

Ill. golf links goes easy on environment

LEMONT, Ill. — While *Golf Digest* has named Ruffled Feathers one of Chicago's top five public golf courses, wildlife on the 18-hole, 175-acre course may have it better than the golfers themselves.

Endangered black-crowned night herons nest behind the driving range. Elegant blue herons and great white egrets, rails, snipes and American bitterns abound. And waterfowl—from green-winged teals to golden eyes and mergansers—flock here.

To preserve its wildlife-friendly habitat, the staff at Ruffled Feathers maintains the course with sensitivity to the environment. Superintendent Dan Albaugh uses slow, long-releasing fertilizers to minimize impact to some 29 acres of federally mitigated wetlands. Rather than blanket the landscape, Albaugh selectively spot applies insecticides and uses newer, less damaging chemicals—such as a fungicide derived from mushrooms.

Located 20 miles southwest of downtown Chicago, Ruffled Feathers is the only Pete Dye and P.B. Dye-designed course in Illinois.

Wis. track set for fall unveiling

HAVEN, Wis. — It looks as if the highly-anticipated Whistling Straits may be ready for a soft opening sometime this fall.

David Longmeyer, project manager of construction at the Pete Dye-designed course, told *The Sheboygan Press*, "We caught up, everything's on schedule. A big variable is the weather."

The back nine of the links-style layout has already been seeded and the front nine was expected to be seeded by July 5. The fairways will be fescue, while tees and greens are bentgrass.

This is the second high-profile Wisconsin course for Herbert V. Kohler, the developer, and Dye. Dye also designed Blackwolf Run for Kohler. The new superintendent at Whistling Straits is Saeed Assadzandi, who worked with Dye as superintendent during the construction of the Mystic Rock course in Pennsylvania.

Palmer teams with Ohio developer to build six facilities nationwide

CINCINNATI — A Sycamore Township developer has formed a threesome with Arnold Palmer and a Florida contractor to build six multi-million-dollar golf course communities throughout the eastern United States.

Hines-Griffin Land Development Co., developer of Fairways at Pine Run in Warren County

and the Shriner's Oasis Golf Course Community in Clermont County, recently settled the deal with Palmer, according to partner Dan Griffin.

The team includes Hines Griffin, Palmer Course Design of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and Ranger Construction Inc. of West Palm Beach, Fla. It plans to build

six courses valued between \$35 and \$40 million each over the next five years in Nashville, Tenn.; Indianapolis; Atlanta; Charlotte, N.C.; and in two cities in Florida. The projects will generally cover from 400 to 700 acres with about 550 homes each.

Hines and Griffin are both Cincinnati natives well-known in the

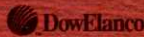
region's residential development industry for building upscale homes. The team recently received a strong reception during a membership drive at its most recent development, Tartan Fields Golf Course near Dublin, Ohio, which will feature a golf course designed by Palmer's design group.

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