

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**BROOKTRAILS, Calif.** — The saga of the Brooktrails redwoods appears to be over. And some trees won't be happy. The board of directors at the nine-hole Brooktrails Golf Course recently voted 3-2 to cut down a number of redwood trees to save some dying greens and fairways. There are nearly 1,000 trees in the playing area of the northern California course. Arborist John Phillips recommended removing the trees because they keep sunlight from the playing areas and cause greens and fairways to die of excessive moisture. Cutting will begin in the fall.

**EDINBURG, Texas** — The 18-hole Monte Cristo Golf Course has reopened with a new name, the Palacio Real Golf Course. PalBros Inc. of Edinburg, a city of about 30,000 in southern Texas just a few miles above the border with Mexico, bought the former Monte Cristo in July 1994.

**GREENVILLE, S.C.** — A proposed lighted, 18-hole, par-3 course near Greenville Downtown Airport has led about 70 neighboring homeowners to sign a petition opposing the project. Residents are concerned with the effect of lights and increased traffic in their secluded neighborhood. The developer and officials of the Greenville Airport Commission, which owns the 29-acre tract, said the \$1 million course would disturb residents less than any other development that can be put on the land, which is restrictively zoned because it is so near the airport.

**SHERBURNE, Vt.** — Construction of Vermont's first municipal 18-hole golf course here near the Killington ski area is running ahead of schedule. The \$2.8 million Green Mountain National Golf Course could be open by mid-June 1996. J. J. McDonald Inc. of Lyndon Center is the project's general contractor. Gene Bates is the designer.



The 5th hole at Rick Smith's highly touted, debut design at The Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Mich.

## Smith: Teaching pro-turned-designer

He's known as golf's Renaissance Man these days. Rick Smith, 37, is perhaps best known as a swing guru for some of the PGA Tour's top players — Jack Nicklaus, Lee Janzen, Billy Andrade and Rocco Mediate. He also instructs amateur golfers as director of golf at Treetops resort in Gaylord, Mich., hosts the Rick Smith Signature TV series on ESPN and writes instructional pieces for GOLF Magazine. But lately Smith has received more acclaim for his golf course design work. Among his best-known layouts are the Rick Smith Signature Course and Threetops par-3 design at the Gaylord facility. The Signature layout was named Best New Course of the Year by Michigan Golfer and Debut Course of the Year by Golfweek. He is currently working on an 18-hole walking course at Treetops and the golf-only Wuskowhan Player's Club in Holland, Mich., both of which are scheduled to open in June 1996. Associate Editor Peter Blais caught up with him shortly after Smith's return from the Masters.

**Golf Course News:** When did you first think about becoming a course architect?

**Rick Smith:** When I was a kid playing



Q & A

golf in national junior tournaments, I guess.

**GCN:** How did you prepare for the job?

**RS:** I was the golf pro here when Robert Trent Jones Sr. did the first course. I was one of the people who recommended Tom Fazio when we built the second. I learned a lot about the technical side of design from them. I also got to know Nicklaus when he was building a course down the road at Grand Traverse. During the past seven years, I've gotten to travel and study some of the great courses in the world.

**GCN:** How did your teaching background help your design work?

**RS:** I am a very visual teacher. I like to build a golf swing from nothing into what I should be seeing. The creative process

Continued on page 50

## Name change reflects broader Audubon effort

By MARK LESLIE

**S**ELKIRK N.Y. — The Audubon Society of New York, which has pioneered wildlife and ecological preservation efforts at golf course facilities in North America and abroad, is breaking off those programs that go beyond its borders to reflect their international umbrella.

New York Audubon President Ron Dodson said the society has created the self-standing Audubon International Center for Sustainable Resource Management.

The move was made, Dodson said, "because of the rapid growth we've seen, and the interest in our program well beyond the borders of New York State. We have more members in Florida, Michigan and other states than in New York... For instance, the 22 golf courses involved in the Signature Sanctuary System are all outside New York State, and the more than 1,400 that belong to the Cooperative Sanctuary System are all over the country.

"Essentially, New York Audubon will take over the role of running Audubon programs within the state," Dodson added. "Audubon International will take over those activities that go beyond the borders."

The organization's mission statement, which is being written, will focus on research and development of printed and educational materials, he added. "Essentially, it will become the think tank or research arm of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System," Dodson said. "It will look at issues from emerging technologies to natural resource management, to position ourselves to be the thinkers and

Continued on page 44

**INTRODUCING GolfLink**, the industry's first complete weather, lightning, and golf information satellite service. Our unique satellite technology and easy-to-use format far outperforms any dial-up services you may have used. For under two dollars a day, GolfLink offers detailed lightning analysis, full color forecast maps, association updates, turf research, headline news, and sports and financial information.

We've put together for you all of the crucial weather information to save you time, money and to ensure the safety of the people on your course. Plus all of the sports, news, and financial information will keep you coming back for more!

**Call 1-800-200-3810 for 60-Day Trial Offer\***

\*\$159 non-refundable fee includes two months service and shipping.

**GolfLink**  
Golf Communications, Inc.  
4811 Lebanon Road, Suite 107  
Hermitage, TN 37076  
615-883-8153

**ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED**

CIRCLE #102

**TRUE-SURFACE®**  
VIBRATORY GREENS ROLLING SYSTEM

"We originally bought the True-Surface vibratory greens roller to help manage green speed. However, we have found other uses, my favorite being after topdressing. The vibration helps to settle the sand deep in the turf canopy. Golfers enjoy the true, firm, cleaner putting surface. My mechanic is happy, spending less time sharpening the mowers. It's a win-win situation."

Dan Dinelli, Superintendent of Grounds,  
North Shore Country Club, Glenview, IL

**TURFLINE, INC.**  
(800) 443-8506  
Fax: (314) 441-8180  
(Selected Distributorships Available)

CIRCLE #103

# QA Teaching pro Rick Smith dons another hat — and succeeds

Continued from page 3

of design is very similar to teaching. You are building something from nothing.

If we want to keep people playing the game, we have to find ways to make it more enjoyable for them. You don't want the average golfer to beat his brains out on a course. That's not fun. There's enough pressure on the average golfer already. He doesn't need to deal with an impossible design as well.

At the same time, it's impor-

tant not to insult the average golfer. For instance, you don't want to put a bunker out at 260 yards that you know he can't reach. On the other hand, you shouldn't put one so close that he has no problem with it. It's better to place a bunker at 175 to 195 yards off the tee and give him the thrill of clearing something he can handle.

Because of my teaching experience, I think I understand the average player more than any other designer. While I'm rout-

ing a course, I hit a lot of balls in the field the way I know the average player would hit them.

**GCN:** What was it like building those first two courses at Treetops?

**RS:** I was fortunate that my first two courses were located where I already worked. I took a map and walked the site 50-60 times, so I knew it very well when I sat down to route out the courses. I was fortunate that I'd had such great experiences with Jones and Fazio and a terrific

owner [Harry Melling] who was willing to give me a chance to build 27 holes.

**GCN:** Considering you don't have formal architectural training, how heavily do you depend on other professionally trained architects and builders?

**RS:** When I was hired to do the Holland project, I knew I couldn't be there every day. My objective was to build the best quality course possible. To do that I needed someone on site. That's when I contacted Warren

[Henderson, most recently a design associate with Michael Hurdzan]. Warren's proven to be a real asset and is doing a great job. I made more than 20 site visits before routing the course and I'm planning to spend time there every week. But Warren will make many of the day-to-day decisions and should be a real asset on future projects.

At Treetops, I worked very closely with the builder, Doug O'Rourke, and with the superintendent of all the Treetops courses, Bruce Wolfrom. Bruce was instrumental in keeping things moving and is helping me on the Walking Course now.

I understand grading better now and I have a great partner [Henderson]. But there is nothing better than experience. In the field is where you learn.

**GCN:** How has the architectural community accepted you and your success?

**RS:** Tom Fazio seems to be very proud of me. He came to my grand opening at Treetops and offered his help whenever I needed it. I saw Mr. Jones at the Masters. He said he heard some good things about the Treetops course and thought it was wonderful. Jack Nicklaus said he liked the course and wanted to know if I'd be interested in doing a Rick Smith Signature course for his international design team. I really haven't heard anything negative from the architects. I'm designing because I love it, not to take business away from other architects. I want to spend a lot of time with each course I do. If I've done 25 courses when I pass away, I want them all to be thought of as good designs.

**GCN:** Do you ever worry that you are spreading yourself too thin?

**RS:** People have mentioned that. I've worked hard my whole life to get to the point where I can make my own schedule. I've got a tremendous owner who gives me time to do the things I want. The Tour players I work with think this is wonderful and have accommodated me when I've had to change my schedule. And I've been able to cut back my teaching schedule at Treetops a few days a month. I've got money coming in from other areas which has let me design courses. If I've learned anything from people like Fazio, Jones and Nicklaus, it's to love what you do. Golf is my livelihood, but it's also my hobby. When it becomes a job, that's when I stop doing it.

**GCN:** Have you been surprised at the positive response to your Treetops courses?

**RS:** It's meant a lot to me to get the good press and know that people are having fun playing them. But I'm not really surprised. The harder you work, the luckier you get. I work hard and I've never really failed at any-

Continued on next page

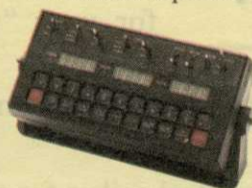
GOLF COURSE NEWS

## You know it takes precise control to master a game of inches.

That includes spraying your course. Because

precise control of pesticides is crucial for effectiveness, safety and, ultimately, superb playability.

Introducing the new Toro Injector Pro™ for our Multi Pro™ 1100 vehicle. It's an advanced applicator that keeps chemicals and water separate until the exact moment



before the mixture is injected into the spray booms.

And the Injector Pro Controller automatically maintains your predetermined rate of application, regardless of terrain or vehicle speed. Efficiently, economically, safely.

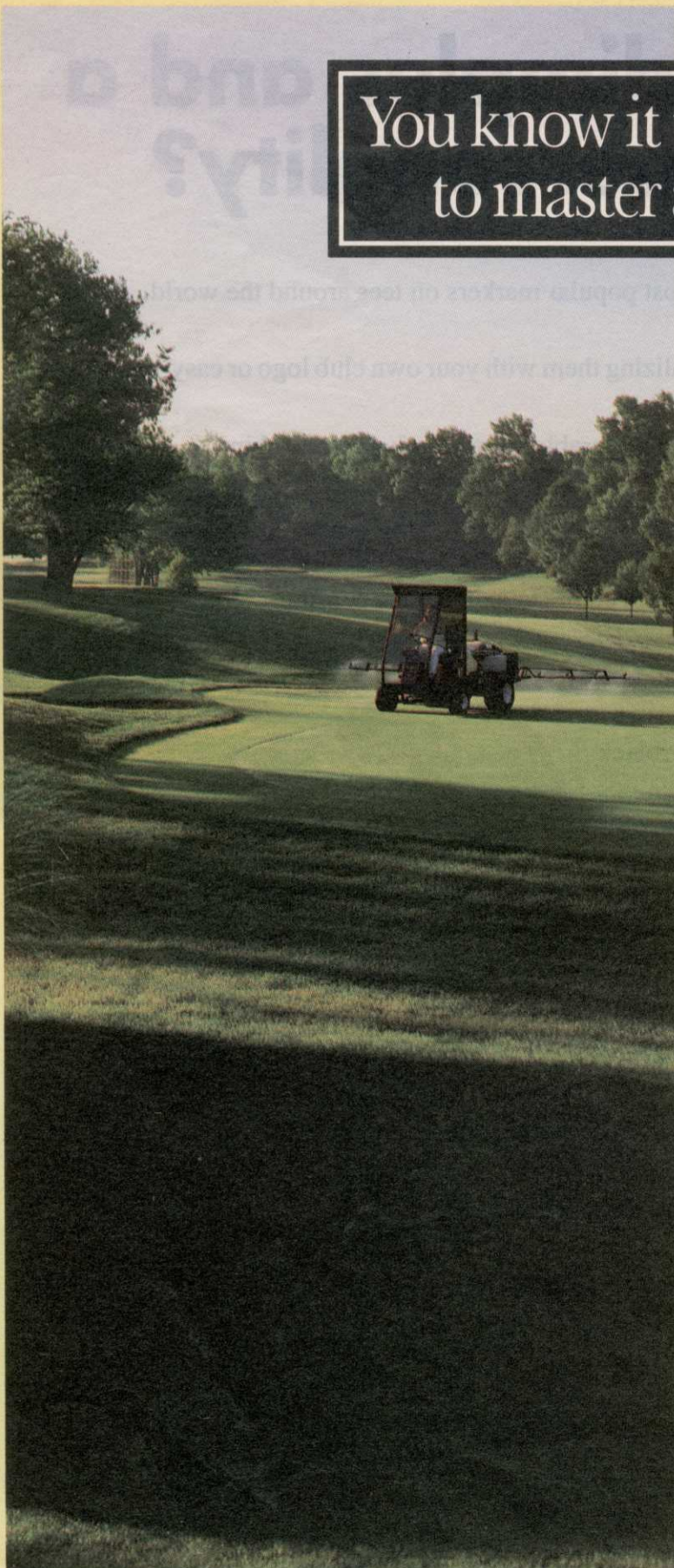
It exemplifies Toro's leadership in spraying technology. And explains why our longtime partnership with golf course superintendents has been so successful.

The right chemistry.



Helping You Put Quality Into Play.™

For more details, contact your Toro Distributor.  
1-800-803-8676, ext. 152



©1993 The Toro Company. The Toro Company, 8111 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420. "Toro", "Injector Pro" and "Multi Pro" are registered trademarks of The Toro Company.

## D.C.'s newest track to open this summer

STAFFORD, Va. — Construction of the Washington, D.C. area's newest golf facility, Augustine Golf Club, is complete. The 18-hole Rick Jacobson-designed course is expected to open for public play in the summer.

The Augustine Golf Club is the centerpiece of the Augustine community, which is under construction. The residential community will include 352 single-family homes developed by the Michael T. Rose Cos. of Laurel, Md.

Jacobson designed the golf course to blend with the charac-

ter of Stafford County, and to harmonize with the area's topography and natural surroundings. The course was built by Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

The course design incorporated two five-acre man-made lakes and 19 acres of wetlands to help create natural wildlife corridors linking the undisturbed open-space areas. These natural corridors are bolstered by a 40-foot vegetated buffer along the course perimeter, which also serves as a visual and physical buffer between

the course and the homes.

Superintendent Rick Owens is confident the Augustine golf course will meet criteria for the New York Audubon Society Golf Course Sanctuary program.

•••

Meanwhile in Glen Ellyn, Ill., following three years of phased improvement, Jacobson has completed Glen Oak Country Club's restoration.

In 1991 the club voted to implement design recommendations outlined in the its golf course

master plan. While Thomas Bendelow was the designer of record for Glen Oak, A.W. Tillinghast visited the club in 1935 and made numerous design suggestions. The golf course improvements outlined in Glen Oak's master plan reflect many of Tillinghast's suggestions of nearly 60 years ago.

"Primary emphasis was placed on restoring fairway and green side bunkers. Improvements included strategically re-locating and re-shaping some bunkers and

adding internal drainage to all of the bunkers which were built originally in the 1920s," said Jacobson. The program also included restoring some greens to their original size and shape, adding cart paths and expanding several tees.

"I think the members are extremely pleased with what has been accomplished. The integrity of the course has been maintained throughout the restoration program," said course superintendent Andy Dauksas.

Plan documents are being prepared for the renovation of the practice range which will take place in late summer.

## Smith's picks: Nicklaus and Coore/Crenshaw

Continued from previous page

thing I've tried. I'm my own worst critic. I don't stop until I'm satisfied with what I've done.

GCN: What is your design philosophy?

RS: I want my courses to be very visual and very playable for all skill levels. I believe you can build a course for everybody.

GCN: Who are your favorite classic architects?

RS: Alister Mackenzie had some great sites and was talented enough not to destroy them. John Abercromby did some wonderful things, especially Addington Golf Course [Surrey, England]. C.B. Charles Blair Macdonald was very creative and [A.W.] Tillinghast was great. I think San Francisco Golf Club was one of his best. William Flynn had some beautiful courses, like Shinnecock. And Donald Ross, when he focused, did a great job.

GCN: Who are your favorite modern architects?

RS: Jack Nicklaus has done a great job, especially on his newer courses. Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw did a terrific course at Sand Hills [Mullen, Neb]. What I admire most, though, are the great courses that have been built on bad sites. Designing a good course when you have nothing to work with is a real talent.

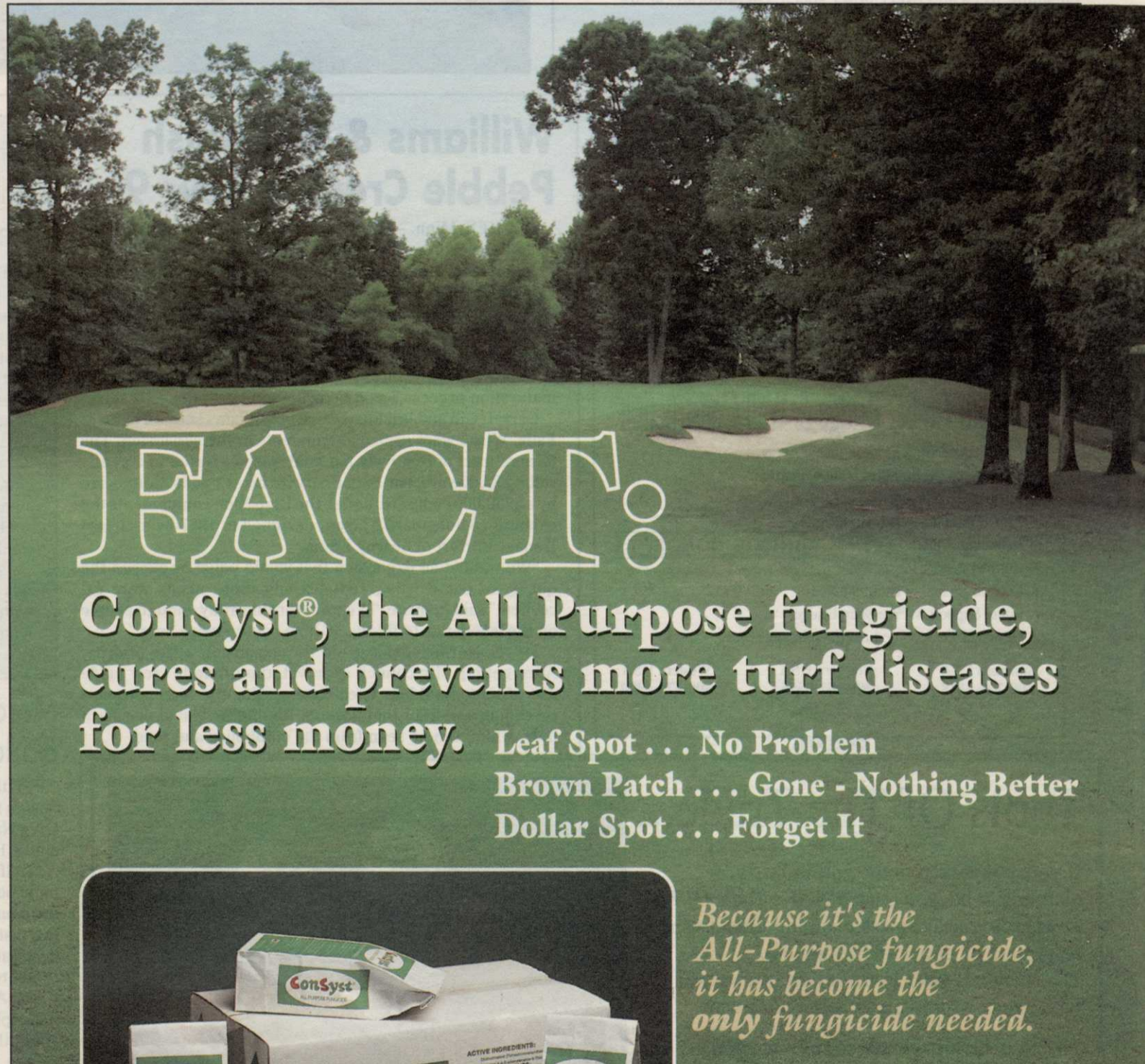
GCN: What are your favorite courses in terms of design?

RS: It depends on the site and purpose. Pine Valley is a great course on a great site. Shinnecock is perfect for a professional golf tournament, but I wouldn't build it for the average golfer. Garden City (N.Y.) Country Club is a very playable golf course. I look for different things in different courses.

GCN: What are your future design plans?

RS: I'd like to take on one or two projects a year and design more upscale practice facilities. Slow play is a huge detriment to the game. I'd like to see more par-3 courses as part of practice facilities. We're building a practice facility now in Birch Run [Mich.].

GOLF COURSE NEWS




# FACT:

## ConSyst<sup>®</sup>, the All Purpose fungicide, cures and prevents more turf diseases for less money.


Leaf Spot . . . No Problem  
Brown Patch . . . Gone - Nothing Better  
Dollar Spot . . . Forget It

*Because it's the All-Purpose fungicide, it has become the only fungicide needed.*



ConSyst<sup>®</sup> fungicide truly is the "All Purpose fungicide". It exhibits superior performance over any other single fungicide to eliminate the worry in protecting your greens and fairways from deadly diseases. It has both contact and systemic activities to cure and prevent turf and ornamental diseases including pythium.

**"For the lion's share of excellence".**



Ask your local salesperson for results and cost comparisons.