

BRIEFS



FOSTER BUSY IN TEXAS

HOUSTON, Texas — Following on The Quarry in San Antonio, which opened in 1993, Keith Foster has secured another design opportunity within the state of Texas. The latest, Cypresswood Golf Complex here, has retained Foster to design its third 18-hole course. The site has stands of pines and magnolias, as well as ground "perfectly suited for an outstanding golf course," Foster said.

ART HILLS TRACK OPENING

PETOSKEY, Mich. — The first nine holes, named The Links, at Boyne USA's Bay Harbor Community is scheduled to open July 1.



Art Hills

Art Hills designed all 27 holes at the facility. The second nine (The Preserve) will open in September and the third nine (The Quarry) next year.

CMS Energy Corp. of Dearborn and Victor International of Southfield are developing Bay Harbor. tes.

HARBOTTLE RENOVATIONS UNDER WAY

LOS ANGELES — Ground has broken on two major renovations by golf architect John Harbottle: The Log Angeles Country Club North Course, a George Thomas original design, is being restored with the help of Landscapes Unlimited; and the remodeling of Stockton Country Club, credited in part to Alister McKenzie, will be completed by Flint Golf.

REES JONES ON THE CAPE

NANTUCKET, Mass. — The planning board has approved plans for a private, 18-hole golf course on 250 acres of prime island real estate known as the Coffin Farm. The Nantucket Golf Club will feature a par-72 course designed by golf course architect Rees Jones. The proposed course will cover 87 acres of the parcel. Construction of the club on former farmland will cost an estimated \$21 million.

ASGCA ON LINE

CHICAGO — The American Society of Golf Course Architects expects to have its web site on line by early June. The address is www.golfdesign.org. Information will include association history, addresses and phone numbers of members, environmental case studies and a developer handbook. The handbook will assist in selecting an architect, provide information on course redesign and lend insights into developing municipal courses.

Palmer-Seay team: A time-honored tradition



Ed Seay (left) and Arnold Palmer look over plans on the Spring Island, S.C., property that they turned into the highly acclaimed 18-hole Old Tabby Links.

Twenty-six years ago golfing legend Arnold Palmer linked up with architect Ed Seay to design a golf course. More than 125 courses later, they are still together and among the most sought-after architects in the world: Palmer, 66, the golf icon, winner of 60 PGA Tour events; Seay, 58, the consummate course architect and former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Catching them at a rare time when they both were in one place, we asked them these questions.

GCN: Outside of America, things are so varied in regards to regulations. Is there one country you enjoy working in more than the others?

Seay: I've enjoyed Ireland, Japan and Australia. Only in Australia and Ireland was English spoken when we first started. I started working in Japan with Arnold in

Q & A

1971 and there was very, very little English spoken. We were never without an interpreter. That has changed a lot.

GCN: You are very popular over there.

Seay: Arnold is popular anywhere. If you want to leap into just about anywhere in the world, everybody knows him.

GCN: Any memorable stories showing the uniqueness of working in another culture?

Seay: You wander through a fish hatchery outside Bangkok and along this strip of land down by the fish ponds. It's about a foot wide and a foot above water. In front of us about 30 guys are beating on straw baskets with sticks. I ask what they were doing, and I'm told, "They're just

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Better relations, products are GCBAA's new goal

By MARK LESLIE

PLAINFIELD, Ill. — With its finances stabilized and certification program fine-tuned, the Golf Course Builders Association of America's (GCBAA) new president is focusing on improved relationships with course architects and building a better product.

Paul Eldredge, president of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. headquartered here, said: "The next emphasis should be our alliance with the architects, finding ways to improve the quality of golf courses, working with the environmental issues that face us all, and assuring we don't do anything that would be negative to the continued expansion of golf."

"All the people in the industry — superintendents and allied associations — have begun to work together to identify those issues and come to grips with them before they become a major deterrent to golf."

The GCBAA will address some of these issues at its summer meeting, Aug. 8-10, in Louisville, Ky. A panel on

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Paul Eldredge

Builders facing trouble collecting final payments

By MARK LESLIE

HAPEL HILL, N.C. — Retainage: the scourge of golf course builders. That's the definition painted by leaders of the Golf Course Builders Association of America.

Builders "have trouble collecting on about one of five jobs," said GCBAA President Paul Eldredge of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., which has offices across the United States including Hawaii. "At the margins we work at today, we can't afford that."

Retainage is the amount of money a developer holds back from a builder until the project is complete. GCBAA Executive Director Phil Arnold said: "That can be \$500,000, and it is often the builder's entire profit."

Even though retainage is a portion of the agreed-upon amount to be paid the builder, "some owners take the attitude that it is always going to be their money and they're not going to give it to you," Eldredge said.

What to do?

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Phil Wogan (below left), who has designed golf courses across New England alone since 1956, and George Sargent Jr. (below right) discuss construction plans on the site of a new project. The two have turned a designer-contractor relationship into a design team, one of the first fruits of which is an 18-hole track at Point Sebago Golf and Beach RV resort in Casco, Maine. Point Sebago's deceiving par-4 15th hole (right) measures from 285 to 325 yards, featuring an elevated tee and a short second shot over a long, narrow pond to a long, harrow green. The front nine at Point Sebago opened last year and ceremonies opening the second nine were held May 31.



Wogan solo no more

By MARK LESLIE

TOPSFIELD, Mass. — Little did George Sargent Jr. know when he took his first job out of college working at the Phil Wogan-designed North Conway (N.H.) Country Club that one day he would be a partner with Wogan. But today that is true. Long-time golf course architect Wogan and superintendent-turned-contractor/project manager Sargent have incorporated as a new

design team, Wogan and Sargent, Inc.

Working out of headquarters here and in Franklin, N.H., Wogan and Sargent have several projects under construction and more in the works.

"I'm fortunate to be working with Phil," Sargent said. "His experience, along with my background in the business, makes a

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Builders look to improve relationships

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the builder-architect relationship will include architects Bob Cupp, Mike Hurdzan, Ed Seay, Bob Lohmann and Tom Marzolf.

"This is high on the minds of builders," Eldredge said. "We want to work closely with architects. We hope to improve our relationship with them in numerous areas — in specifications, liability issues on both sides..."

Regarding specifications, he added: "Some of our problems come from the evolution of the golf course, and such things as cart path construction. Builders and architects are both putting ourselves in a liability situation with cart paths. We need details of how we build them and the intent of their use. They are intended for golf carts, and they end up using them for roads for backhoes and tractors — things they are not built for."

GCBAA Executive Director Phil Arnold said the panel planned for the two professions to better understand each other's perspective.

"Architects want good builders," he said. "In order to accomplish that, the builders have to be treated fairly on the job. The architect can help. They often work as an agent or quasi-agent for the developer. They are in a position to improve the builder's status through that capacity."

The GCBAA certification program — in which course builders must pass a rigid examination — is an example of how architects and builders have worked well together.

"It has gone as well as or better than we ever thought it would," Eldredge said. "The architects have picked up on it and accepted it pretty well. They helped us with some input and I think they look at it as a tool for them to help to try to get golf course builders building their courses versus sewer contractors."

Retainage at issue

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"A lot of builders would like the retainage kept in an escrow account that says, 'When you are satisfied with a job you release the money,'" Eldredge said.

That would improve on the present situation. "In many cases, lawyers get involved and they get their fee and leave you still not getting any money," Eldredge added.

Architects are less apt to face this situation, Eldredge said, because they often get more of their money up front.

GolfLinks Design inks design on 'great track of land'

HERMITAGE, Tenn. — GolfLinks President Jerry Lemons has been hired to design WillowSprings Golf Course in Athens.

The course will be a par-64 executive course featuring 11 par-3s, six par-4s and one par-5. WillowSprings is the newest real-estate venture from RJK Development of Athens. The course will sit on the rolling terrain, which features a waterfall on Mouse Ear Creek.

"It is an exciting project for our firm, in that the developer has given us a great tract of land with some features that you don't find on every site," Lemons said. "The 15th hole is a 165-yard par-3 with an elevation drop of more than 80 feet. Greens will

be bentgrass, while the fairways will be sprigged in Quickstand Bermudagrass. The course is expected to open in June 1997."

Meanwhile, Lemons confirmed his organization will design and oversee construction of a new nine-hole, 3,426-yard public course in Cunningham, Ky. The course, which has not been named, is being developed by a grass roots group that has raised 85 percent of the needed funds.

Construction is expected to begin in June and the course is to open in May 1997. The course will feature bentgrass greens, Bermudagrass fairways and fescue roughs. "This is a low-budget project and we have a design that has basically eliminated the need

to move an excessive amount of earth," Lemons said, "but because of the rolling terrain, we have nine excellent tee and green sites."

"What make this project different is how the people of this community have donated their money to build this facility. There has been nothing but positive support from this group who just wants a fun, affordable place to play."

Lemons has also been hired to do the design work on a renovation to the Rolling Hills Country Club in Paducah, Ky. The course features Bermudagrass greens, fairways and tees. The renovation will begin in late summer and is expected to be ready to play by May 1997.

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