

BRIEFS



BAIRD HIRES DESIGNER

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Gary Roger Baird Design International, Ltd. has hired Todd Eckenrode as a design associate. Eckenrode's responsibilities include primarily domestic design assignments, as well as production of the visual and artistic presentations for the Baird organization's overseas clients in Asia. He has a bachelor of arts degree in law and society from the University of California Santa Barbara, and a bachelor of science degree in landscape architecture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Calif.

REYNOLDS, FAZIO TEAM UP

GREENSBORO, Ga. — Tom Fazio will design the third golf course at Reynolds Plantation, according to an announcement by Reynolds Plantation President William Peacher. The yet-unnamed third course will join the original Plantation Course, designed by Bob Cupp in conjunction with touring professionals Fuzzy Zoeller and Hubert Green, and Great Waters, designed by Jack Nicklaus. Construction of the Fazio design is expected to begin in February and be ready for play in 1997.

JMP APPOINTS RAMSEY

SARATOGA, Calif. — J. Michael Poellot Golf Design Group (JMP) has appointed Kevin Ramsey senior designer. With the firm for seven years, Ramsey has been involved in a number of projects throughout Asia and the United States. He will focus on developing projects through North and Latin America.

ULI APPOINTS VON HAGGE

SPRING, Texas — Golf course architect Robert von Hagge has been appointed to the Recreation Development Council for the Urban Land Institute.



Robert von Hagge

The council is a non-profit group that acts as a clearinghouse in establishing and measuring quality in amenity developments. It also deals with related issues concerning the environment, marketing, forecasting trends and funding in order to help developers.

QUARRY OWNERS SET NEW SIGHTS

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Jay Eddy, Jack Parker and Bill Ellis, the principals of the successful Quarry Golf Club here, plan to develop a new golf course project called Courage Creek. They have retained course architect Keith Foster of St. Louis and Scottsdale, Ariz., who designed The Quarry.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Course pipeline hot into future

By MARK LESLIE

YARMOUTH, Maine — The pipeline of new golf courses does not show any signs of drying up, according to the vast majority of golf course architects and builders responding to a Golf Course News survey.

Answering the questionnaire, 74 percent of the respondents said there is no indication of the reservoir going dry. Fourteen percent felt the number of new courses being built would begin to slow. Twelve percent felt the backlog is indeed diminishing.

More than 350 courses have opened

in the United States each year since 1991, and the number topped 400 in 1995. Another 743 are under construction, according to National Golf Foundation statistics.

Asked about the financial marketplace, 62 percent responded that clients are finding it easier to secure financing for golf projects, while 27 percent said financing is not easier to get. The remaining 11 percent felt the situation has not changed.

"I converse with many of our members on a fairly regular basis, and most

Continued on page 72



Tim Cate's debut design — Panther's Run, the newest golf course addition to Ocean Ridge Plantation in Sunset Beach, N.C. — has opened for play. See story, page 72.

Survey reveals costs of course construction

By MARK LESLIE

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — A nationwide survey spelling out ranges of costs for specific elements of golf course construction will be released Feb. 8 by the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA).

"This is a vehicle to help the first-time developer to estimate what his project will cost," said Bill Kubly, chairman of the GCBA committee that oversaw the survey and resulting 12-page document that will be made available to potential developers. "It's been a need in the industry, and is a plus for the developers more than builders."

"One of the problems is that people get the opinion of what a golf course costs. If you tell a developer it's somewhere between \$3 million and \$5 million, invariably \$3 million ends up in the budget," said W. Tom Sasser, president of Paragon Golf Construction, Inc. in North Palm Beach, Fla., a member of the survey committee. "The purpose of the survey was to allow a prospect to try to understand the variables that affect this process."

Continued on page 70

Illumined alum takes golf to Mississippi State

By MARK LESLIE

STARKVILLE, Miss. — With University Club golf courses taking shape at the University of South Carolina and Louisiana State University, a favorite son of another Southeastern Conference school will not be outdone.

Former Mississippi State University (MSU) football lineman and 1987 political science graduate Carl Middleton has broken ground on Dogwood Golf Club

and Residential Community on property two miles from campus.

Middleton, 31, who owns Dogwood Development Co. with partner Michael Moseby and subsidiary Middleton Golf Course Construction, expects the 18-hole golf course to be the cornerstone of the 614-acre development.



Carl Middleton

"It is part of ensuring the property values," he said. "We're shooting for one of the top golf courses in the state."

"The character of the course is very different. There are 202 acres where it is links-style. Condos will be built around five of those holes. In the hillside, where the estate lots and

Continued on page 71

Q&A NWH at home in Pacific, eye stateside projects

When golf course architects Robin Nelson and Rodney Wright of Honolulu needed a designer to establish an office in Singapore, they chose a young man who had five years of experience under his belt as senior designer for the Montreal-based Graham Cooke & Associates, Neil Haworth. Haworth performed so well they named him partner in February 1994. A 1986 graduate of the University of Guelph, Canada, majoring in landscape architecture, the 33-year-old Haworth has been the firm's project architect for such projects as Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club, The Tiara Melaka G&CC in Malaysia and Hwasing Golf Club in Shenzhen, China. We caught up with him for this interview at his Singapore office.

Golf Course News: Do you notice golf growth in Asia-Pacific increasing, decreasing or staying steady, and where is the most activity?

NH: Growth in the region is steady. Every year there seems to be a "boom" economy in a certain country. In 1990 it was Thailand. In 1991 it was Malaysia; 1992 Indonesia; 1993 China; and in 1994 The Philippines, where we signed up several jobs. In the years after, a steady growth typically follows.

GCN: Opening new territories, like China, to golf must be exciting.

NH: Opening territories is definitely exciting and challeng-



NWH principals (from left) Robin Nelson, Rodney Wright and Neil Haworth.

ing. It is extremely interesting to get to know and work with people of different cultures. The fact that golf is new in these countries is the challenging part since none of the people have seen a golf course before, let alone built one.

Continued on page 69

Panther's Run adds punch to Myrtle Beach

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Panther's Run, the newest golf course addition to Ocean Ridge Plantation in Sunset Beach, N.C., opened Oct. 1. The 18-hole layout is designed in the traditional style using the natural terrain of the land.

In his first solo project, architect Tim Cate created wide, open fairways lined with grassy, depressed areas or water.

Spectacular views, especially from the tee boxes, make it a visual treat. Several of the holes are visually intimidating, but overall, the course is designed to test the golfer's skill

and not break his game.

Panther's Run features large, multiple-tee areas.

Wooded scenery is the backdrop for many of the holes. Cart paths run along the edge of a dense forest and water comes into play on most of the holes. Panther's Run measures from 7,089 to 5,023 yards.

The course joins Lion's Paw to complete the 36-hole layout at Ocean Ridge Plantation. Lion's Paw, designed by Willard Byrd, is an open, hilly course that treats golfers to views of a beautiful creek valley and its adjoining wetlands.

No end in sight to pipeline

Continued from page 57

report being busy to very busy," said American Society of Golf Course Architects President Jeffrey Brauer of Golfscapes in Arlington, Texas.

Brauer added the caveat: "We have seen some resistance to financing of individual projects. Based on some previous failures, there is some concern about the quality of feasibility studies in golf."

Lorrie Viola, an architect based in Farmington Hills, Mich., said

she felt construction would be slowed by environmental issues and because the non-golfing public supports parks and open space instead of golf facilities.

Dr. Michael Hurdzan of Hurdzan Design Group in Columbus, Ohio, responded "absolutely no" to the question of the pipeline drying up and "absolutely yes" to financing being easier. He suggested developers lower costs by 1) reducing technology in green construction and irrigation; 2) using restricted or low-value land such as flood-plain, airport land, leased land, etc., and; 3) bringing an architect and/or contractor aboard as an equity partner for their fees.

Architects said they had seen several creative new ways of financing golf projects:

- "Our experience," said Brauer, "is a return to private all-cash financing, revenue bonds, or general obligation bonds issued by municipal entities. We have seen a decrease of golf course financing companies using secondary market issues."

- Gordon Lewis of Naples, Fla., Baxter Spann of Houston and Chester Prince of Prince Contracting Co., Inc. in Palmetto Fla., all said community development districts are being formed to develop golf projects.

- Spann also pointed to "trends toward pension funds and tax-free bonds for private development."

- Partnerships, or equity positions with designers, builders and operators to reduce costs for services were cited by Rick Robbins of Cary, N.C., Jerry Matthews of Lansing, Mich., and Hurdzan.

Not only does this cut up-front costs, Hurdzan said, "It also builds confidence in the lenders/investors."

- "The spinning off of land for golf to experienced golf developer/operators is facilitating more real estate-driven golf projects and making them more affordable," said Jim Applegate of Gary Player Design in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. "The question is whether daily-fee golf is compatible with residential sales."

Brauer told of the creativity of one of his firm's municipal clients, the city of Plano, Texas. Plano officials arranged with three neighboring land owners to "throw all the land into the pot, whereupon we designed a golf course to maximize usage of the topography — both for the golf course and to enhance future surrounding development. In so doing, the city avoided a large amount of up-front land expense."

But, while bond issues, development districts and the like are opening doors around the country, course architect Desmond Muirhead of Newport Beach, Calif., had the simplest solution to financing. "The best way is if the owners have cash!" he said. "The banks are unbelievable."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

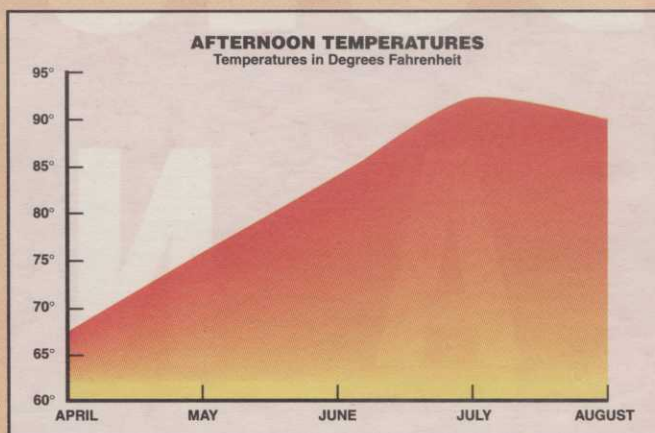
SURVIVING THE SUMMER OF 1995

Nutters Crossing, Salisbury, MD



FEBRUARY 22, 1995

Aerial infrared photography was used to determine the distribution and moisture content on the golf course. Fairways, tees, and surrounds display more uniformity and moisture content than greens.



FEBRUARY THROUGH AUGUST

Environmental conditions worsened during the late spring through summer months. Temperatures became very hot and rainfall was more than 12 inches below average, resulting in extreme stress to turfgrass. In many areas of the golf course, turfgrass continued to weaken during this period.



AUGUST 22, 1995

Primer 604 was applied to greens on a monthly basis at labeled rates, February through August. Fairways, tees, rough, and surrounds show moderate to severe stress. Greens exhibit excellent uniformity and moisture content.

Primer® 604 Performs...

"It wasn't as hard to manage the course this summer as it would've been without Primer. If my greens made it through the summer of '95 with Primer, they can make it through anything."

Chuck Poole

Chuck Poole, Golf Course Superintendent
Nutters Crossing, Salisbury, MD



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