

Thompson named Ga. state golf director

ATLANTA—John Thompson has been appointed director of golf operations for the Georgia State Park golf courses.

Thompson is a 20-year veteran with Georgia State Parks, most recently serving as regional manager for Southeast Georgia out of Brunswick. In that capacity, Thompson oversaw a staff of 160 in the operations, training and educational programming for 21 state parks and historic sites, including two 18-hole championship courses and one nine-hole layout.

Thompson's appointment is an integral element of a broad-based commitment by Georgia State Parks to enhance the playability, conditioning, marketing and operating facilities of its seven courses. The state took a major step toward that goal last year when it created a separate and distinct section for golf course management. Previously, the seven courses were managed by their respective park superin-



John Thompson

tendents and regional managers.

Thompson will be assigned to the Golf Operations Office located at Hard Labor Creek State Park, but will spend one day a week in the central Atlanta office. A native of Barnwell, S.C., Thompson is a 1978 graduate of Georgia Southern College, with a bachelor's of science degree in outdoor recreation.

Georgia State Park golf courses are located across the state and include five championship 18-hole courses and two nine-hole layouts.

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SunCor to build new Scottsdale golf links

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — SunCor Golf and Resort Management and Capital Realty Corp. have been approved by the city to build a new 18-hole course at WestWorld.

WestWorld is a premier, nationally recognized equestrian center and special events facility. The 360-acre WestWorld facility is located just north of the intersection of Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd. and Pima Road.

The course will be built primarily within the city of Scottsdale and Bureau of Reclamation storm water retention area, located next to WestWorld, and adjacent to the McDowell Mountain Ranch master-planned community.

Randy Heckenkemper designed the 6,900-yard, par-71 track. The 18-hole layout will feature 80 acres of turf, 55 sand bunkers and one large water feature complete with two multi-tiered waterfalls.

New Jersey track looks to Casper Mgt.

FRANKLIN TWP., N.J. — Billy Casper Golf Management (BCGM) has been selected to perform dual roles for the developer of the new White Oaks Country Club located near Vineland, Md., 45 minutes between Philadelphia and Atlantic City.

BCGM will consult on the pre-opening development, planning and construction and then provide complete turnkey operations management services upon White Oaks' opening, scheduled for summer 1999.

A unique feature to the BCGM/White Oaks relationship is the establishment of a memorabilia center within the clubhouse in tribute to golf legend Billy Casper — Masters and two-time U.S. Open champion, and winner of 60 Tour events. Dating back 40 years, photos, lithographs, magazine covers, newspaper headlines, trading cards, golf equipment, scorecards and other products signed by Billy Casper are slated for showcase in a museum-like setting.

Construction of the new golf facility is progressing on schedule, according to project developer Dobson Construction Inc. of Franklinville. White Oaks is located off routes 40, 47, 55 and 322. The par-71, 6,400-yard, 18-hole Karl Litten layout features abundant tall oak trees lining the course.

Buffalo Golf Group to manage Okla. links

MIAMI, Okla. — Buffalo Golf Group (BGG) of Vinita has been named the management company of Peoria Ridge, an 18-hole layout under construction here that is slated to open in September 1999.

Lynn Blevins, president of BGG, will oversee development and start-up of the operation. This is BGG's third Oklahoma facility.

Pittman, Poe & Associates is designing Peoria Ridge Golf Course, located two miles east of Miami. The course is a project of the Peoria Tribal Economic Development Commission of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.