

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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**TAKING A BYTE FROM CONSTRUCTION TIME**  
Architect Brad Benz claims he's speeding up the construction process 30 to 35 percent by using a computer-generated drafting system. The latest example is a British project known as Duke's Dene. For stories, see page 29.

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## USCCA to offer clubs group buying option

By PETER BLAIS

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A recently formed organization designed to cut costs and increase efficiency at private clubs has ruffled a few feathers among other golf associations. The main focus of the United States Country Club Association (USCCA) is a group purchasing program called the Cooperative Alliance for Purchasing (CAP), according to

Jeffrey Dykehouse, USCCA's founder, president and sole stockholder.

CAP reportedly leverages the buying power of USCCA member clubs to provide the best possible price for products and services such as insurance, maintenance equipment and supplies, food and beverage products, office equipment, irrigation materials and equipment, golf

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Jack Nicklaus (from right), Jack II and design associate Chris Cochran survey plans in Palm City, Fla..

## Nicklaus hops aboard the public-access bandwagon

By MARK LESLIE

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — The Nicklaus umbrella is about to expand, adding public-access golf clubs and community development and management to its bulky portfolio.

Keying on a market tailor-made for his name and the fast-growing segment of public golfers, Jack Nicklaus is starting a network of Golden Bear Golf Communities featuring semi-private, daily-fee golf courses.

First out of the gate will

be Golden Bear Golf Club at Laurel Springs, north of metro Atlanta in southern Forsyth County. Ground was broken in April. Watch for future communities in Dallas, Chicago, Detroit, Tampa and Nashville, said Golden Bear Financial Services President Ira Fenton,

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## SPRING START-UP?



Pro-active, mountain maintenance paves way for late spring opening

By MARK LESLIE

KEYSTONE, Colo. — While golf courses elsewhere across the northern tier of the country are taking off green covers and tending to new young turf in April, superintendents like Steve Corneillier at Keystone Ranch Golf Course are snowblowing their greens clear in May.

"The term 'spring start-up' takes on a whole new meaning here," said Corneillier, whose been keeping to this upcountry regimen for decades. "This is springtime in the Rockies at 9,300-foot elevation...

"When it snows on July 4th weekend we're never sure if we should count that toward last year's snow or next year's," he laughed, although snow did shut down the course for two days on that weekend in 1993.

In his 20 years at Keystone Resort, this has been

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## Sticks & Stones: Firms play the name game

By HAL PHILLIPS

The automobile industry annually spends millions of dollars researching model names that will catch the fancy of consumers. Sometimes the money is well spent; sometimes it may as well have been flushed down the toilet. Who, for example, dreamed up the Ford Probe, a product aimed ostensibly at young women on the move? Unfortunately for Ford, marketing experts believe the name tends to remind young women of pending trips to the gynecologist.

The Probe may be the golf course

superintendents' equivalent to an herbicide called Leech-Rite.

While the dollar value is modest in comparison, suppliers to the golf course industry also spend a great deal of time and money on the formulation of product names. Perhaps because of their sheer number and the often thankless nature of their functions, seed varieties and turf chemicals are tops when it comes to invention. Is it coincidence that so many seed varieties share names with automobiles?

"Mustang, Falcon, Dasher, Fiesta,

Continued on page 27

Focus on  
Bermudagrass  
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Keystone Ranch Golf Course crew member Jeff Adams clears off a green. Adams, whose hometown is Cape Elizabeth, Maine, is used to late springs, but not like this.



## Keystone tackles late-late winter

Continued from page 1  
Corneillier's longest spring. At mid-month, the Keystone

region's snowpack for May was 192 percent of normal, including another 30 inches in May, and

more was expected. It's no different at Copper Mountain and Breckenridge — two other mountain courses in the region.

At Keystone Ranch there exists two entirely different conditions. "On the front nine, lower and with more sun exposure, we have gone into a rapid melt-down," Corneillier said. "We hit 72 degrees yesterday and went from two feet of snow to nothing in 36 hours. All the spring runoff from the mountains flows through our lower nine holes, and therefore has pushed the lake and Soda Creek out of their boundaries. So we have one large

body of water on the lower nine in the fairways where the ducks and geese and waterfowl are having a great time.

"On the back nine, we're still in winter. It's back in a valley that is very shaded by the mountain peaks and gets less sun.

In a normal year Keystone opens the front nine around May 20 and the back nine May 26. "We're shooting for June 2 and 9," Corneillier said.

In preparation, his crews first had to snowblow the snow off the greens. Then came aeration. Then, on May 11, mowing — on greens surrounded by a sea of snow. Mowing was necessary because grass should not be cut more than 30 percent of its length.

Because the irrigation heads were still buried in ice, water was pumped from the "lakes" onto the greens in May.

"We are two to four weeks behind [schedule] in the field, depending on what we want to get accomplished," Corneillier said. "We can't get any heavy equipment off the cart paths.

"We're still not up to full staff because there hasn't been enough work on the actual turf to execute. We're hand-raking the tee boxes, tee surrounds and green surrounds. But we can't get sweepers out."

Ideally, Keystone's crews sweep and rake the entire course before mowing. This gets the air circulating and the grass standing up so the mowers don't just flatten it down.

Some greens have been under turf covers to keep the winds from drying off the crown of the plant and to maintain a more constant soil temperature throughout the day and evening.

Judging the health of his turfgrass going into last winter as better than ever, Corneillier attributed it to "a better aeration and plant nutrition program. Those were the best things we have changed dramatically. We're seeing less snow mold and less winter desiccation."

Based on continued soil and water sampling over the last three to four years, Corneillier's crew changed the balance of all the macro- and micro-nutrients.

"We also did more and more aeration of tees, fairways and roughs throughout the entire season," he said. "We're applying more fertilization programs to our roughs as well, due to the expectations of our resort golfer."

Now it's full bore ahead into 1995 in the Rockies. At least for a short while.

"Historically, we will start to get our winter snows in September and will have two or three storms," Corneillier said. "Those early snows will melt off by noon the following day. We start getting snow accumulation around mid-October."

Unless, of course, on July 4 they get a repeat of 1993.

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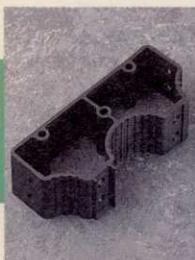
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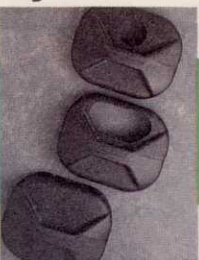
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