

BRIEFS



RYANGOLF HIRES ALLEN

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — Ryangolf, a division of Ryan Inc. Eastern, has added Tracy Allen to its golf course construction team. Allen brings many years of relationships within the golf industry. He sits on the board of directors of The Florida State Golf Association, and is a former director of The Southern Golf Association, as well as a former member of the editorial board of Links Magazine.

ARCHITECTS ENDORSE PRINCIPLES

PINEHURST, N.C. — The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has endorsed the Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States "because we believe it is good for golf ... good for the environment ... and good for the communities in which we live and work," said ASGCA President Denis Griffiths.



Denis Griffiths

BARDMOOR FACELIFT BEGINS

LARGO, Fla. — Bardmoor Golf Club began a \$500,000 renovation of its 18-hole championship golf course in June. The course is expected to reopen July 27. Greens are being expanded from 66,000 square feet to 90,000 square feet and will be surfaced with Tifdwarf Bermudagrass. A new process of sodding called Rapid-Turf will accelerate the process. More than five miles of 8-foot-wide cart paths throughout the course will be resurfaced with asphalt. The tee areas will also be enlarged, regraded and re-sodded.

ENGH, ROBINSON MOVE

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — The golf course design firms of Jim Engh and Cabell B. Robinson have both moved. Jim Engh and his Global Golf Design have moved to new offices at 1700 N. Park St., Suite C, Castle Rock, Colo. 80104; telephone 303-688-1030. Robinson has moved his firm to: Las Lomas de Mijas 39, 29650 Mijas, Málaga, Spain; telephone 34 (5) 259 0250/259 0277. Robinson is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and works exclusively in Europe.

COLLINS BUILDS TWO

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Golf Buildings Development, Inc. (GBD) has been awarded the contract to design two golf maintenance facilities in Massachusetts. Widow's Walk Golf Course in Scituate and Bridgewater Golf Club are under construction and the maintenance facilities will be completed this fall, according to GBD President Lane Collins.

As Maine goes... One-stop permitting is here!

By MARK LESLIE

AUGUSTA, Maine— When Dick and Ron Foster applied for a permit to build a golf course on 112 acres in Litchfield, the process took seven weeks. Some 3,000 miles away, California has opened nine Permit Assistance Centers (PACs), bringing together permitting authorities from state and local government to simplify the process.

States from Maine to California are taking innovative steps toward regulatory reform and improved customer service, slashing huge amounts of time and paperwork off the quagmire of the

permitting process. Their aim: to invigorate their economies while maintaining a quality environment.

The seven weeks to get approval for the Fosters' project is a shocking speed in many states. But it may become more commonplace as time passes.

"There are a lot of innovative programs going on in all the [New England] states right now," said Brooke Barnes, director of policy development and implementation for the Maine DEP, which is the state's



"pinnacle of licensing and permitting," he added.

"The EPA [federal Environmental Protection Agency] is allowing more experimentation in different ways to approach regulating the environment — not just command-and-control stuff," Barnes said.

"In just the issue of processing, the agencies are always trying to reduce the time and still hold the line on their mission. Our mission is to protect the environment. We want to be customer-

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Riviera does a double at 10

By MARK LESLIE

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif. — Riviera Country Club's 10th hole may be the best short par-4 in the country. So it was with trepidation that the powers that be at the club decided something needed to be done to save the little green from the pounding of 60,000 rounds a year.

In late July, course officials will unveil the results of their decision: Instead of enlarging the 3,000-square-foot 10th green, they added a second, permanent part-time green, also about 3,000 square feet in size, to be used certain days of the week.

"It's a unique concept and an intriguing project," said course architect Ron Forse of Uniontown, Pa. "At

first, I didn't want to take it. I didn't want to be part of ruining what may be the most unique hole in [architect] George Thomas' masterpiece."

But Forse saw that the second green could be added and still maintain the strategy of the hole.

"Thomas had that extra fairway bunker off to the right and with the same backslope as the original green. So we hid the new green behind the existing bunker just like the original green," he said. "Also, the new green has the same slope as the original. And the same type of strategy works for the new green as well."

Sitting at 315 yards out from the back tee and 301 from the members'

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An artist's rendering showing both 10th greens at Riviera; the new one, at right.



Roger Packard and Andy North are among the more successful architect/pro golf course design teams operating today. Packard entered the business with his father Larry in 1970 and emerged from his father's shadow with such widely acclaimed layouts as Cantigny outside his native Chicago and Sweetwater Country Club in Houston. North is a three-time PGA Tour winner, including two U.S. Open victories. Together they have designed Trappers Turn in Wisconsin Dells (Wis.), nine holes at Spring Green near Madison, Wis., Northern Pines in Kalispell, Mont., and The General at Eagle Ridge in Galena, Ill., which is set to open in August.

Golf Course News: How did the two of you team up?

Roger Packard: Andy was talking to a mutual friend of ours and expressed interest in getting into the design field. Dad (Larry) had retired at that point so I was open to having a pro partner. Andy liked my design style and the courses I had done, and I wanted a partner who would be actively involved.

Our personalities clicked and we started on Trapper's Turn.

GCN: What do the two of you contribute individually to a Packard/North design?

RP: Basically we blend our areas of expertise to build the best course possible. I've been around golf all my life and in the design business for 26 years. Andy brings

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QA & A become popular team

Below, Andy North, right, and Roger Packard look over construction work on one of their projects. At left is a shot of Trappers Turn, a course they designed in 1991 in Wisconsin Dells, Wis.



Government streamlining is leading to one-stop permitting process

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oriented and provide a good response. It doesn't mean everyone is always going to get a permit. But we certainly are willing to help them design a project that is permissible."

"I think almost everybody is streamlining their process because everybody is under pressure from the long [permitting] processes," said Ron Boyd, president of Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. in Williamsburg, Va.

In Virginia, Boyd said, the Marine Resources Commission is the clearinghouse for joint permitting, combining the work of three separate agencies.

On the other hand, Maryland "hasn't tried [to speed the process] by any means," he said.

Boyd explained: "Much of it is the individual regulators within the departments. A lot of personal feelings enter into this."

Developers have clamored for a streamlined process for decades, but have mainly been left

stewing. "There is no manual that spells out who to see for permits," said golf course architect Brad Booth of Ogunquit. "But in Maine now, the DEP is the only point of review; only one permit

is needed. And that's good."

"The facts are," said Barnes, "we're working smarter. Increased use of computers and such things enable us to work better internally. We've changed our

"The respective agencies have their different views ... But the level of cooperation is at an all-time high."

— Brooke Barnes
Maine DEP

procedures and rules dealing with applications so that when someone is considering a project they now are talking with us at the very early concept-design stages. In the traditional way of doing it, someone designs a project, gets their consultants in line, fills out the application and drops it on our desk. And we say, 'My God, you're filling in 10 acres of wetland!'

"By front-loading the process, by the time an application gets to us we've identified the hot issues and helped them design the project around the environmental impacts. We've already minimized or eliminated the impacts before the application comes in."

Citing the streamlining as "evolutionary," Barnes said: "The respective agencies have their different views about how they do their jobs and what their charges are. But the level of cooperation is at an all-time high. We're all working together pretty well, and I think the results are being seen. We're not losing the environment for speeding things up."

Speed things up, they've done. Since it became a priority in the early 1990s, he said, "processing times for site-location permits, which a golf course would trigger, went from 18 months to nine months to six months. The average now is 4 to 4-1/2 months — and that's from a very complex industrial project to a simple residential subdivision.

"Even a golf course could be relatively simple," he added, "provided that it's not going to impact streams and that it is designed in an environmentally friendly way."

In California, the Contra Costa Regional PAC brings together such state and local government agencies as the California DEP, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and Contra Costa Environmental Health Department. Agencies contributing to its creation included the Contra Costa Economic Partnership, Contra Costa County and the BAAQMD.

The impetus from Gov. Pete Wilson, following public meetings on regulatory reform, was "to reinvigorate California's economic and environmental leadership through regulatory reform and improved customer service."

Similarly, in Maine's case, Barnes said: "We passed a new wetlands law last year that coordinates federal and state permitting so that someone doesn't have to go the Army Corps in Waltham [Mass.] and the DEP in Augusta. It basically can all be wrapped up in Augusta now.

"We've heard over and over again from business people and environmentalists, that it's better to resolve these things locally than have it taken to Boston or Washington."

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