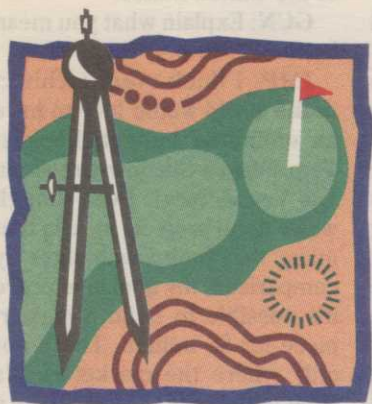


BRIEFS

**GERRISH HIRED AS DESIGN ASSOCIATE**

UXBRIDGE, Mass. — Tim Gerrish has joined the golf course architecture firm of Cornish, Silva and Mungam (CSM) as a full-time design associate. Over the past two years, Gerrish has worked part-time for CSM partner Geoffrey Cornish while earning his master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; he graduated in May. A native of Lisbon Falls, Maine, Gerrish earned his undergraduate degree in landscape horticulture from the University of Maine in 1991.

INC. CITES ENVIROTECH GROWTH

ENID, Okla.—Envirotech Services, Inc., an environmental consulting firm serving the golf course industry, based here, has been named one of the fastest-growing businesses in the nation by *Inc.* magazine. Less than 7 years old, Envirotech Services has experienced a 700-percent increase in sales from 1992 to 1996. This has placed the company 385th on the annual profile of America's fastest-growing privately held companies.

PALMER PROMOTES MINCHEW, LARSEN

ORLANDO, Fla.—Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay, chief operating officer of Palmer Course Design, have named Harrison Minchew director of design services and Erik Larsen director of sales. Both men are vice presidents and senior course designers for the firm. Minchew and Larsen are both regular members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) and the Urban Land Institute.



Harrison Minchew

ROBBINS HIRES WESTMORELAND

CARY, N.Y. — Robbins & Associates International has hired Jeffrey Westmoreland as design associate. He had previously worked part-time with the firm while completing his master's degree in landscape architecture at Virginia Tech. He earned a bachelor's degree in turfgrass management from North Carolina State University. Upon graduation, he was employed with Jerry Pate's design firm in Pensacola, Fla., as a course designer and was in charge of its turfgrass program.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Beauty from ashes

By MARK LESLIE

SEAFORD, Del. — Fortuitous. That is the operative word here, where Seaford Golf and Country Club opened a second nine holes on May 2. Fortuitous in terms of time and money.

Time: Because Seaford G&CC members had debated adding a second nine to their venerable nine for 15 years, and the government just happened to demand that the neighboring DuPont Corp. nylon plant dispose of acres of a byproduct, coal ash, that it had piled up over 30 years of operation.

Money: Because Seaford G&CC paid a mere \$800,000 for a brand spanning new nine-hole course, while DuPont paid the remaining \$1.2 million and still saved a couple million compared to the cost of disposing of the coal ash in another fashion.

"There is a 25-acre pocket of nylon



DuPont's manufacturing plant is visible in the background on the Seaford Golf and Country Club's par-4, 400-yard 3rd hole.

buried on the site 8 to 10 feet deep," explained golf course architect Rich Mandell of Whole in One Design Group in Durham, N.C., and Easton, Md. "They didn't know what to do with it.

"It was a wasteland. The ash was in a big pile in a field. They had three

holding ponds where it would go directly from the factory, sit for awhile, then be taken out and stored adjacent to the pond."

When the government mandate came down, the plan for a golf course seemed heaven-sent — for both sides. Origin-

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The par-4 4th hole at Long Island Golf and Country Club's North Course in Guangdong Province, China, is an example of J. Michael Poellot's recent work abroad.

Q & A Poellot's return to America stresses attention to detail

J. Michael Poellot's name is on golf courses from the People's Republic of China (the country's first private country club, Beijing Golf Club) to Japan and Thailand. But the 1966 Iowa State University landscape architecture graduate has done little in America since leaving a partnership with Dick Phelps and Brad Benz in Colorado 10 years ago. That is, until now. A former vice president of the Robert Trent Jones II Group, heading Jones' overseas division, Poellot and JMP Golf Design Group partners Mark Hollinger, Bob Moore and Brian Costello are concentrating heavily on the United States, with a half dozen projects in the works.

Golf Course News: You've undertaken a new relationship with Ernie Els. Can you tell us about it?

J. Michael Poellot: This initial opportunity with Ernie Els was a desire on the part of Kemper Sports and their local partner doing a project in the Washington, D.C., area. It so happened that Ernie had been looking for an architect he could be associated with whose work he would be confident in. We had just had an interview with Ernie at Winged Foot at the

PGA Tournament last fall and we seemed to be on the same page in terms of our philosophy of golf. It was Ernie's intent that he would not get involved, as some other professionals had, in doing a tremendous number of projects. He wanted a limited amount and to do them well and to be intimately involved.

I found him to be very thoughtful, and he listened well, which opened a great insight into our compatibility. We were both able to listen as opposed to dictate, which will result in a better relationship and a better product. We have met a number of times since then. We hiked the whole property in D.C. for hours trying to identify green and tee sites and let our imaginations run wild and see what the site would yield in terms of a great golf experience.

Subsequently, we have gotten together to talk further about bunkering strategy and other aspects of the playability of the course.

GCN: How involved will Els be in your work?

JMP: At this moment the Washington project is the only one we are working on.

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Rapid assessment, national survey on Audubon agenda

By MARK LESLIE

SELKIRK, N.Y. — A nationwide survey on environmental issues and a book enabling "rapid environmental assessment" of property for development appear on the horizon for Audubon International (AI) and may jump-start stalled attempts to build Audubon Golf Courses.

The Audubon courses, thought last fall to be on the verge of reality, still await that moment. Offered land from various private and public sources around the country, AI last fall formed the Audubon International Golf and the Environment Land Trust to develop courses that would also serve as environmental research and demonstration centers. Last September, with \$300 million to \$500 million in pledges from its principles, The Golf Co. was formed to partner with AI and identify and build Audubon Golf Courses.

The two parties expected to have two or three contracts in hand by the end of the year.

Admitting a long "period of frustration" finding the right property and circumstances, AI President Ron Dodson is still waiting for the first.

"We need the first one to be a home run," he said, "but more than that: We need people to know these will be Golf and the Environment 'research facilities' that happen to be golf courses, and they will be built in locations where we can test environmental issues in long-term research."

To that end, Dr. Larry Woolbright, dean of science at Si-

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