

Ray Hearn leaves Matthews to form course design company

HASLETT, Mich. — Ray Hearn, formerly of Matthews & Associates of East Lansing, has formed his own golf course design company here, Raymond Hearn Golf Designs, Inc.

A senior architect for Jerry Matthews whom he worked with for 10 years, Hearn was involved in some of the firm's most highly acclaimed projects and in the last several years.

"I believe the best way to attain my life goals and career objectives is to form my own company,

drawing on my own design vision and business principles," Hearn said. "Much like Matthews & Associates, the philosophy of this new company is to exceed the expectations of our clients in every facet of our service."

Hearn said the company will deliberately remain small, with a manageable workload, so he can be involved with every project.

He said he and Matthews will



Ray Hearn

continue working together on some projects.

"You always hate to see someone with Ray's talent leave, but I wish him well and look forward to a continuation of our professional and personal relationship," Matthews said.

Hearn is in the process of signing several new clients around the country. Two of the projects to be announced in the near fu-

ture are in Oklahoma and Georgia. Both exhibit sites that have outstanding landforms, according to Hearn, and should contribute to great golf courses. Matthews will be significantly involved in both projects and will be credited as the co-designer.

Joining Hearn as senior designer is Paul Albanese, who was an associate designer at Matthews & Associates. Albanese holds a bachelor of science degree from Cornell University and a master's degree in landscape architecture

from Harvard University.

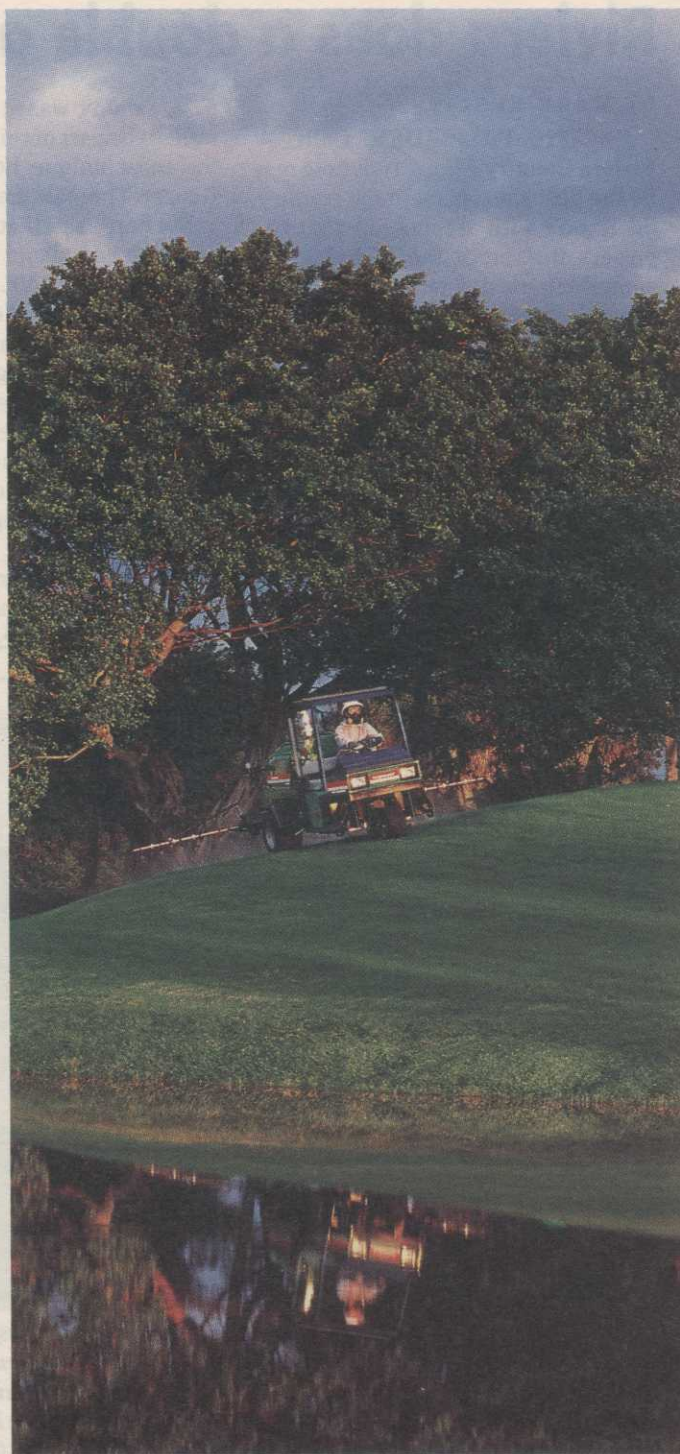
Among the major courses on which Hearn was project architect while at Matthews & Associates are The Twin Lakes Golf Club in Oakland Township, scheduled to open this summer; The Majestic at Lake Walden in Hartland and the Mistwood Golf Club in Lake Anne, which opened in 1994; The Woodlands of Van Buren, opened last year in Van Buren Township; Eagle Glen Golf Course in Farwell; and The Natural in Gaylord, which opened in 1992.

Hearn is an honors graduate in landscape architecture and turfgrass science from Michigan State University. He worked two years as an assistant superintendent at the Country Club of Detroit, where he was also a recipient of the Evans Scholarship sponsored by the Western Golf Association and founded by Charles "Chick" Evans.

Hearn and Albanese are members of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

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Riviera adds green

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tee, the original green is narrow but very long and opens up like a squash at the front. It sits at a 45-degree angle to the tee and slopes to the left.

The alternate green will play almost 20 yards longer because of its angle to the right, Forse said.

The 10th hole features a 250-foot-wide fairway bunker. If a golfer hits over the center to the original green they then have to hit to a green fronted by a bunker and that is only 23 feet wide at the middle. If he hits over the left side of the bunker, the green opens up to him. "So, by hiding the green behind the bunker we didn't ruin the integrity, visually, of the hole," Forse said. "We just extended the design scheme to the other green."

The concept of adding a part-time green is rare. Pine Valley in Clementon, N.J., did this at its 8th and 10th holes years ago.

Dan Proctor and Dave Axland, who built Sand Hills in Nebraska, were the shapers and finishers of the new hole.

Elsewhere, Forse Design has jobs in Massachusetts and Florida. At Salem (Mass.) CC, work wrapped up at the end of June on a \$1.25 million project on the Donald Ross design.

On the island of Indian Creek Village on the intracoastal waterway in Miami Beach, Forse is in phase one of a master plan on Indian Creek Country Club, a William Flynn design.

In Boynton Beach, the Dick Wilson-designed Pine Tree Golf Club will be restored, Forse said. "They have dynamite golf holes," he said, adding that he plans to restore Wilson's "great old gnarly bunkers" as well as rebuild every green.

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