

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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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.

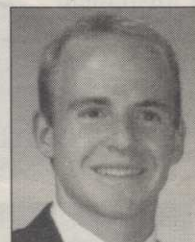
"This is something I've wanted to do for a long time," he said. "Now, my wife and my personal situation makes it possible."

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-scope, more complex projects because I think I can

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Lazzari now Terra-Link

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lend a lot more beyond just the golf course portion of a project.

"We want to look at golf from a lot of different aspects, not just the 10-handicap-and-below golfer. How can these work in a community? How can we use golf courses to solve environmental problems, like creating wetlands and native species areas, or bringing back dunes and prairie species that are endangered?"

Lazzari, who has worked in golf course planning and construction since 1985 but who didn't obtain his college degree in urban planning/landscape architecture from Michigan State University until 1992, said he fore-

sees working often with golf course architects on projects "where we may be able to provide more of a planning role."

Already, he is working with former employer Jerry Matthews on Groesbeck Municipal Golf Course in Lansing, an existing facility where two water districts send their storm water.

"It is so wet it is unplayable about one month a year," he said, "so we will create retention ponds and wetlands to store 20 acre-feet of water. They are also looking at planting endangered species in the wetlands."

Another exciting challenge, Lazzari said, is in Livingston County, where schools, a commercial district and housing are planned. "Eighteen very high-quality public golf holes are planned now and 18 more

in the future," he said of the temporarily named Livingston Highlands. "The first 18 include a practice facility and, potentially, nine executive-length holes for the growing market of women and juniors."

Terra-Links will upgrade a third project, Wicker Municipal Golf Course in Hammond, Ind. The 360-acre property is being master-planned to include commercial development as well.

Lazzari expects as-yet-unnamed partners to join him. Lazzari himself worked for Total Golf, Inc., of Brighton from 1985 to 1990, and for Wolverine Golf Contractors of Plymouth and Harry F. Bowers, Inc. of South Lyon in 1991 and 1992, before joining Matthews.

Terra-Link can be reached at 517-347-2587.

Commins solo

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variety of products including a garment tape that she invented.

Commins hopes to tap into "an interesting niche" in the industry. "There is a clear divide," he said, "between 'name' architects and young, or lesser-known architects. It's fee-driven. There are projects in which people are just looking for architects other than the 'name' guys. I didn't run that trail before and was not familiar with it. But there is activity there."

Commins, who worked for McCumber since graduating from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1978, intends to supplement his golf course design work with landscape architecture assignments.

Landscape design is "a love I've always had," he said, adding that he is a registered landscape architect as well as a member in the elite American Society of Golf Course Architects. "My background and original employment with McCumber was with their landscape concern. I'm doing custom landscape architecture and doing landscape for homes in the area."

Golf courses, on the other hand, offer a huge difference in scale — sometimes hundreds of acres. "I've been fortunate to work on a half-dozen courses right here in Jacksonville," he said. "Every year going to the TPC at Sawgrass, it's a thrill seeing either residents, or members, or frequent users wearing shirts from the clubs I've been involved with. It strikes you that you've left an imprint that will far outlast your time on earth and provide enjoyment for folks."


Both landscape and golf course design "have their merits," Commins added, "because on the other end of the spectrum, in the landscape arena, you get more of an immediate impact. From conception to implementation, you're only dealing with months."

Saying his "initial thrust is to get off the ground and I'm looking at all options," Commins said he intends to concentrate on the Southeast United States but his first golf project may take him to India.

"Because I'm on my own for awhile," he said, "I will give personal attention to all facets of the design and development process. I'm looking forward to that. It's one of the most enjoyable parts of the job. Often you spend 80 percent practicing your craft and 20 percent on the other aspects. But sometimes you get the inverse of that equation. And you wonder, 'When will I get back to designing golf courses here?'"

Having grown up next to North Shore Country Club in Chicago, Commins' first — and lasting — idea of golf design is etched in the traditional, he said. "Most of the work I've done over the years has evolved from those beginnings."

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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