

BRIEFS

AUBURN, Ala. — Work is set to start this summer on a golf course for the University Club at Auburn. The layout, which will be home to the Auburn University men's and women's golf teams, will be located about two miles from the Auburn campus. The club will feature an 18-hole course, full-service clubhouse, swimming and tennis facilities and a practice range. Residential development around the University Club is also being considered. The course is scheduled to open for play by fall 1999.

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BELCHERTOWN, Mass. — Developers planning a 6,800-yard, par-70 golf course at Hillcrest Orchards in this town between Springfield and Amherst, Mass., hope to start work later this summer and open by the year 2000. Edwin Waskelewicz and partner Mark Kramer of Cold Spring Development Corp., plan to build an 18-hole daily-fee course along with 120 to 140 custom-built condominiums. The Coldspring Golf Course has been designed by architect Marvin Armstrong of Frankestown, N.H. As planned, the condominiums would be nestled on a hill east of Route 21 with the golf course spread out below.

Garl to lead new Fla. golf coalition

Group to fight legislative battles for fragmented golf industry

LAKELAND, Fla. — Golf course architect Ron Garl has been named president of the newly formed Florida Golf Alliance (FGA).

"Florida's Golf Industry has been splintered far too long," said Garl. "With all of the golf associations and organizations residing in Florida united under the Florida Golf Alliance, we will become a healthy resource that the industry can draw upon and a strong influence to be contended with in Tallahassee."

The Florida Golf Alliance was formed after several formal meetings held over 14 months from September 1996 through last December, with most of the core Florida golf associations/organizations invited or in attendance.

The mission statement for the incorporated FGA reads: "The Florida Golf Alliance's mission is to unify Florida's golf industry into an effective alliance in order to promote and to protect the industry as a major contributor to the state's economy, environment, and quality of life."

"It just makes sense," said Roy Bates, immediate past president of the Florida Turfgrass Association and vice president

of the FGA. "We're all conducting research and providing grants for special projects to benefit our respective association goals. But few of us are sharing the knowledge, or even know how to ask that might have information to help a particular cause."

"The FGA is a means for the industry to unite and start to become aligned for a targeted productive future," Bates added.

The founding FGA members and board of directors are PGA Tour representative Richard Bowers, LPGA Tour representative Terri McCracken, Tommy Armour Golf Tour representative Terry Fine, Florida Turfgrass Association representative Roy Bates, Florida Chapter Golf Course Managers Association representative Mike Fiddelke, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association representatives Joe Ondo and Joel Jackson, and Mercury Titleholders Championship representative Ann Palmer.

Garl was voted president because of "his dedication to the sport and obvious dedication to serve Florida's golf industry through his many and varied affiliations with Florida's golf associations."



Ron Garl



Garl has served on numerous boards and committees over the past 28 years. "Although each affiliation is treasured by me for different reasons, my service to the Florida Turfgrass Association on the IFAS advisory board for the University of Florida comes closest to what I envision for the Florida Golf Alliance," said the new president.

"Our goals were consistently focused on the industry as a whole — not various special projects. That's what the FGA will be about — all industry representatives uniting and making decisions as an alliance regarding priorities to benefit Florida's golf industry."

"Given the distinction of the founding groups that have banded together to fund the start-up of this alliance I am confident that this unification will succeed," Garl said.

At the next meeting a special invitation will be reviewed for mailing, along with the 1998 FGA business plan for inclusion, in order to invite all identifiable Florida golf associations and organizations to become FGA members and share a seat on the board of directors.

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