

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. 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.



Robert von Hagge

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

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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."

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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

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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 Hwasung 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?

Neil Haworth: 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.

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Brooks-Baine complete first course design

MANSFIELD, Texas — Mark Brooks can celebrate twofold. In the wake of his design firm — Brooks-Baine Golf, Inc., completing its first project in November, he won the Bob Hope Classic in Palm Desert, Calif., on Jan. 21.

Brooks-Baine Golf had finished the 18-hole Oak Course here at Walnut Creek Country Club southeast of Fort Worth. The country club is owned and operated by Dallas-based Club Corp. of America

Brooks and design partner

Burt Baine, headquartered in Fort Worth, redesigned an existing nine before designing and building a new nine to create a 6,751-yard, par-71 18-hole course. The renovation and new construction cost \$3 million.

The club now has two 18-hole tracks.

"Burt and I have created a course that is challenging, yet fair, and one that will remain interesting and fun to play," said Brooks, who christened the course in November.

"Our basic design philosophy on the Oak Course is strategic. And because golf is a game of angles, we have included a high degree of risk-reward in our design."

Established in 1992, Brooks-Baine Golf provides a complete range of services relating to the design and construction of golf facilities, including the development of renovation plans for existing courses and full design programs for new facilities.

GREYROCK CHANGES NAME

ATLANTA, Ga. — Following a successful first year of operation, Greyrock Capital Group Inc. on Jan. 1 became NationsCredit Commercial Corp. In doing so, it joined forces with its established consumer side, NationsCredit, and changed the name of its holding company from Nations Financial to Nations-Credit Corp. The alliance marks an opportunity for expanded growth, with combined assets totaling more than \$8 billion.



Mark Brooks tees off at Walnut Creek

Mississippi State

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garden homes will be built, it has a lot of elevation change."

Middleton's timetable calls for nine holes to open next September and nine in June 1997.

Dogwood could be a perfect teaching venue for MSU, which boasts golf course management and turfgrass programs. "A lot of the turfgrass students are working for me right now," he said.

Middleton has sold more than 70 house lots. "Four of my classmates have bought condos," he said, adding that MSU Bulldog Club members, other alumni and area residents are his clientele.

"We have alumni who come here 30 times a year and they're spending money on hotel rooms, restaurants, etc. If we can give them a secure, nice environment and a place to play golf and then go to their university games and other functions, it can be worth it to them financially," he said.

"We have a property management group that will rent that property out when they're not going to be here. Or, some may want to buy a condo for their child to live in while in school, write it off in taxes, then sell when they graduate."

The concept is similar to resort areas, but taking advantage of the university and its attractions as opposed to a resort's amenities.

Middleton is no stranger to golf. He worked for American Golf Corp. during construction of Old Waverly Golf Club in West Point, a Bob Cupp-Jerry Pate design many consider the best course in Mississippi. After serving as a construction foreman, he became assistant at Old Waverly under superintendent Bill Colloredo.

He left to organize Middleton Golf Course Construction and built River Birch Country Club in Amory, an 18-hole track that opened in 1994. Middleton designed that course with long-time shaper Fred Moore, who has worked extensively with Jack Nicklaus and Tom Fazio, among others.

"I learned a lot about course design from Bob Cupp," Middleton said.

Middleton hopes to develop similar projects in a couple other college towns. His sights, he said, are on Alabama.

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