

## BRIEFS



## QUARRY OWNERS SET NEW SIGHTS

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Jay Eddy, Jack Parker and Bill Ellis, the principals of the successful Quarry Golf Club here, plan to develop a new golf course project called Courage Creek. They have retained course architect Keith Foster of St. Louis and Scottsdale, Ariz., who designed The Quarry.

## PALMER CHRISTENS CHEROKEE RUN

CONYERS, Ga — Arnold Palmer helped open his newest golf course, Cherokee Run Golf Club, an 18-hole course located 38 miles east of Atlanta. Palmer and Ed Seay designed the par-72 course, situated in the Georgia International Horse Park, a multi million dollar, mixed-use facility selected to host the 1996 centennial Olympic equestrian events, the first mountain biking Olympic competition and the final two events of the modern pentathlon Olympic competition. The golf course's layout is unique in that it intertwines with the natural terrain and the Olympic cross-country event course. It will provide a challenging round of golf due to its natural hazards, such as granite out cropping, wetlands, steep inclines and woods, Palmer said.



Ed Seay

## KAVANAUGH TAPPED FOR LONGBOW

MESA, Ariz. — McDonnell Douglas Realty Co. has retained Kenneth M. Kavanaugh Golf Course Design of Tucson to design Longbow Golf Club, an 18-hole daily-fee that will start construction this spring. Kavanaugh is busy with several other projects: an 18-hole renovation of Randolph South Municipal Golf Course renamed the Dell Ulrich Golf Course, and nine-hole additions at Gold Canyon in Apache Junction and Quail Creek in Green Valley.

## MILLER UNVEILS EAGLE MOUNTAIN

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz. — The 18-hole, Scott Miller-designed Golf Club at Eagle Mountain has opened, providing an innovative departure from the target-style tracks considered typical of the desert Southwest. This upscale daily-fee course takes advantage of the property's rolling hills, ridge lines, natural box canyons, lush valleys and rock-laden washes, while mountain outcroppings and wide, panoramic vistas provide the backdrop. Ranging from 5,000 to 6,755 yards, Eagle Mountain plays to a par 71.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



Lindsay Ervin surveys the scene, and his work, at Queenstown Harbor Links in Easton, Md.

## Ervin values environmental integrity of his sites

Lindsay Ervin has been designing golf courses since joining late architect David Gill in Wisconsin when he graduated in landscape architecture from Purdue University in 1968. In 1973 he went to work with Greenhorn and O'Mara, a large multidisciplinary consulting firm in Maryland. Shortly afterward, he designed Hog Neck Golf Course in Easton, Md., an award-winning golf course that served as a springboard to a successful career. Ervin is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and his firm, Lindsay Ervin & Associates, Inc., is headquartered in Crofton, Md.

Q & A

**Lindsay Ervin:** Yes, it always has been. I've always wanted to ensure that we would maintain the integrity of the environmental aspects of the site. I've always liked to use the quality natural parts of the environment for the design of the golf hole as much as possible — the wetlands, special forested areas, natural topography, features of rock... I try to incorporate them rather than tear them down. Nowadays, environmental regulations force you to stay away from them to start with.

**GCN:** Has the industry as a whole been more environmentally conscientious in recent years?

**LE:** Over the last 10 years it's been more conscientious.

**GCN:** Have we become better able to address environmental concerns?

**LE:** Knowing how to professionally apply fertilizers and

Continued on page xx

**Golf Course News:** You have been aggressive in environmentally conscious design. Has this always been your philosophy in design?



Note the color contrasts at Scott Miller's Kierland Golf Club in Scottsdale.

## Kierland boasts native grasses, walking

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Just 12 months ago the site of the new Kierland Golf Club here was a flat piece of undeveloped land, with scrub brush and a few isolated mesquite trees, situated on one of the last premier pieces of land in the north-east Valley.

Today the parcel provides players with a resort-style championship course that is ready to take its place among the Valley's marquee golf properties. It opened for play Jan. 13. Unlike many other Valley daily-fee golf courses, Kierland will offer golfers an option to walk during their round. Future plans also call for the introduction of a caddie program to benefit junior golfers throughout the state of Arizona.

During construction of the course designed by Scottsdale-based archi-

tect Scott Miller, more than 1.3 million cubic yards of dirt were moved to create some of the Valley's most dramatic golf holes, with picturesque mountain views, lakes, dry washes and elevation changes of up to 80 feet on some holes.

"Our greens are SR 1020 bentgrass, with tees and fairways of 419 Tifway hybrid Bermudagrass," Director of Golf Mike Ryan. "Golden native grasses such as buffalograss, Indiangrass and sheep fescue in the rough and transition areas were selected to provide a sharply defined edge between the fairway and rough year-round."

Kierland Golf Club is the focal point of a 713-acre master-planned community developed by Woodbine Southwest Corp. and the Herberger interests, both of Phoenix.

## PILGRIMAGE TO PINEHURST

## Architects to mark 50th anniversary March 26 to 31

PINEHURST, N.C. — The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) will return to the home of one of its founders — Donald Ross's beloved Pinehurst — for its golden anniversary here March 26-31.

President Jeff Brauer said the society will extend its meeting a day to accommodate several special 50th anniversary activities. Seminar topics will include the evolution of golf course architecture during the society's first 50 years; the future of golf course development in America; the continued strength of public golf; and the impact of changing environmental legislation.

ASGCA members will play their tournament over three Ross courses and honor someone who has made significant contributions to golf course architecture at the 1996 Donald Ross Awards dinner. Ross, who designed hundreds of courses, spent the majority of his time in Pinehurst. He hosted the first society meeting in Pinehurst and was elected honorary president.

Expected to attend the annual meeting are about 100 of the society's members, including Robert Trent Jones Sr., the only living founding member of the original 14. The other 13 founding members were Billy Bell, Robert White, William Langford, Robert Bruce Harris (the first president), Stanley Thompson, William Gordon, Bill Diddle, Perry Maxwell, Jack Daray, Robert "Red" Lawrence, J.B. McGovern, Wayne Stiles and Ross.

**Q&A: Ervin**

*Continued from page 43*

chemicals has had a big impact on maintaining the environment's integrity. Also, a lot of research has been done showing the positive effects of turf. I've seen more and more of the public responding positively as more evidence and information comes out. Things like [the book] *A View from the Rough*, for instance, address the positives in a very nice fashion.

**GCN:** New technology has helped protect water and other resources. What has been most helpful?

**LE:** Stopping erosion, using sod and getting it established. The key is to keep the velocity of the water down as it drains off the site. Where we have places like banks going down into a lake, putting sod helps get the turf established quicker, reducing erosion. Also, riprapping stream channels slows the velocity of the water down. That is being done more now.

Also, the way we design helps. At Queenstown Harbor Golf Links, for example, we designed almost all the fairways to drain back into lakes we had created. This helps further prevent any potential nutrients from leaving the site by

first going into this lake and settling. We're designing more of that adjacent to sensitive environmental areas. Also, we normally put sediment-control basins in the low part of a site to capture potential runoff. And we are leaving them in after construction. We plant wetland-type vegetative material there to make it look aesthetic and to catch any nutrients that might come off if, for instance, there is a heavy rain immediately after an application.

**GCN:** Has your home state of Maryland gone overboard in its attempts to protect Chesapeake Bay and similar waterways?

**LE:** That's hard to answer.

Some people might say they've gone too far. We did Queenstown within that area and it was approved through the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission. The land was within zoning regulations which were more stringent than other areas. The golf course was a special exception in our area. Approval took quite a while — 40 hearings. Plus one wealthy homeowner was fighting them and caused a lot of problems. But they voted 22-1 in favor, that the golf course was a good use for that area, that it wouldn't harm the wildlife, the fertilizer and pesticide applications would not have a harmful

effect on the ground water. And it has proven so.

The nitrogen content has decreased dramatically. It used to be a farm. They test ground water in 15 wells, and the content of nitrogen has decreased to drinkable water standards.

**GCN:** Is there a Lindsay Ervin fingerprint that I would find on your golf courses?

**LE:** I don't want to design the same for each site we work with. ... I hope I don't end up with a fingerprint.

**GCN:** What would be your "dream" property?

**LE:** Along the ocean, like a Cypress Point-Pebble Beach-type terrain, or even along the coast of Ireland.

**GCN:** You've a renovation project at West Point's course. Tell us about it.

**LE:** Originally, we started with plans for a driving range, remodeling parts of the golf course and connecting several holes that were separated by a major expressway. We wanted to connect the two parts of the course with a bridge. They had drainage problems with the five holes on the other side of the highway. We did our designs and bid the project out, but the construction costs came in so high we had to eliminate things. We eliminated the range. Instead of adding three or four new holes, we added one, some tees to another hole, built the bridge, took out a couple of par-3s and improved the drainage on the western portion of the site. We reversed another hole to get the view coming into the mountains. And we renovated most of the greens and added two lakes. It was seeded last fall and is growing in now.

**GCN:** Your solo career was launched with some special help.

**LE:** Shortly after I joined Greenhorn and O'Mara, a developer in the D.C. area was doing a course and I got the job. That job was Hog Neck, and instrumental in hiring me was Mrs. W. Alton Jones, the widow of the former CEO of Citgo and one of the founders of Augusta National. A philanthropist, she was living in Easton and knew the town needed a golf course...

Mrs. Jones was the reason I got Birdwood Golf Course for the University of Virginia. She moved to Charlottesville and discovered the university didn't have a golf course. So she matched funds for for one, with the one stipulation: that they hire me.

**GCN:** You are in arguably the most difficult part of the country to grow turf. What about your selection of grasses?

**LE:** In 1993 when we had all the ice, the courses with zoysiagrass and Bermudas got hammered and the ones with bentgrasses got through it. So until they come up with a tougher zoysia and Bermuda, I'm reluctant to go in that direction. If you're doing 40,000 rounds at \$50 a round, that's \$2 million in revenue, and losing that kind of revenue hurts.



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