



Reaching out

This package of stories is the first of an ongoing series covering new initiatives and projects developed to bring new golfers into the game, particularly youths and minorities. People wishing to submit projects, or stories for consideration should contact the editorial department of *Golf Course News* at 106 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096; tel. 207-846-0600; Fax 207-846-0657; e-mail: mleslie@golfcoursenews.com.

Minority Golf Assn. moves ahead in Miami

MIAMI — Don Childs Associates has been awarded the master planning and design contract for the development of a new golf training academy here that will be the teaching and training headquarters for the Minority Golf Association of America (MGAA). The project site is approximately 108 acres in North Miami, minutes away from the new Joe Robbie Stadium.

Owned by The Jupiter Group, the site

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Wadsworths bankroll \$3.5M for inner-city juniors, handicapped

By MARK LESLIE

PLAINFIELD, Ill. — Concerned with the growing menace of crime in the country, Brent and Jeanne Wadsworth of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. here, have created the Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation to support programs for junior and handicapped golfers.

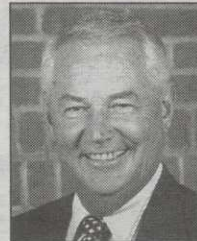
"The thrust here," said Brent Wadsworth, "is supporting the development of facilities that offer opportunity to the handicapped, youths and others who otherwise wouldn't have the chance to use them. At the same time we want to help channel people's spare time into an area of self-improvement rather than crime."

An outgrowth of the Wadsworth company's 20-year-old in-house Social Responsibility Program, the foundation has already helped fund three programs:

- Giving a grant to help with the purchase and capital improvements for The Children's Course near Portland, Ore. The programs will teach technique and help youths develop positive character



Brent Wadsworth



Richard Slagle

qualities, relationship skills and a larger perspective on life.

- Donating \$50,000 to the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA), which will operate a program in connection with new The Youth Links adjacent to the 27-hole public Cantigny Golf Course. Wadsworth built the 9-hole course, which features holes of 90 to 160 yards over 20 acres. When it opens around July 1, The Cantigny Foundation-owned facility will give priority to young people, allowing adults to play, but not when children are waiting.

- Contributing to the U.S. Golf Association's "For the Good of the Game."

With Wadsworth's funding, the CDGA's Junior Golf Program will bring in five groups of 30 inner-city girls and boys for three-day clinics.

"In many instances," Wadsworth said, "we don't have these types of facilities in the inner cities and even the rural areas. We have to spruce up the opportunities that exist."

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THE ROBIN HOOD CONCEPT

Robbing from the rich to help poor

BOISE, Idaho — Robbing from the rich to give to the poor is the legacy of Robin Hood. Now the Robin Hood Executive Course being built as part of Cloverdale Golf's 54-hole development here will use that philosophy to foster junior golf.

Owner HansGeorg "Hans" Borbonus explained that the idea came about because "we are going to rob from the rich (the North and South courses) and give to the poor (the Robin Hood course).

"This way we can subsidize the course and hopefully offer free green fees to any junior who wants to play."

Borbonus said he will form a non-profit organization to run the Robin Hood track and to organize tournaments and functions for area youths.

The golf courses will be built in stages with the North Course first, followed by the South course and the Robin Hood Course. Grand opening for the North is scheduled for fall of 1999. This course will feature a granite rock theme throughout the golf holes, walls,

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Wadsworths back special projects

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The foundation has a \$3.5-million bankroll the Wadsworths hope will grow. "We want to embark on a fund-raising campaign over the next two or three years," Wadsworth said. "We don't know where this will take us. We just know it will work to the benefit of humanity."

Besides the Wadsworths and Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., there are other contributors to the fund, he said, "including family and friends who support the foundation's mission."

"We welcome anyone to donate if they have the same goals," said foundation Executive Director Richard W. Slagle, a communications expert and longtime friend of the Wadsworths, who will operate the foundation out of his Middletown, Ohio, offices.

Saying he, his family and his business have been affected by crime, Wadsworth said: "I've been very upset about this. So I've tried to couple my involvement in golf with my concern for crime in some way to provide what I consider important extracurricular activities."

He said he and Jeanne "wanted to combine our ability to help in terms of assets. And if we are able to put some of our lives into

helping even one person to avert a life of crime, we will be blessed."

Slagle said they will look to identify and direct grants to organizations that offer positive programs designed to provide cultural youth education and special-use golf facilities.

"A lot of our money will be

seed money with local communities to match funds to create programs," he said.

Wadsworth sees golf as a potential positive influence for youths who otherwise might choose crime.

"Golf does do that," he said. "Golf occupies the mind to a great extent, and it takes time,

and it's a way to vent emotions, to go after things with speed and power and all those elements of life. It's a mystery. And it provides risk-taking which, in a way, is why much crime is committed.

"If we can channel those undesirable characteristics into the sports world, I think we will gain in getting people off the streets. Golf has to offer them the same risks and elements of life — and

I think it does, more than any other sport. Other sports are generally team-oriented, whereas an individual can play golf. It's an easier access to what we are trying to accomplish."

Beyond the youthful years, he said, golf is a game for a lifetime.

Interested people can reach Slagle at 3201 Milton Rd., Middletown, Ohio 45042; telephone 513-424-3701; facsimile 423-4388.

Minority Golf Assn. busy organizing

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will also feature 250 residences.

MGAA Director John David has been an active proponent for various golf programs and teaching facilities. Programs are in place in New York, Dallas, Tampa, New Orleans, Louisville and New Jersey. The facility here will feature a practice range with 50 tee stations, a four-hole training course with one par-3, two par-4s, and a par-5, a nine-hole short course, and putting and chipping practice facilities.

The MGAA will use the facility to train minority teaching professionals, develop special programs and activities to support allied organizations such as the PGA, and train aspiring minority golfers. The academy plans to house 30 to 35 people.

"This will be the pilot site in which we have an opportunity to develop golf programs for youth residing in urban areas effectively," David said.

