

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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