

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.

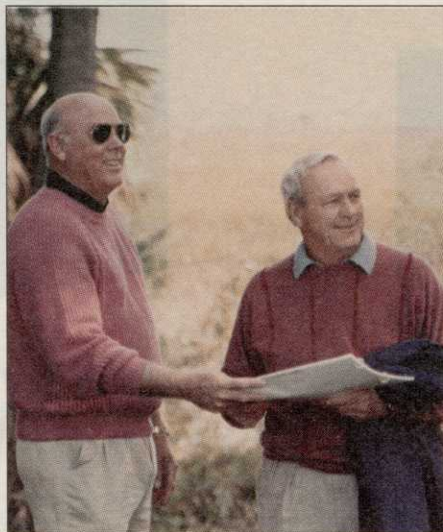
REES JONES ON THE CAPE

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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Doak's Renaissance begins work on Quail Crossing

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Tom Doak and Renaissance Golf Design have broken ground on an 18-hole daily-fee course here.

Quail Crossing is part of a new residential community now under construction. The developer and contractor is Kilmer's Inc., based in Ann Arbor, Mich., and the course will be managed by Craig and Mamie Wood of Indianapolis, who originally optioned the property. Despite 10 inches of April showers, work is proceeding toward a summer grassing date, with projected opening early in 1997.

The routing and land plan were both

designed by Renaissance, which is also providing the shaping of greens and bunkers. The final plan for the 310-acre property calls for a par-71 course of just more than 6,700 yards, overlooked by 175 housing lots, 85 percent of which have golf course frontage.

The course is styled in imitation of Shinnecock Hills, with fairway bunkers framed by little bluestem and other prairie grasses, selected in conjunction with Quail Unlimited to provide suitable habitat for the birds after which the course is named.

An old coal-mining spoils area near the

center of the property has been used for portions of five holes on the front nine, turning a negative for the development into a positive for the golf. This allows the course to reap the benefits of a central "core" without housing intrusion. Care was taken to preserve trees and add native grasses to make these holes feel like part of the course.

The abrupt elevation changes add drama at the par-4 7th, with a second shot through a notch between spoil piles, and at the tiny par-3 8th, with a 40-foot drop to a narrow green.

New tandem: Wogan and Sargent

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good combination."

Wogan, whose father Eugene "Skip" Wogan worked with Donald Ross as an assistant pro and architect, has designed more than 60 golf courses since 1956. Sargent holds a turfgrass management degree from the University of Massachusetts, was a superintendent for 11 years, owned a golf course and operates G.F. Sargent, Inc., a construction firm in Franklin. Sargent, Inc. installed irrigation in a number of golf courses designed by Cornish and Silva, and he has worked with Wogan as a project manager the past five years.

North Conway Country Club was designed by Phil," Sargent said, "and I never realized until years later that I would be working with him."

Sargent started building entire courses

in 1988, beginning with Cornish's Caswell Valley in Pembroke, N.H. His first working relationship with Wogan was in 1990 at John H. Cain Golf Club in Newport, N.H., as project manager for the club membership. "My company was under contract to do the irrigation, finish work and shaping of the course as well as managing all the other intricacies of the job," he said.

Asked what Sargent brings to the new company, Wogan said: "George has a lot of savvy in construction technology, the costs and management and developing various golf features. Plus, he has his own golf course construction company. And he is a good golfer."

The strength of their tandem, Sargent said, is "construction knowledge. Obviously, my golf course superintendent background is important, too. We bounce

things off each other about the design of the hole and the challenges and intrigue of the hole as well as maintenance, which is very important. I think our work will show this is a good combination."

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Wogan & Sargent, Inc. has a half dozen projects in the works, including:

- The 18-hole public Lochmere (N.H.) Golf & Country Club, of which 10 holes are complete and the other eight yet to be built.
- The 18-hole public Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown, N.H., on which construction will begin this year.
- An 18-hole semi-private track at historic Sturbridge Village which is awaiting a variance and is part of a large commercial complex.
- An 18-hole public track in West Bridgewater — in the permitting stage.
- The 18-hole public Braeburn course in Hopkinton, R.I., which expects to draw from the visitors to nearby Foxwoods casino.

Fort Ord could expand by 5 new courses

MONTEREY, Calif. — A civilian reuse plan for the former Army base Fort Ord suggests that as many as five new golf courses could be built at the site to go along with the two that are already there.

Although the plan won't be finished until July, a draft is now being reviewed by the members and staff of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority. Several different neighboring cities and Monterey County have jurisdiction over parts of the site and could eventually decide to build golf courses.

According to the current version of the plan, up to two new golf courses could be built in the city of Marina, another in the "South Gate" area that is to be annexed to the city of Del Ray Oaks, and two in unincorporated areas near California State University at Monterey Bay and near the Bureau of Land Management's nature preserve in the eastern half of Fort Ord.

The plan also calls for up to 17,600 new housing units and 2,000 hotel rooms and 12 million square feet of office parks and research space.

NATIONS CREDIT

A NationsBank Company

Golf and Recreational Finance

is proud to announce it has closed the following transactions since its inception in late 1994.

\$7,000,000 - NORTHGATE COUNTRY CLUB, Houston, TX
Refinance an 18-hole private course.

\$3,400,000 - THE LINKS GROUP, Myrtle Beach, SC
Refinance leases on 144 holes of golf plus a credit line for future acquisitions.

\$11,500,000 - THE LODGE OF FOUR SEASONS, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
Refinance a 311-room lodge, 211-slip marina and 45 holes of golf.

\$5,000,000 - KEMPER SPORTS MANAGEMENT, Chicago, IL

\$2,250,000 - OLDE POINT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, Wilmington, NC
Refinance 18-hole course plus construction funding for clubhouse expansion.

\$2,500,000 - GEORGETOWN COUNTRY CLUB, Georgetown, MA
Refinance a 9-hole public course plus construction funds for additional 9 holes.

\$3,500,000 - THE SEA RANCH GOLF LINKS, Sea Ranch, CA
Refinance a 9-hole public course plus construction for a second nine holes.

\$2,400,000 - WHITTIER GC & VICTORIA GC, Los Angeles, CA
Refinance two 18-hole public courses.

\$5,000,000 - THE BEACH CLUB GOLF LINKS, Ocean City, MD
Refinance an 18-hole course and construction financing of new 18-hole course.

\$3,600,000 - THE HERITAGE GOLF CLUB, Atlanta, GA
Construction of an 18-hole course and a line of credit for new acquisitions.

\$5,200,000 - AVILA BEACH RESORT, San Luis Obispo, CA
Refinance an 18-hole resort golf course.

\$4,750,000 - CRYSTAL SPRINGS GC, Sussex Co., NJ
Refinance an existing course to draw out equity to construct a new course.

\$3,250,000 - BLACK BEAR GC, Sussex Co., NJ

Construction of a new 18-hole course, cross-collateralized with Crystal Springs.

\$3,800,000 - CHESTNUT HILL & DEERFIELD GC, Buffalo/Rochester, NY
Refinance 18-hole course and acquisition of 27-hole course.

\$8,500,000 - ANGEL FIRE RESORT, near Taos, NM

Acquisition of a ski mountain, golf course, hotel, RV park & other amenities.

\$9,500,000 - GOLF CLUB of ILLINOIS & BURR HILL GC, Chicago, IL
Refinance GCI, acquire Burr Hill and provide a line for future acquisitions.

\$7,000,000 - ELY BOWLING, Northern NJ

Refinance 4 bowling centers in northern NJ and southwestern NY.

\$6,700,000 - BADLANDS GC, Las Vegas, NV

Take-out of course construction loan, plus provide for clubhouse construction.

\$2,600,000 - CASSELBERRY GC, Orlando, FL
Construction loan for new daily fee course.

\$3,600,000 - SOUTH RIDING GC, Washington, DC
Construction loan for new daily fee course.

\$2,800,000 - GREEN ACRES LANES, Lake Worth, FL
Acquisition loan for 60 lane bowling center.

\$2,500,000 - SHATTUCK GC, Jaffrey, NH
Acquisition loan for existing daily fee course.

\$3,500,000 - RANCHO VISTOSO GC, Tucson, AZ
Permanent mortgage to take-out course construction loan.

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