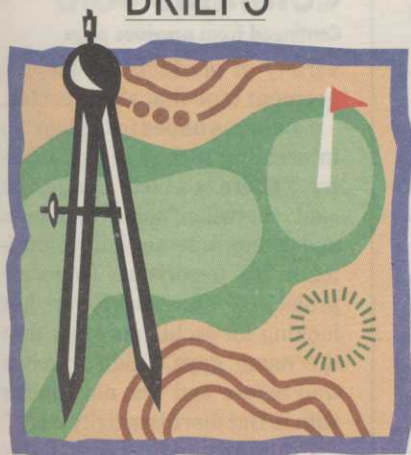


BRIEFS



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 Grenefe 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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A REAL-LIFE TEST

One course, 18 green types stir expectations

By MARK LESLIE

SITUATE, Mass. — A landmark project for the golf industry — promising answers to all sorts of environmental questions — is being built here with the full blessing of townspeople and environmental organizations and agencies.

Widow's Walk Golf Course "will have lots of ramifications," said Dr. Michael Hurdzan, whom town officials chose to design the municipal course because of his history of concerns for the environment.

"There was virtually no opposition," Town Administrator Richard Agnew said of the project. "It's on an old gravel operation that looks like a strip mine. We're going to turn something that is dead into something that is very environmentally pleasing and sensitive, building wildlife corridors and creating wetlands as opposed to destroying them."

Any way you cut it, Widow's Walk will be a winner, according to all interested parties. The town Conservation Commission, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Audubon International, Massachusetts Audubon and various other groups were involved in the project, all brought together by Roland Bates of Golf Realty Advisors in Hingham.

The townspeople are excited about

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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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Commins 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 Commins, 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 Commins.

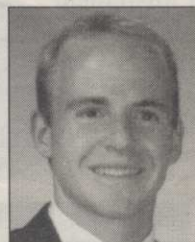
"This is something I've wanted to do for a long time," he said. "Now, my wife and my personal situation makes it possible."

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

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Chris Commins



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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A real-life greens test

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turning a gravel pit into a scenic golf course with views of the Atlantic Ocean. They are excited about bringing an abandoned dump back to life, about unique new areas of recycling such as recycled-asphalt cart paths and pelletized effluent from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority for soil nutrients.

But for the golf world, Widow's Walk should provide some long-hoped-for real-life research results, contrasting differently constructed putting surfaces and showing the effects of a golf course on the environment.

Perhaps the most intriguing research involves the greens. "We're building nine different types of greens and duplicating each of those, so we can compare one side of the project area to another," said David Welchel, a designer for the Columbus, Ohio-based Hurdzan Design Group. "We may build one green in a high, exposed spot and another one just like it in a low area with little air movement. It's an experimental process and you want extremes for comparison's sake."

Specifically, the contractor will build three different drainage systems on each of three different types of greens. One drainage system is the typical U.S. Golf Association (USGA) herringbone-type pattern. Another is a flat drain tile (ADS Advantage) system that is laid on the subgrade rather than trenched. Third is no drainage except a "smile" drain at the low point where the water will leave the green.

"With each of those three types of drainage, we will build three types of green," Welchel said, including:

- a USGA-specified green with a 12-inch root-zone layer, intermediate layer, if required, and pea gravel layer;
- a California Method green, which is essentially 100-percent sand 12-inch profile on the subgrade and with a micronutrient package in the top 2 to 3 inches of the green; and
- a New England native sandy loam green, using the best available sand from the site as the greens matrix.

"This gives us the opportunity to really say, 'The green built to a specific type in a certain location works or doesn't work,'" Welchel said. "It gives us a barometer. We're trying to maximize our resources and minimize the superintendent's headache in maintaining a given green."

"When we can show this type requires less fertilizer, chemicals, etc., then we will accomplish our goal."

Taking this research a step further, the water applied to each green will be metered and a leachate collection pit will be installed at every green to sample the water for chemicals.

Initial results from the greens research should be available in a year after opening, according to Terry Bastian, a maintenance

and landscaping expert and owner of Waterflowers in North Reading, who is overseeing the research

"Within a year, we'll have a sense of what grass is working and what's not," he said. "Hopefully, within the first few years, we'll have some good information on other research. But we won't have [conclusive results] for at least five years."

"First, it will allow us to really assess the impact of different construction and management techniques," said Hurdzan. "Second, it can save construction money. If we find topsoil greens perform

just as well in that area as 'technical' greens, we can cut costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"The third major benefit is that we're going to significantly improve the wildlife potential and value of that site. Right now, it's biologically impoverished. We will enrich that manifold."

Wetland areas will be preserved or reestablished. Fairways and tees will be seeded to fescue grasses. Many out-of-play areas will be revegetated with native vegetation, coordinated by Bill Burbank of Abbellire, Inc. in Worcester and East Sandwich.

A turfgrass maintenance pro-

gram was submitted for Conservation Commission review, comment and approval. "This golf course will need the bare minimum in chemicals because of less acreage [130 acres] than usual and because we are using fescues everywhere," Welchel said. "Except on the greens, we will use half or less of what a normal golf course uses."

Was making Widow's Walk a guinea pig of sorts a hard sell to the community? "We held a town meeting to float a \$4.7 million bond," Town Administrator Agnew said, "and the vote was 850 to 50 for it."

FIRMS HELP EFFORT

SCITUATE, Mass. — Several companies are donating products and services for the municipal Widow's Walk Golf Course being built here. The money value of the products they donate will be deposited into an ongoing research fund for the site, said course architect Dr. Michael Hurdzan.

Scotts, which is donating \$50,000 in turfgrass seed as well as its new Coconut Coir "as a stable organic material for the greens," is the first environmental corporate sponsor of the course, he said.



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