27. Missouri National Golf Links, a St. Louis-based partnership headed by co-general partners Robert Saur and Ed Schultz, is the developer. The 197-acre complex includes an 18-hole course, driving range with separate teaching center, miniature golf course, batting cages, and 5,500-square-foot clubhouse. The Falls At Turtle Creek features three waterfalls. Fairways are planted with Bermudagrass. Greens are bentgrass. The majority of fairways are tree-lined. Water hazards come into play on eight holes.

DEVICTOR LANGHAM ADDS MUSARRA

ROSWELL, Ga. — DeVictor Langham, land planners and golf course architects, has added Sal Musarra to its staff in its office here. Musarra has 13 years experience in land development, including four years of course design and development. He will focus on marketing efforts for new course and renovation projects, as well as land planning for golf communities. The firm recently began design work for Rarity Bay, a semi-private facility on Lake Tellico in Eastern Tennessee. Preliminary design has also begun for Rancho San Gerardo, a 27-hole layout in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

HARBOTTLE BREAKS GROUND — TWICE

Ground has broken on two new John Harbottle designs, the Mountain Course at Genoa Lakes North in Genoa, Nevada will stretch to 7,500 yards over high-desert savanna at the foot of the Sierra Mountains. The New Course at Golf Mountain in Bremerton, Wash., is a traditional design playing over 6,900 yards through tall firs.

Hurdzan Cooks up a treat outside Columbus

By MARK LESLIE

ASHVILLE, Ohio — From cornfield and atrazine to golf course and ecology. That's the story of Cooks Creek here — a golf course that has transformed a flood plain into a wetland haven for waterfowl and other wildlife.

"I think it's probably a good prototype of what modern golf architecture is going to be in the years to come," said Dr. Michael Hurdzan, who designed the course along with PGA Tour pro John Cook. "It doesn't look contrived. It looks natural. It's believable, even though we did an enormous amount of earthwork. It enhances the environment."

For Hurdzan's consultant on Cooks Creek, PGA Tour pro John Cook, it is a family affair. His grandfather, Bert, and father, Jim, once farmed the land. Jim decided to build a golf course on it. John's sister and former LPGA Tour pro Cathy is interested as well, but the new mother will not be working there. GolfCorp, the public golf arm of



The 5th hole at Michael Hurdzan's new design — Cooks Creek — in Ashville, Ohio.

ClubCorp, joined the project as majority owner, infusing finances and managing the facility, whose second nine opened at the end of June.

"Our expertise is in operations and

marketing. Jim and John will be involved to an extent, promotionally," said GolfCorp Senior Vice President of Marketing C.J. McDaniel, adding that

Continued on next page



The 7th hole at the Barry Serafin-designed Players Club at Foxfire.

Q & A

Serafin becomes marketable in competitive Ohio region



Ask the folks in Columbus, Ohio, about The Players Club's new golf course — Foxfire — and you'll hear it is a major, challenging addition to that golf-rich region. Discover who designed it and you'll discover a relatively new name — in terms of golf architecture — that is, Barry Serafin. A former pupil of Jack Kidwell and Dr. Michael Hurdzan, with major university work in landscape architecture and an agronomy degree in his pocket, Serafin is carving out a niche for his work in the Ohio Territory. Managing editor Mark Leslie caught up with him in Ohio for this interview.

Golf Course News: How did you first get involved in golf course design?

Barry Serafin: I like designing things. I transferred down to Ohio State because of landscape architecture. I was in that for a few years. I loved the design aspect of it. I loved working with the ground. But it wasn't a field I felt I would be happy in.

When I went into agronomy, it was with the idea of getting into golf course design. I then worked in construction

on a golf course for about a year with Quality Golf. Then I started with Mike, who had sat down with me and given me direction [while in college].

GCN: The canvas in landscape architecture wasn't big enough?

Serafin: That's about it. I felt it would be repetitive year after year. That's what I love about golf course design. Every year it's different. It's a new piece of property, new people and new challenges.

GCN: You were involved in the first

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Philippines rich with possibilities

By MARK LESLIE

MANILA, The Philippines — A stabilized government, combined with a hefty infusion of Hong Kong and other foreign money, is translating here into a golf development boom.

"I see this as a second-wave development boom," said Mark Hollinger, vice president and partner with J. Michael Poellot course architects. "Typically, the first level of development [in a country] targets tourists and foreigners. Then, as golf develops and matures — and as people realize the value in it and in creating value for real-estate — it starts being marketed to 'locals.'"

Hollinger referred to a Poellot project called Mount Malarayat, a housing development with 27 holes of golf in Lipa City, south of Manila. "It is probably the only [non-resort] project in the Philippines right now. It's one of the early ones in the second wave — the first of a trend," he said.

Most of the projects combine foreign and Filipino money.

"Historically," said architect Brad Benz, "it has been a Japanese initiative that got things going [in a golf boom]. In this instance, it's perhaps a little different in that some perceptive Filipinos are saying, 'Why can't we be a part of this?'"

Hollinger agreed that "most all the projects going on have a local partner.

"A lot of foreign money has come into The Philippines — especially with the uncertainty of Hong Kong," he added. "There was an initial bailout a few years back from Singapore and Bangkok. Now a lot of the Hong Kong players are hedging their bets and want to stay as close to Hong Kong as they can. The Philippines, being stable

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Pearson leaves Golden Bear, enters the fray of golf course design

By MARK LESLIE

JUNO BEACH, Fla. — Testing the waters and finding them temperate, golf course architect Tom Pearson has left Nicklaus Design Co. and formed Pearson Golf Design, headquartered here.



Tom Pearson

Opening his own firm, Pearson follows in the steps of former Nicklaus cohorts Jay Morrish, Bob Cupp, Scott Miller, Rick Jacobsen and Rick Robbins.

"I've been at Nicklaus Design a long time," Pearson said. "I always felt that I was at the top just by working with Jack. The only thing I could personally see that would be a step up would be to go on my own. This is that step."

Pearson spent 15 years working with Nicklaus and also worked with Robert von Hagge and Bruce Devlin, assisting on more than 70 courses at varying stages of design and construction. "I was a pencil-pusher for Jay [Morrish] and Bob [Cupp] when I started out," he said.

Nicklaus has been very supportive of his move, Pearson said. He added that he is finishing up work on some Golden Bear projects as well as starting his first Pearson



The view from the left of the approach on the par-5 3rd hole at the Tom Pearson-designed Shore Oaks.

signature tracks — The Tradition at Ibis Golf & Country Club in Palm Beach County and Aston Oaks in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"I like to see what the land is going to yield to me," Pearson said of his design philosophy. "It breaks my heart when we have to make slope cuts and things like that. I've been on a lot of old golf courses and they have blind shots and things like

that... In some ways I wonder if all this modernization and availability of equipment may have interfered with some of the mystique of golf design."

His decisions on earth-moving, he said, are based, first, on safety; and second, on playability of the hole.

"The environment is a big concern," he added. "All my jobs have been confronted

with environmental concerns and we've always been able to accommodate the desires of environmental agencies and our clients, and make it all come together and work...

"There are some uncertainties about what we have to do to preserve the environment and sometimes you wonder if we are going to the extreme in certain situations. But we don't know any different, so it's the sure way of preserving things now. Maybe down the road we will find out we didn't have to do some of the things we've done, or that it would have been better if we had enhanced it rather than left it alone."

The biggest challenge facing golf development today, Pearson said, is putting together an adequate land package to support a course.

"We need to have so many acres to do a golf course. A developer has to put together enough land to make the numbers work. If there is wetland or something else, he has to obtain more land... There are just so many variables involved."

"We've always had to work with the land. Years ago it was the topography, soil conditions and things like that. Now it seems to be more the environment. And so it has always been a challenge to work with the land in one form or another."

Cooks Creek points way to future

Continued from previous page

Jim plans to build some housing the property.

For them all, especially course builder Niebur Golf, it was a major undertaking confronted by one massive problem — flooding. The Scioto River runs along the 355-acre property and merges with Little Walnut Creek on-site. That confluence over the years has often submerged the property under three to four feet of flood water.

"We explained it was a lousy site,

virtually flat except for one huge ridge that runs down the middle," Hurdzan said. "But Jim said, 'By God, we'll do it anyway.'"

With the help of environmental groups and the Ohio departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Fish and Wildlife, they have done just that. Some 63 acres of wetlands were created, and the soil dredged up was used to raise the fairways six to seven feet to get out of the flood plain and not alter any of the flood capacity of the valley. Some



Michael Hurdzan

800,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved.

"We had to build big detention areas," Hurdzan said. "Those areas became wetlands and, ultimately, the habitat."

Audubon Society of New York

President Ron Dodson counted some 40 varieties of birds on the property when he visited to sign Cooks Creek into the group's Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

"We're promoting the bluebirds," said superintendent Galen

Scharenberg. "We've installed houses for American kestrels [small hawks], bluebirds, martins, barn owls, woodducks, bats... We have a blue heron rookery, and will start putting floating logs and tying them off in the lakes for them to perch on."

"It's not actually the bird houses that do the most good," Scharenberg added. "It's the natural areas, like the tall grasses. Whenever we clear areas for air circulation we pile the branches back up like wigwams. People don't realize that pile of sticks in the forest has 10 times the amount of animals than the birdhouses."

Ohio DNR personnel visit every several months to discuss what Cooks Creek is doing and how they can help Scharenberg and his crew.

"Initially, environmentalists saw our intentions were to do it right," Hurdzan said. "Once they saw that and we could show we weren't going to alter the flow of the river, that indeed we were going to stabilize the land to erosion, and increase the wildlife value of the site, they were thrilled."

The story line, Hurdzan said, is that "wetlands have always been unusable ground. We have taken modern earth-moving equipment and put the flood plain into recreational use without changing the intention of what a flood plain is all about — to allow for flood waters. The flood plain today is probably a better storage area than before."

Cooks Creek? It's a narrow, three- to six-foot-wide creek that runs down through the Upland nine which looks down on the Bottoms nine set in the wetlands. "We made it," Hurdzan said, explaining that water from near the river is pumped to an upland pond that flows down through the creek and the wetlands.

"So the water is circulating. It allows for greater biodiversity on the site," Hurdzan said.

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