

## BRIEFS



## WALLEY FORMS DESIGN FIRM

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A new company focusing exclusively on design, consultation and development of golf-related projects has been formed here by Mark Walley, formerly a principal in the architectural landscape company of Bills/Childs Associates. Walley is in the process of signing several clients in the southeastern Michigan region. He intends to control the growth of Golf Services Group by selectively handling only projects to which he can devote appropriate personal attention. The firm is located at 206 S. Fifth, Suite 200, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48108.

## GEORGE REDESIGNING BELLE HAVEN

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Lester George of Colonial Golf Design Inc. in Richmond has been hired as the architect for Belle Haven Country Club here. He will redesign several holes immediately and then lead development of a long-range master plan of renovations to the golf course in the months to follow. The original course was designed by Leonard Macomber and opened in 1954. It has been through several remodeling phases since then, the last one in 1969.

## JACOBSON INKS VA. PROJECT

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, Va. — Rick Jacobson is designing an 18-hole upscale public golf course southwest of Dulles Airport here. The 6,900-yard, par-72 layout will traverse open fields, woodlands and undulating terrain, and offer grand views of the rolling foothills of the Shenandoah Mountain Range. The project also includes an 8,000-square-foot clubhouse, and a 45-tee practice range, with a short game practice area and lesson tee.

## PALMER PROMOTES CAD ASSOCIATE

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Eric Wiltse has been named manager of computer design with Palmer Course Design Co. Wiltse joined Palmer in 1989 and is attending Florida Community College of Jacksonville, working toward his degree. His duties include preparation of detailed construction plans and specifications, perspective drawings, graphic and color presentations, and computer-aided design (CAD).



Eric Wiltse

## DESIGNING ON THEIR OWN: Bill Love &amp; John Fought

## Ault-Clark lose associate

By MARK LESLIE

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Saying that after 18 years working with Ault-Clark & Associates the time had come to practice on his own, golf course architect Bill Love has hung out his own shingle here.

"There is a lot of competition, but I think I will compete effectively," Love said from his new headquarters. "I intend to concentrate on a few projects at a time."



Bill Love

The University of Virginia's first graduate student to base a master's thesis on golf course design, Love joined Edmund Ault's firm immediately after earning his master's degree in landscape architecture in 1978.

He has been in the business during

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John Fought, right, checks blueprints on a job site along with C.A. Roberts III of OB Sports.



The 8th hole at Dauphin Highlands, designed by Bill Love while with Ault, Clark &amp; Associates.

## Hurdzan, Cook collaborate again

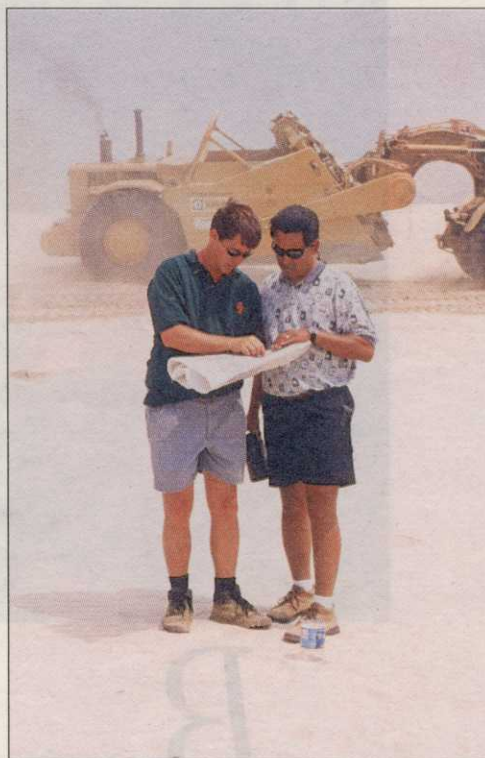
PALM DESERT, Calif. — Golf course architect Michael Hurdzan is teaming with PGA Tour pro John Cook to design the new, public Desert Willows North Course here, the first of two 18-hole courses for the 540-acre Desert Willows development.

The \$9.6 million, 18-hole public championship-caliber course will give the city its first municipally owned links. The course is scheduled to open by February. Hurdzan and Cook have said the goal is to make the track one of the top 10 in the state.

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Hurdzan announced another new project in the West — an 18-hole executive course at the Keystone Resort, a four-season destination resort 70 miles west of Denver. Hurdzan's design will complement the existing 18-hole

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Hurdzan Design Group lead architect Dana Fry (left) talks over construction plans for Desert Willows North Course with Golf Dimensions' senior construction manager, Ruben Ramirez.

## Cupp colleague goes solo

AURORA, Ore. — After a successful apprenticeship with Robert Cupp, former PGA Tour player and 1977 U.S. Amateur champion John Fought has stepped out on his own as a golf course architect.

Fought, 42, has founded John Fought Design and aligned his company as a wholly owned subsidiary of OB Sports, a developer and operator of upscale public and resort golf courses based here. Fought will be the lead designer on OB developments and plans to pursue his own design projects throughout the world.

If the measure of an architect's work is the caliber of championships hosted by his or her courses, Fought should be feeling good about the direction of his career. He worked closely with Cupp on Pumpkin Ridge in Oregon, host course for the 1996 U.S. Amateur won by Tiger Woods. Woods' record-setting third U.S. Amateur win in front of large galleries and television audiences in late August brought Pumpkin Ridge a level of exposure usually reserved for Grand Slam events.

While it is the most well known, Pumpkin Ridge is just one of several well-regarded Portland-area projects with which Fought has been involved. Fought and Cupp each designed an 18-hole course for The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club, which is scheduled to open in 1997. Fought also worked with Cupp on the Crosswater Course at Sunriver, named best resort course by *Golf Digest* in 1995. Fought was lead designer at the Langdon Farms Golf Club, a links-style facility where he maintains his home office.

"I'm thrilled to see such great courses being built in Portland because it's my home," said Fought. "However, I'm also looking forward to doing projects everywhere. At this point, my options are wide open, and I'm really having fun."

## Ken Kavanaugh, an evolving style

A plus-1 handicap golfer, Ken Kavanaugh has been designing golf courses since 1985. His first experience in course design came in 1981 when he was project manager for Fred Enke Municipal Golf Course in Tucson, Ariz. His Southwyck Golf Club outside Houston opened to praise in 1989 as did Orchard Valley Golf Course in Aurora, Ill., host of the 1996 Illinois State Open. The Resort at Gold Canyon's 11th, 12th and 13th holes are ranked in Arizona's top 10.

**Golf Course News:** Your first design job was nine holes for Roy Rodgers and Dale Evans. How did you land that job?

**Ken Kavanaugh:** I graduated in 1976 in landscape architecture and practiced it for 10 years. Everybody I met knew my goal was to design golf courses, so the word got around out here. Roy Rodgers and Dale Evans were involved with Thousand Trails, a group that builds destination RV resorts

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## Rees Jones restoring Ross' River Oaks

HOUSTON — River Oaks Country Club here has hired Rees Jones to master-plan a restoration of its Ross track. Built in the mid-1920s, River Oaks has since been extensively re-routed, its greens and tees totally redone and other changes made, so that only about 50 percent of the holes are similar to their original layout, according to Jones design associate Steve Weisser. So Jones intends to restore the course to the Ross style.

Club members are expected to vote on the proposal at the end of this year, with work expected to get underway in the winter of 1997-1998.

"There are no photos of what was there," Weisser said, "But they do have some working plans that will help. More than anything, we want to restore the Ross character. It's a wonderful site on a bayou ... and with land movement — topography not expected in Houston."

## "WHITEMARSH Valley Country Club.

We've been around a long time — over 75 years.

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I have the future of the course to think about. So, I make sure the herbicides

I use to keep the course gorgeous are also **respectful of**

**the environment.** I try to make sure the course **and** the world will be

around for another 75 years. Pendimethalin is the turf herbicide that

**meets these standards year after year"**

**Pendimethalin**

"I've got some  
pretty broad shoulders.  
The **future's**  
on them."

Tony Gustaitis, CGCS

CIRCLE #125

## Love goes solo

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lean times and, in the 1990s, in a boom period, which he expects will continue with public facilities being the driving force.

"There are so many golfers who need a place to play, and they need an interesting and exciting place," he said. "The high-end public course will be developed more and more frequently. But 'high-end' to me doesn't equate to a lot of money to build or a lot to play.

"I think there is a middle ground that will allow courses to be built and maintained for a reasonable cost that means lower greens fees... You don't need to spend \$7 million or \$9 million."

A key for this type of project, he said, "is making it efficient for maintenance. Then the good conditions will draw the people. It goes hand in hand with good design."

His design style, Love said, is to make a course compatible with the existing site, "to make it appear and feel as natural as possible and at the same time create drama, keep you awake and pique your interest.

"One of the things I think is so important in design and which sometimes gets overshadowed by other things like the environment and playability, is aesthetics," he added. "That is absolutely mandatory."

Chairman of the American Society of Golf Course Architects' Environmental Committee, Love said the industry is "a long way out there [in protecting the environment], but there is always more to be done.

"Certainly our goal is to make sure we dispel the viewpoint that golf courses somehow harm the environment or wildlife. The golf industry has been aware of environmental issues for a number of years and putting into practice good design and management for quite some time. That is not to say there isn't room for improvement."

For his part, Love intends to remain active in the ongoing discussions between the golf and environmental communities. And he is already active in his new design firm. He has hired a draftsman and an office manager and is in the development stages of two projects in Maryland and one each in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Nebraska.

GOLF COURSE NEWS