

Letter from Philippines

Continued from page 10

fairways bunkers are trenched by hand. All the spoils are bagged and hand-carried, and gravel and sand is even sometimes placed by hand. It's also not unheard of to hand plant entire fairways. Seventy-five women line up across the fairway and away they go. Each lady has a sack of sprigs and a putty knife. Each sprig is manually planted and a fairway can be grassed in a day with an enormous success rate. Nearly every sprig takes.

There's a term here: "Philippine Time." This is applied to situations where things don't happen exactly when scheduled. This means 10:00 a.m. meetings start at 10:30, deliveries promised first thing in the morning show up around noon, and jobs to be finished in a couple of days usually take three or four.

My first job in The Philippines was an 18-hole rebuild at the old naval station at Subic Bay. The old course was in the middle of a rain forest and jungle. It's one of The Philippines' last virgin rain forests standing.

It came complete with native jungle tribes, wild pigs, cobras, pythons, monitor lizards, parrots and fruit bats the size of small dogs. It was like working on the Discovery Channel every day.

The surroundings were spectacular, which was a nice offset because the work was a real trial at times. Golf construction is still relatively new to the Philippines and this fact is reflected by the inconsistent materials. Sand and gravel deliveries had to be monitored daily. What usually showed up in the truck was nothing like the sample we had approved. The minute you stopped checking your materials, a dirty load would be delivered. The main reason for this is the processing operations. Most of the sand and gravel is hand-sifted and loaded. Without proper screening plants, consistent loads were a rare commodity.

An additional headache at Subic was the weather. Monsoons and typhoons plagued our construction efforts and earthmoving activities. I've come to refer to seasons in Subic as the muddy season and the dusty season. You're either slogging through mud or coughing up dust.

It was at times like trying to breath through a wet wool blanket. Mud slides, washouts and flooding were our main concerns. Despite the adversities, we were able to complete our construction efforts in 12 months.

My current job is at a Graham Marsh design on the tiny island of Boracay. Here, problems are quite different, yet equally difficult. Being on an island poses unique dilemmas. We have to bring in all materials and equipment by boat and barge. I've lost barges to pirates, had barges sink trying to dock and, of course, getting stuck on sand bars is common place.

Like Subic, the crew in Boracay is very good — hard-working individuals who are willing to put in a full day. The work is tough and their living conditions are less than what we're accustomed to. Most of the crew live in houses made of thatch and bamboo. Many don't have running water or power at their places. Despite their situations, their attitudes are amazingly upbeat.

I've developed a great deal of respect for The Philippines and its culture. I've also learned so many things since working here over the years. My only hope is that I've been able to teach my crew half as much as the Philippines has taught me.

Golf Course Classifieds

To reserve space in this section, call Jean Andrews 207-925-1099.

FOR SALE

ARCH STYLE STEEL BUILDINGS

Build it yourself and save money! For cart and equipment storage. Factory direct. Save money on buildings in stock. 20 x 30; 25 x 40; 30 x 55; 45 x 75; 51 x 150. Easy to erect. **Archway Steel Buildings: 1-800-344-2724.**

PERSONALIZED GOLF FLAGS

by DuPont Solar Max Nylon

BRITISH POLES

Buy Direct and Save

1-800-476-7005

HELP WANTED

CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT

Golf course construction projects in Midwest. Seeking experienced construction superintendents, shapers, finishers, and irrigation superintendents. **Qualified individuals send resume to: Mid-America Golf & Landscape Inc., 620 SE 291 Hwy, Ste. 104, Lees Summit, MO 64063 or Fax to: (816) 524-0150.**

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Nationwide Golf Course Construction Company looking for Shapers, Superintendents, Operators, and Irrigation Personnel. **Fax Resume to (719) 527-0337.**

GOLF/TURF IRRIGATION SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

Manufacturer is expanding its network of service representatives. Seek reps with field service knowledge on pumps, motors and controls along with the ability to develop customer relationships. Requires highest level of quality, consistency, responsibility and attention to detail. Search is nationwide. **Please fax past performance references with letter of interest to 770/409-3292.**

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Golf course irrigation installers / superintendents needed to work primarily in north-east U.S. **Send resume and date available to International Irrigation, 15 Starboard Way, Tequesta, FL 33469. Fax: (561) 744-6118. Phone: (561) 746-0490.**

HELP WANTED

National golf construction firm is seeking qualified project managers, shapers, irrigation specialists, project coordinator/estimator/purchasing agent. **Submit resume to: Environmental Golf, 24121 Ventura Blvd., Calabasas, CA 91302. Fax: 818-591-3012; E-Mail: www.envgolf.com. EOE M/F/D/V**

IRRIGATION SUPERVISOR

Must have extensive experience in golf course irrigation. Must be willing to travel. Top pay and benefits. **Call 800-446-3326.**

LANDCONSTRUCTORS, INC.

Golf Course Contractor is seeking experienced construction superintendents, shapers, finishers, and irrigation technicians. Projects in Midwest and Southwest. **FAX Resumes to (817) 488-8983 or CALL (817) 481-0831.**

HELP WANTED

● SHAPERS AND FINISHERS ●

Quality and experienced individuals needed. Minimum of 3 years experience. Excellent potential to grow with aggressive company. **Fax resume with references to: EAGLE GOLF CONSTRUCTION, INC. (810) 632-6270**

SHAPERS WANTED

Golf Course Construction Shaper Needed. Must be willing to travel. **Fax resume and date available to 616-547-7009.**

REAL ESTATE

GOLF COURSE FOR SALE

Established 18 hole golf course, building lots, club house and all equipment in Buffalo, NY area. \$2.6 million. Qualified buyers, NO R/A. **Fax inquires to 716-433-4604.**

SERVICES

LASER MEASURING

Laser measuring and sprinkler yardage markers. We do it all! Laser measure & installation of custom metal yardage markers for all types of sprinkler heads. **Fairway Yardage Designs: 1-800-368-2448.**

POND & LAKE LINERS

- Buy Direct from fabricator 20, 30, 40 mil PVC, Hypalon, HDPE, & P.P.
- Custom fabricated panels of up to 25,000 S.F. available.
- Material Only, Material & Supervision, or Complete Installation service.



Colorado Lining
INTERNATIONAL

"Your Inside Line On Containment"
1-800-524-8672

1062 Singing Hills Road • Parker, CO 80138
303-841-2022 • Fax 303-841-5780

BIRD AND BAT HOUSES



- Wildlife Feeders
- Over 70 Items
- Free Catalog
- 1-800-326-2807

Coveside Conservation Products

GRUND GUIDE

SINCE 1987

Complete Marker Systems

- Sprinkler Yardage • Practice Range
- Cart Path • Fairway & Tee Plaque
- Sprinkler ID (zone, control box, recycled water)

Laser Measurement Services

- We Measure • Laser Rental

Golf Print Services



"The Yardage Detectives"
(800) 971-7233 FAX (626) 969-3724

SERVICES

SOLID BRONZE SIGNAGE

- Yardage Markers
- Tee Signs
- 100, 150, 200
- Commemorative
- Laser Measuring
- Sprinkler Tagging
- Yardage Books

FROM TEE TO GREEN, INC.

**(800) 932-5223
Fax: (219) 637-6874**

MARK ELIOT DESIGN LANDSCAPE & GOLF COURSE DESIGN

CLUB LANDSCAPING
*Design
New Construction
Renovation*

&
GOLF COURSE DESIGN
*Master Planning
Renovation
Construction Management*

MARK E. SOSNOWITZ, ASLA

MARK ELIOT DESIGN
PO BOX 11188
GREENWICH, CT 06831
203-972-9131 Fax: 203-972-9132

We'll Seal Your Lake Empty or Full!

ESS-13 Eliminates
The Need For A
Synthetic Lake Liner

Seepage
Control, Inc.

P.O. Box 51177
Phoenix, Arizona 85076-1177
800-214-9640 Fax 602-829-1106

Since 1958