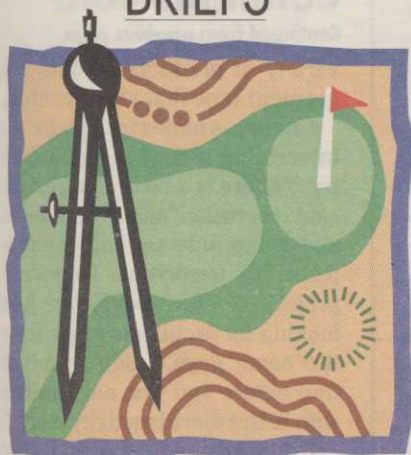


BRIEFS



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.

INDUSTRY NETWORK CITES GARL

HAINES CITY, Fla. — Ron Garl of Lakeland has been awarded the International Network of Golf Industry Honors for Golf Course Designer of the Year at the 5th Annual ING Fall Conference at Grenelefe Golf and Tennis Resort. Garl's creativity, environmental awareness, and talent for designing courses that are challenging and memorable for golfers of varying skills is his trademark.



Ron Garl

PLAYERS ISLAND BREAKS GROUND

MESQUITE, Nev. — Construction of the Players Island Resort's 18-hole golf course began Nov. 1. The \$8.5 million facility, which is scheduled to open this fall, is being designed by architect Cal Olson.

BEST RANGE OF THE YEAR

TUALATIN, Ore. — *Golf Range Times* has given Tualatin Island Greens near Portland its Best New Range Award. Tualatin Island, a 26-acre facility, opened last March by developers Chuck Thomas and Charlie Johnson.

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



QA Variety spices Cupp's career

Bob Cupp, 56, holds a bachelor's degree in art, a master's degree in fine arts and an associate's degree in agronomy. He first started designing courses while a pro shop manager before joining Jack Nicklaus' design firm as a senior designer in 1973. He opened his own firm in Atlanta 10 years ago. He has collaborated with many PGA Tour pros and designed such widely acclaimed layouts as *Golf Digest* best new course winners *Crosswater* in Sunriver, Ore. (1995's best resort) and *Pumpkin Ridge* in Portland, Ore. (1992's best public). Cupp has four children aged 31, 29, 4 and 4 months.

Golf Course News: What distinguishes Bob Cupp from other designers?

Bob Cupp: Two things. First, I don't want all my courses to have a certain look. Pete Dye, Jack [Nicklaus], Tom Fazio, Rees Jones and many others basically do the same stuff on each course. That's not necessarily bad. They've all built some wonderful courses. But life is too short to be doing the same thing all

the time. It's more fun to design courses in new ways.

Second is the variety of golf shots. A typical course has four par 3s, four par 5s and 10 par 4s. Each par 3, for instance, should play toward a different compass point; the prevailing wind should come from various directions; and they should vary greatly in length. There should be

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Cornish chosen to receive Rossi Humanitarian Award

By MARK LESLIE

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Geoffrey Cornish, who has designed more golf courses in New England than anyone in history and co-authored the definitive history of golf architecture, will be presented the Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA).

The award will be presented at the GCBA banquet Feb. 9 during the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Fla.

"I am gratified and flattered," said Cor-

nish of being chosen for the award, which is named for a good friend and the late executive vice president of the GCBA. He noted that Rossi arranged for Cornish to receive the NGF's Outstanding Service Award when Rossi headed that organization.

The 81-year-old Cornish, of Amherst, Mass., has collaborated with associates William G. Robinson, Brian Silva and Mark Mungeam on more than 240 courses in North America and Europe.



Geoffrey Cornish

His crowning achievement? "If one has a large family, he shouldn't mention his favorite child," Cornish said.

But among his best are International Golf Club in Bolton, Mass., Summerlea Golf and Country Club in Montreal, Center Valley (Pa.) Club, The New Ashburn Golf Course in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada; and The Quechee (Vt.) Club. With Ron Whitten, Cornish co-wrote *The Architects of Golf*, a survey

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Commings on his own

By MARK LESLIE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — He cut his teeth working for one of the top "name" firms in the country. Now Chris Commings, senior vice president of McCumber (read: Mark McCumber) Golf, has opened his own golf course design practice here.

Sunshine Design opened for business Jan. 1 amid "unbridled enthusiasm" on the part of Commings.

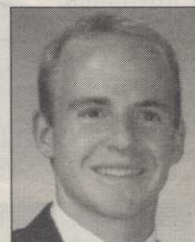
"This is something I've wanted to do for a long time," he said. "Now, my wife and my personal situation makes it possible."

Indeed, Commings' firm sits under the same roof as his wife's, Sunshine Marketing, which markets a

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Chris Commings



Dave Lazzari

Taking the plunge

Lazzari leaves Matthews

By MARK LESLIE

OKEMOS, Mich. — No sooner had he hung out his shingle as a golf course architect than Dave Lazzari was facing some unique — and major — challenges.

Lazzari, a design associate with Matthews & Associates in Lansing since 1992, has formed Terra-Link Inc., a multi-disciplinary firm specializing in master planning golf course/multi-use projects in North America.

Starting a new business was "fairly daunting," Lazzari said, "But I think I can look at a project from a unique perspective. Our focus will be on larger-scale, more complex projects because I think I can

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