



Tenn. park project settles on sites

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — It appears Tims Ford State Park in Winchester and Harrison Bay near Chattanooga will be the third and fourth sites for the state's controversial \$20 million project to build four new Jack Nicklaus-designed courses in state parks (*Golf Course News*, May 1995).

Both Tims Ford and Harrison Bay were back-up choices.

The original third and fourth sites, Panther Creek near Morristown and Natchez Trace near Camden, have been virtually

eliminated, according to state architect Mike Fitts.

The other two sites where courses are expected to be built are at Chickasaw in west Tennessee and at Cumberland Mountain near Crossville.

Fitts said the project developers, the Houston-based Golf Services Inc., need to get the go-ahead soon because of time constraints built into a contract they signed with the state last January. A final decision is expected by the middle of this month.

Makeover for venerable Scioto CC

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The fabled 80-year-old Scioto Country Club, the Donald Ross design where a young Jack Nicklaus learned to play golf, is headed for a \$6.3 million renovation of its clubhouse and golf course.

An estimated \$4.6 million will be spent for clubhouse design, renovation and construction.

Another \$1.2 million would go toward the course and the

remaining \$500,000 would be held in a contingency fund.

Scioto's current clubhouse was built in 1954 to replace one that had burned to the ground.

The 6,900-yard, 18-hole course is considered one of the city's most challenging, based on USGA stroke and slope ratings.

The club frequently hosts the Ohio men's Amateur Golf Championship.

Southern Hills takes dim view of metal spikes

TULSA, Okla. — Southern Hills Country Club, host of the upcoming \$3 million Tour Championship Oct. 26-29, ran a 60-day trial for polyethylene spikes during July and August, two of the toughest months for weather and wear for its putting greens.

The club has decided to continue the trial through at least the end of October.

Southern Hills received some criticism for spike marks on its greens during the 1994 PGA Championship. A few dozen clubs across the country, including Castle Pines, Muirfield and Inverness, have gone exclusively to softer, flatter spikes for members and guests.

"It's tough to grow bentgrass in this part of the world during the summer and the Soft Spikes have been a tremendous help," said Cary Cozby, assistant golf professional at the club. "We've had maybe a handful of complaints versus a whole bunch of compliments. We've sent all our metal spikes back."

Cozby said he expects the club will continue with the polyethylene spikes and "professional" (rubber-bottomed) shoes indefinitely.

Goose shooting results in charges for greenkeeper

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A member of the grounds crew at the Chace Lake Country Club is headed to court Oct. 2, after he shot about 20 Canada geese on the golf course with a shotgun, killing several birds.

Ricky Wayne Rounsvall, 40, has pleaded innocent to one count of killing protected birds out of hunting season. The geese, which are not migratory, were considered a nuisance. If convicted, Rounsvall could be fined up to \$500.

Tom Beatty, a conservation enforcement officer who investigated the June shooting, said some of the geese were used for meat and some were disposed of. They had been tearing up and eating the club's new \$90,000 golf greens and several attempts to scare them off had failed. Beatty said his initial investigation revealed no evidence that the club's management ordered the greenkeeper to destroy the flock.

The shooting set off plenty of local debate, with many people, including some hunters, feeling the potential fine was too low. Rounsvall is charged with only one count of killing protected birds. But the conservation department may choose to add counts for each dead goose. Fines would be applied to each count.

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