

By TERRY BUCHEN

Longaberger GC uses chipper to fulfill credo to recycle its wooded wealth

HANOVER, Ohio — The Longaberger Co. is the world's largest wooden decorative basket manufacturer and has 5,000 employees working at its Dresden plant, which is visited by more than 500,000 tourists each year.

To give the tourists an additional reason to visit and stick around, the company

developed its own course, Longaberger Golf Club, a public-access course designed by Arthur Hills and Brian Yoder. Built by Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., with Al Van Meeteren as job superintendent, the course is scheduled

to open in 1998 and will feature bentgrass greens, tees and fairways, with bluegrass roughs. It will be maintained by superintendent Mark Rawlins, who spent the past 12 years at the Zanesville (Ohio) Country Club.

Still under construction, this course has also reflected the firm's philosophy that backs recycling wherever possible.

"When most people see the course for the first time, they assume a lot of clearing was done, when in reality,

clearing was kept to a minimum. Fewer trees were removed than the architect's original drawings specified," Rawlins said.

"Most of the golf holes are located where openings in the trees already existed. The philosophies of Doug Schmidt (director of grounds and golf maintenance) and Mike Kaido (executive director of golf operations) from the beginning, were to leave as many trees as possible. Trees that were removed were chipped and sold to a local company that got some good use out of them as they weren't just buried."

The trees were chipped with a high-tech chipper, blown into a semi-trailer and hauled away to the Stone Container Co., that makes paper products. None of the trees were burned as The Longaberger Co. has a long-standing tradition of recycling everything whenever possible.

"The Longaberger Co. is already recycling, so we wanted to do our part on the new course as well," Schmidt said. "The wood chips are being used in a nearby business and we are building a new corporate office building where the interior will have cherry wood trim of which 17,000 board feet was taken from the golf course during the clearing process."

"We feel really good about the use of the chipper," Kaido said. "The wood chips will be put to a good use as all of the cleared trees will be recycled back into the local community,"

Added Yoder: "The chipper is a viable and extremely promising option for many future golf course construction projects. Owners, architects, builders and superintendents feel really good about the end results."



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On the Move

Continued from previous page

Sandridge's two 18-hole courses — the 7,000-yard Dunes and the 6,300-yard Lakes. He supervises a staff of 23 and reports directly to Jim Wells, IGM's central Florida regional manager.

DULUTH, Ga. — The new 18-hole executive course Peachtree Masters Golf Club has hired **Scott Hales** as its golf course superintendent.

GRIFFIN, Ga. — The city of Griffin has hired **Tommy Wood** as superintendent of his municipal golf course. Wood was a representative for LESCO.

HOLLYWOOD, Ga. — Hollywood Hills Golf Course has hired **Tom Grundy** as its new golf course superintendent.

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