

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?

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.

Continued on page 69

Public Works Assn. honors Harborside

CHICAGO — Built on two landfills on Chicago's South Side, Harborside International Golf Center — and its consulting engineering firm, Kudrna & Associates — have been awarded an APWA Achievement Award by the Chicago City Branch of the American Public Works Association.

Designed by Dick Nugent, the first nine holes of Harborside International Golf Center's Starboard Course and

the first 15 holes of its Port Course are built on a sanitary waste landfill. The remaining three holes of the Port Course and the second nine holes of Starboard, along with a teaching facility and practice ranges, were built on a landfill of construction rubble. Earlier, Harborside and Kudrna were awarded a rare honorable mention citation by the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

NWH: Asia-Pacific presents special demands

Continued from page 57

Recently, on our project in Shanghai, I was told the earthworks contractor would be mobilizing the next day. The next day, 2,000 Chinese people arrived by boat to the site. No machines. Especially with the Chinese, you need to work closely with the locals. If we had rejected the idea of hand labor and insisted they use machines, the project would not have moved. Eventually, a combination of hand labor and bulldozers

proved the best solution.

GCN: How sophisticated is the development community in Asia-Pacific?

NH: It is definitely more sophisticated now than it was five years ago. This includes the selection of consultants, including golf course architects, and the choice of grasses. Two areas that I think still have a long way to go are understanding the "process," i.e. master-planning to market analysis to construction methods and turfgrass maintenance.

With the process, we are able to work closely with the client, which is one of the main reasons we have three directors in Singapore — Rodney Wright, Brett Mogg and myself.

The frustrating area is turfgrass maintenance, as our role typically is complete once the course opens. The owners need to be better educated as to what it takes to maintain a golf course. This is starting to happen, but in general has a long way to go.

GCN: What is the predominant turf on the courses? Is there a move in any certain direction?

NH: In Southeast Asia, we are using Bermudagrasses imported from either the United States or Australia. The climate of the southern countries is perfect for these grasses. As we move north, we are using zoysiagrass for the fairways and roughs and Bermudagrass on the greens.

We are hesitating to use a bentgrass on the greens in Northern China, Korea, etc., because of the lack of knowledge on how to maintain the grasses. The possibility to lose the bentgrass during the hot summer months is too great.

GCN: How aggressive are the environmental groups in Asia-Pacific?

NH: The environmental groups are becoming more vocal in Thailand with regard to the water supply and national parks; in Malaysia regarding the destruction of the rain forest and siltation of the rivers; but none in China yet. Typically, they are affecting the projects that should not go ahead anyway. But not the environmentally positive projects.

I think it is good for development, as long as the environmentalists are not radicals. Let's work together to improve the Asian landscape and quality of life.

GCN: In China, where individuals do not own the land, how is golf development getting accomplished?

NH: Typically, projects in China are joint ventures with the local Chinese governments, who supply the land on a long-term lease agreement — usually 50 or 70 years. The local governments are guaranteed a certain return on investment in exchange for the land. They also expect local people to be involved in some capacity, thereby supplying good pay and good titles to several key local people. This makes them look good to more regional governments, which is the way to work up the "government ladder."

GCN: Are you getting competition from European and Asian architects?

NH: Most of our competition in Southeast Asia is from American and Australian design firms. As India opens up, we expect to run into more British and European competition.



On greens. On tees. On fairways, roughs, flower beds, transplants — even in your divot mix. Milorganite delivers outstanding results for a uniform playing surface. No other fertilizer is easier on plants or simpler to use. Milorganite's slow release, organic nutrients won't burn or cause a flush of growth. Plus, it's high in micronutrients such as iron to promote dense, vigorous turf. And Milorganite resists leaching, for a sound environmental profile. So call your distributor today, or call Milorganite's turf professionals direct at 1-800-304-6204. It's easy.

