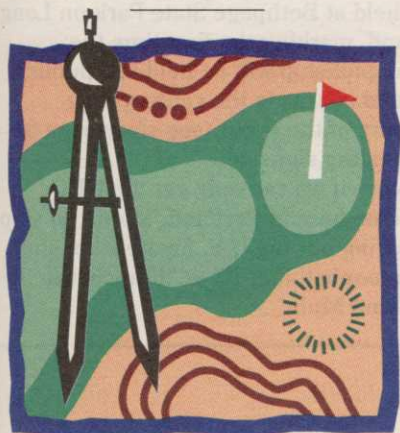


BRIEFS



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 & 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 & 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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Q&A: Kavanaugh

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around the country. They were building a flagship destination resort in Phoenix and the local landscape architectural firm which got the contract knew me. Roy Rodgers and Dale Evans were the "name," the marquee value, so they didn't need a "name" architect — just somebody to get it done. They asked if I was interested, and I couldn't get up there fast enough.

Getting started is the hardest part. That happened at Happy Trails. The next step was getting discovered, by Gary Grigg and Jim Hardy (who were with Kendred and Watts) to remodel their flagship course, Ravaneux Country Club in Houston. One thing led to another, and I've been designing courses ever since.

GCN: How involved were you in the The Oregon Golf Club project with Peter Jacobsen and Hardy?

KK: On paper, I was the lead architect. In reality, it was Peter, Jim and myself — a threesome with equal votes. But it's in Peter's hometown. His name was hung on it. He was real conscious of that. So, ultimately, his vote carried more weight than Jim's or mine. And Peter wasn't just a Tour pro who stamped his name on it, took the money and ran. He was out there every day.

GCN: Is it important for an architect to be a good golfer, or at least golf a lot?

KK: Yes. The best way to understand how a good golfer thinks and plays is to



The par-3 5th hole at Dell Urich Municipal Golf Course, formerly Randolph South, in Tucson, Ariz., before (above) and after Ken Kavanaugh's renovation.

be one. All good golfers on their way to becoming good were bad golfers; so, built into that process was the understanding of how bad golfers play and think. But the only way to grasp how good golfers think and play is to be one.

In the last five or 10 years, many courses have been built that are full of dramatic settings and great looks, and oftentimes, designers who aren't good golfers have compromised the game for the sake of a look. You get dramatic settings that you will never forget: black shadows, all kinds of contours, and great-looking landscapes; but when it comes to play golf on them —

and, more specifically, competitive golf — it's six hours of stress. I have enough stress in my life that when I play golf I like to enjoy it. Being a competitive golfer gives you the insight into this business so that you will never compromise the principles of the game for the sake of a look. I'm really, really into that. When that hit home was here at Dell Urich Golf Course, formerly known as Randolph South, which is my home course in my hometown.

It's one thing to do a golf course anywhere in the country and get on an airplane and leave. This is where my friends and I play every week. When it's your

home course, you get accustomed to the look and take it for granted. What is really important — and why the game has endured — is the principles of the game. How fun is it to play, regardless of how it looks?

I have made these mistakes. I have compromised the game for the sake of the look in my past. But when I got this job, I committed to never doing that again, and it has turned out to be a great place to play... It wasn't really until I did this Randolph job that I really came to grips with that and did it on every square foot of the property.

Golf course design is a very creative process. It's not like mathematics where there's a right answer. There's no right answer. You give it your best shot.

Usually when I'm done and a course opens, I'm never completely satisfied. I

Continued on next page

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Hills & Son: Art, Joe team

BALTIMORE, Md. — It's a father-son project of a type that may have never been done before. Waverly Woods Golf Course here is being designed by Arthur Hills and developed by his son Joe.

"There is a real commitment on everyone's part — my father, myself, Tom [partner Thomas Healy], NationsBank, Wadsworth Golf Construction — everyone, to create a successful golf course, one of which everyone will be proud," said Joe Hills. "Given the development and management team, the location, the market and other such factors, it is likely that that will happen."

The 7,000-yard, par-72 Waverly Woods Golf Course is in Howard County, 10 minutes west of the city. It will target the upscale daily-fee market. The first nine holes are scheduled for completion in the fall of 1997, with the second nine opening in the summer of 1998.

The course is part of a 650-acre mixed-use development known as Waverly Woods. A golf course on the 650-acre site had been under consideration by the owners of the property since 1983. In August 1990, Joe Hills secured the design contract for the golf course on behalf of his father's firm; and, after several years of negotiations, the younger Hills formed



Developers Thomas Healy (left) and Joe Hill.

his own golf course development company, Shiva Golf, Inc., and secured control of the property through a long-term lease arrangement.

Hills and Healy secured financing for the project through a combination of private investors and a loan from NationsBank.

Hills has worked for Wadsworth Golf Construction on two Arizona projects, and also worked for his father in the West before setting up an Arthur Hills and Associates office in Maryland in 1990.

Q&A Kavanaugh

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always think of how we could have done something different or better. Now that Dell Ulrich is done, I've never been happier. And I believe the reason is that I didn't compromise the game for the look.

GCN: That is your philosophy, then?

KK: That, for me, is an evolving thing. I hope to never stagnate. I think you can blindfold a lot of people, drop them on a course and they can make a pretty good guess about who designed it. People develop a design philosophy and stick with it. I hope I never develop a style, that you can never walk onto a site of mine and guess that I did it. Also, I believe greatness in golf is rooted in memorability. Memorability is a function of variety, in terms of everything — the look, the scale, the hard and easy holes, variety on every level.

GCN: What do you foresee for golf course design in the future? Have we gone to the outer limits?

KK: I don't take myself that seriously to think I'm going to change the face of the game and be a pioneer in the industry. That's why my design philosophy is evolving. It's like when you play competitive golf. You don't want to dwell on the past or get too far ahead of yourself. You want to play in the present tense and hit the correct shot. That's the way I want to design, too.

I go to all these shows and see plastic grass. I hope we're not headed for plastic

golf courses. I know I'm not. I don't particularly care where the industry is going. I just want to do good golf courses. If the industry goes that way, it will be strong forever.

I'm not sure golf course architects determine where the industry goes as much as their clients do. The clients are generating criteria and the designers are generating solutions. As the criteria changes, so do the solutions.

One way it is going ... is to environmentally sensitive planning. We're all sure that's where it's going and where it's going to stay, because it's right. Part of the golf experience is getting out of the urban setting and taking a walk in the park. That may be the soul of the game anyway. We're never going to play golf in a dome. And I hope not on artificial grass. The game will always exist in a natural setting.

GCN: Your wife Lori is a landscape architecture graduate, and with turfgrass management studies, as well as a photo-journalist. Has she added anything different to your operation?

KK: She's a 6-handicap, and although we're not Pete and Alice Dye, we talk about design a lot. Just as there is no way a bad golfer can know what a good golfer thinks and plays, there is no way for a male golfer to understand what a female golfer knows and thinks. Lori is our resident female golfing expert. She tells me when holes are getting too long, and when women she plays with can't execute a certain shot. That brings a lot to the table.

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