

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

Public Golf Forum Preview

If you're on the fence about attending this year's Forum, take a look at who'll be on hand 39-41

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Overbeck visits Kelab Golf Seri Selangor Public Golf Course, Malaysia's first public track 13

Crisis in Canada puts clamps on course spending

By PETER BLAIS

TORONTO — The cry of the Loony — as Canadians call their one-dollar, bird-imprinted coin — has been a mournful sound for superintendents and suppliers of U.S.-manufactured course equipment as the plummeting Canadian dollar has made those items increasingly expensive for Canadian course managers.

By early August, the Canadian dollar had fallen to a record low, an equivalent of approximately 65 cents in U.S. currency. That represented a 15-percent decline from a year earlier and was forcing some superintendents to consider cutting back, or at the very least

Continued on page 49



Maybe a first: Gary Player, Tom Fazio, Pete Dye, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus all in one room at the same time for the project announcement in Palm Beach Gardens.

Developmental tidal wave hits Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

By PETER BLAIS

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Three major golf projects located within 15 minutes of one another are in the works in this southeast Florida community that is already home to many upscale private and public facilities.

A Catholic priest, who wants to pair a golf course with a treatment center for troubled teens, hopes to close on a 500-acre parcel for the facility here this fall; *Golf Digest* magazine plans to build a home for its golf schools and a venue to entertain corporate cli-

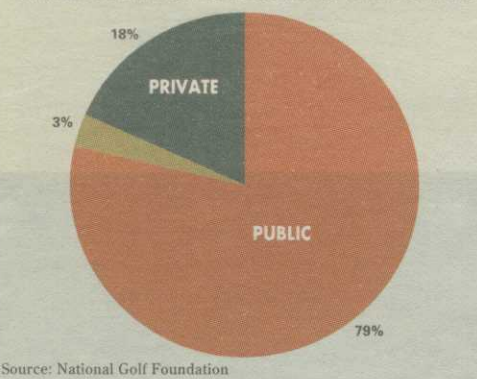
ents; and Jack Nicklaus is designing what many people are calling his legacy near his South Florida home.

Father Leo Armbrust, who is the team chaplain for the NFL's Miami Dolphins and the Big East Miami Hurricanes football teams, is negotiating with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to purchase the property, where he plans to build Renaissance Village.

Armbrust hopes to build a private course co-designed by Jack

Continued on page 34

WHERE GOLFERS PLAY A MAJORITY OF THEIR ROUNDS



Source: National Golf Foundation

PUBLIC GOLF NUMBERS REMAIN STRONG

Twelve years ago, private golfers made up 20 percent of the golf population. By 1997, that percentage had dropped to just above 18 percent. Since 1986 public golfers grew by over 39 percent, from 15 million to 21 million in 1997.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

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The British are coming

By TREVOR LEDGER & MARK LESLIE

Over 100 years ago the "fathers" of golf course design boarded steam packets and headed west over the Atlantic Ocean to share the "gospel" according to St. Andrews.

Now, following 60 years of one-way eastbound traffic (with the odd exception bucking the trend), a trickle of British design evangelists is lighting the fires of revival. Saddle your horse,

Continued on page 36

Public Golf Forum Maintenance Track: Long-sought solutions unveiled

By MARK LESLIE

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — From unveiling the long-sought solution to *poa annua* and the initial results of the country's first "environmental test course," to illustrating the best practices for everyday operations, the upcoming Public Golf Forum promises practical help in its conference Maintenance sessions.

To be held at Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort here, Oct. 26-27, the *Golf*

Course News-sponsored national conference and expo is geared toward superintendents, general managers, owners and developers of public-access golf facilities.

Following keynote addresses by Dr. Michael Hurdzan on Monday and PGA Tour star Greg Norman on Tuesday, each

Continued on page 41



HURDZAN/FRY: LIKE A ROLLING STONE

Heavy machinery is dwarfed by the boulder work at Olde Stonewall Golf Club outside Pittsburgh. The clubhouse and maintenance building bring the British countryside to mind. See story page 27.

Penn A-4 creeping bentgrass succeeds at Cypress Lakes

"We just couldn't keep grass on this green before. I'd worry about keeping the players happy, but now I sleep better at night with Penn A-4 bentgrass."

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tional effort on our part. It's a relief to know we have superior heat tolerance working for us in the south, and on this green in particular where nothing seemed to grow next to our namesake cypress lake. We maintain a 0.125" cut throughout the summer, which makes for a truly consistent year-round putting surface with no adverse affect on plant health. We believe that Penn A-4 will continue to perform for our 18 greens here at Cypress Lakes, and we thank the team at Tee-2-Green for introducing it to us."



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BRIEFS

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Gallery Golf Club is on schedule to open in late November or December. The John Fought/Tom Lehmann design is part of the 300-home Dove Mountain master-planned community at the base of the Tortolita Mountains. The private, 18-hole club will be operated by O.B. Sports. Crown Golf was the course builder for developer Palos Verde Partners.

♦♦♦

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — A complete renovation of The Diplomat Resort & Country Club course was scheduled to begin in September, according to project manager Ed Bergman. Architect Joe Lee is overseeing the project. The course has been closed since April in preparation for the arrival of contractor Newgent Golf of Kissimmee. The renovated course should be ready for play by late spring or early summer 1999.

♦♦♦

SOUTH BERWICK, Maine — The Outlook Farm Golf Course under construction here is on target to open its first nine holes next June and the second nine by August. Architect Brian Silva designed the 18-hole track for developer Tim Flynn. Frank O'Dowd is the course builder.

Environmental group may buy proposed Mich. course land

GLEN ARBOR, Mich. — A land conservation group has offered a deal that could end a 12-year battle over a proposed golf course along the Crystal River, according to the Associated Press.

Under the plan, the Homestead Resort would sell 180 acres of riverfront property and wetlands to the Nature Conservancy.

The Washington, D.C.-based group eventually would sell the land to the federal government for inclusion in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

The Homestead in 1986 proposed building a championship course along the river. The plan has been held up by regulatory reviews and court battles. Opponents have complained the course would damage the environment next to the national lakeshore.

In a prepared statement, resort officials said the proposal was being discussed but that "neither a formal agreement nor a decision on a sale has been reached."



GOLFING ON MAIN STREET IN THE BIG APPLE

Architect Ronald S. Cutlip recently took golf to the streets of Midtown Manhattan. Cutlip teamed with David Murbach, director of the Annual Rockefeller Center Flower and Garden Show, to build a putting green in the middle of America's largest city. Also sponsoring the project were the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association and LRS Golf, a course contractor from New Philadelphia, Ohio. The \$62,000 project was patterned after the Road Hole at Scotland's St. Andrews and the 16th hole at Augusta National. The green was torn down after the show ended, but during its brief life was featured on CNN, WNBC, The Today Show, Home & Garden TV, News 12 Westchester, French and Russian television, The Golf Channel, Sports Illustrated, New York Newsday, The Daily News, Golf Digest Japan, Met Golfer and New York magazines. The New York City-based Cutlip, 38, is currently working on two golf course projects in Ohio, Briar Hill in Millersburg and Crystal Springs in Hopewell.

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Changes planned at Cape Cod layout

By PETER BLAIS

MASHPEE, Mass. — New York businessman Carl Icahn has purchased New Seabury Country Club out of bankruptcy court and plans to begin major renovations to the 36-hole golf resort this fall.

The bankruptcy court transferred ownership of the seaside property to New Seabury Partners LLC, a subsidiary of American Real Estate Partners L.P., led by Icahn and Martin Hirsch, newly appointed president of New Seabury Partners LLC.

New Seabury resort encompasses 2,000 acres of residential homes, resort villas, two championship courses, 16 tennis courts, conference facilities, restaurants, two pools, beach and cabana clubs and two miles of beach front.

New Seabury's two widely respected layouts, the Blue and Green championship courses, were both designed in the early 1960s. The late Francis Ouimet once labeled New Seabury as the "Pebble Beach of the East."

Golf Magazine recognized New Seabury as one of the top 100 accessible courses in America.

The oceanfront Blue course has hosted many state amateur championships, three Massachusetts Opens, and the 1985 Ladies NCAA championship. Next September, the Blue Course will host the Junior Match in which the top 12 juniors from the United States compete against the top 12 European juniors. The event will be

played over the three days leading up to the Ryder Cup at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.

New Seabury Properties LLC has hired architect Rees Jones to oversee many of the renovations which Jones had suggested in a master plan drawn up for the Blue and Green courses during the 1980s. Many of these renovations were delayed because of the club's financial difficulties.

According to Thomas Colombo, superintendent of golf operations, the renovations to the Blue course this fall will include:

- recontouring of the 13th green to improve playability and increase cupping positions;
- regrading of the 13th fairway;
- framing the landing areas on the 13th and 15th fairways — two potentially dramatic holes that run parallel to one another

— to help improve shot retention and visual perception;

- rebuilding of the tee complexes on 4, 14 and 18;
- cart path renovations on both courses.

International Golf Construction of Arlington, Mass., will work with Colombo and his staff beginning in October with completion slated for late November.

Golf plan Ok'd in Connecticut

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. — Inland wetlands agency members recently approved plans for the Pin Oaks golf course. An earlier golf course proposal was rejected in 1996.

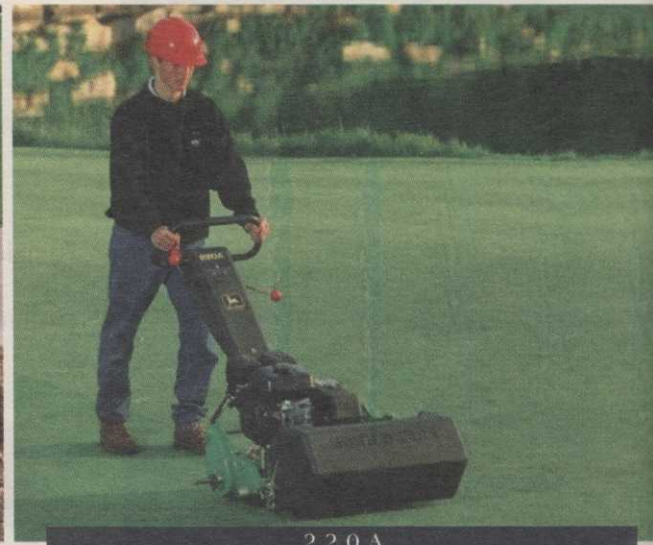
Developer Mark Quattro has put together 180 acres of city-owned land, 30 acres to be purchased from the estate of Josephine Czaja and 36 acres from Robert Fusari. Quattro agreed to grant conservation easements totaling 82.5 acres with stewardship to be provided by the Middlesex Land Trust, the Middletown Conservation Commission and the Mattabesock Audubon Society.

Quattro must still obtain approvals from the city's planning and zoning commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Environmental Protection. He hopes to start construction next spring and open the course by summer 2000.

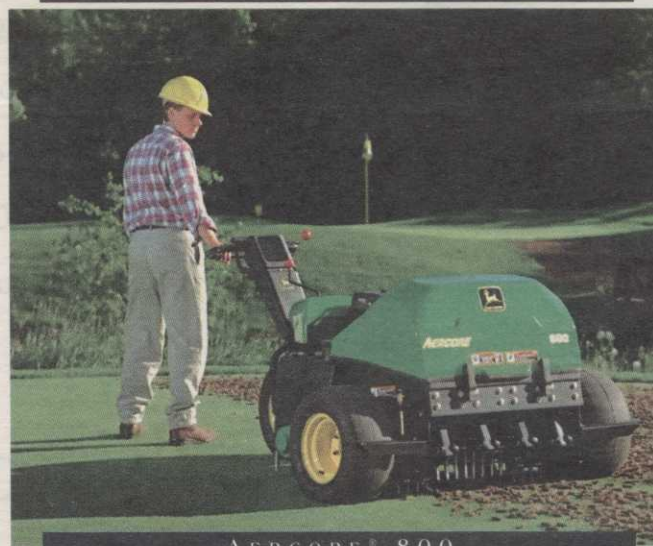
Mike Zikorus is the course architect. Quattro expects to select from a list of a half-dozen potential builders sometime this winter.



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New Jersey community plans major recreation complex

WEST DEPTFORD, N.J. — The township plans to build a golf course, skating rink, community center, marina, bicycle trails and amphitheater on 1,100 acres off Crown Point Road that the community hopes to acquire from Tenneco Inc.

Purchasing the property, which has an estimated value ranging from \$3.5 million to \$8

million, would involve a combination of state Green Acre funds, proceeds from the settlement of a federal Superfund lawsuit in Mantua, a land contribution from a private wetlands preservation group and township funds, according to a report in the *Cherry Hill Courier-Post*.

Construction work could begin in April.

Lightning claims S.C. golfer's life

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — A man died on the 13th hole of a golf course when he and his wife apparently were struck by lightning, according to the Associated Press.

The unidentified man, believed to be in his 60s and from Connecticut, was golfing at Colonial Charters golf course when

lightning struck, according to authorities.

Matt Griffith, an assistant professional at the golf course, said lightning apparently hit a tree before striking the couple's umbrella. Griffith said the course sounded a loud horn to warn players to leave the golf course because of the rough weather.

The couple reportedly left the course for the clubhouse at the first sign of bad weather but returned after the first threat passed. When the weather threatened again, the couple hid in a wooded area instead of trying to make it back to the clubhouse.

Rulewich to turn Jersey landfill into golf facility

MORRIS COUNTY, N.J. — A former sand and gravel quarry off Berkshire Road will become the county's fourth public golf course by the year 2001.

Architect Roger Rulewich has been hired to design the \$7 million Berkshire Valley Golf Course layout over the badly eroding 367-acre site.

The county park commission purchased the property for \$475,000. It will cost another \$1 million to clean the site before construction can begin.

In addition to the 18-hole, 6,500-yard layout, a practice facility and clubhouse are also planned.

Former NFL kicker to build Pa. links

HALFMOON TWP., Pa. — Former National Football League placekicker Chris Bahr is part of a development team planning to build an 18-hole, public golf course here.

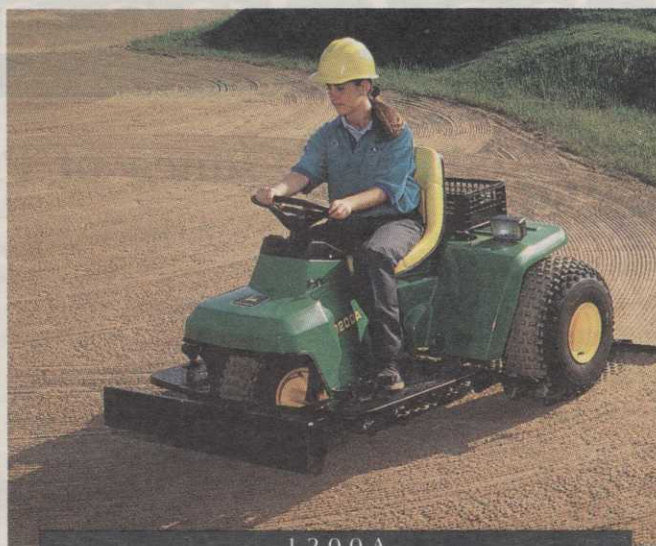
Partners Bahr, Pennsylvania State University professor Fariboz Ghadar and landowner John Simpson envision a \$4 million course on 160 acres of Simpson's land. The partners will present a preliminary plan to the township in October. If all goes as planned, the course could be ready for play by the year 2000.

CASPER DESIGNS CALIF. TRACK

LINCOLN, Calif. — Work has begun on the Lincoln Hills Golf Course here. Billy Casper and Greg Nash designed the 18-hole layout, located just northeast of Sacramento. Plans are to open the 6,927-yard course by fall 1999. The greens will be planted in bentgrass and the fairways with ryegrass.



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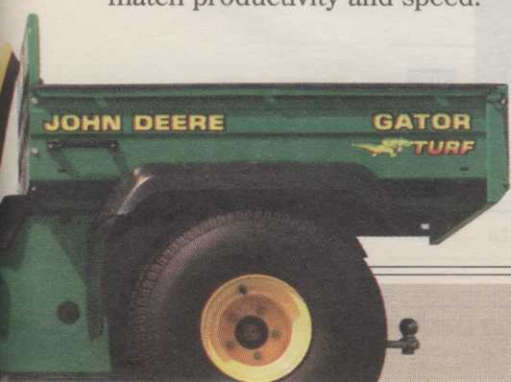
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Construction resumes on Arkansas golf facility

CONWAY, Ark. — More than a month after hundreds of egrets were killed or hurt after their rookery was damaged by construction equipment, a developer has been cleared to continue work, according to the Associated Press.

"We have looked closely at the egret rookery situation and feel that no harm will be done to the birds if work is resumed several hundred feet away from them," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field supervisor Allan Mueller told AP.

The agreement allows drainage work on one side of the development of a golf course and subdivision in western Conway.

Construction was halted in July after a bulldozer knocked down some trees the white birds

used as roosts and for nesting. An estimated 600 birds were killed or injured. Many young egrets were dislodged from their nests and died because they were too young to fend for themselves.

"The developers and city of Conway people have told us of the need to get drainage facili-

ties into place east of the rookery before fall and winter rains set in, and we see no threat to the birds. This drainage work will be more than 500 feet from the rookery at the closest point," Mueller said.

Egrets are not endangered or threatened, but are protected by federal and state regulations.

Norman to design Houston course

KATY, Texas — Ground breaking took place recently at Greg Norman-designed Meadowbrook Farms Golf Course in west Houston.

A wooded stream that flows through the property will serve as the backbone of the

course. Norman will introduce his GN-1 bentgrass turf to Texas on the new layout.

The 18-hole, daily-fee course is being developed by Landmark National and is scheduled to open in the fall of 1999.

TPC planned for New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Construction of a new Tournament Players Club course in Westwego near Bayou Segnette State Park is expected to get underway by late 1999 and should be ready for play sometime in 2001.

The state legislature has approved spending \$6 million to help build the daily-fee course, which has a total price tag of \$16 Million to \$18 million, according to Tim Hawes, vice president for TPC developments. Marreo Land Co. has donated 250 acres for the project.

Much of the property is wetlands, meaning the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must grant a permit for the project. An architect should be selected sometime this fall.

Missouri track to receive facelift

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo. — Chapel Woods Golf Course will get a \$3 million makeover, according to developer Mike Atcheson.

The city rezoned 30 acres that allows commercial development along part of the course. The plan calls for a grocery, bank, three restaurants, shops, convenience stores and improvements for the golf course.

Atcheson has hired golf architect Don Sechrest to design the renovations. The latest plan is to build a new clubhouse, greens, tees and fairways and install 5.5 miles of asphalt cart paths

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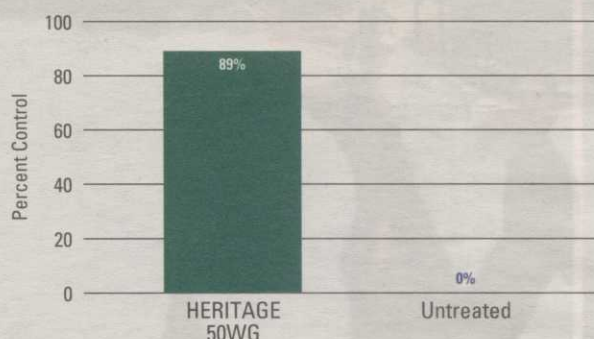
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Fusarium Patch (*Microdochium nivale*) on Bentgrass

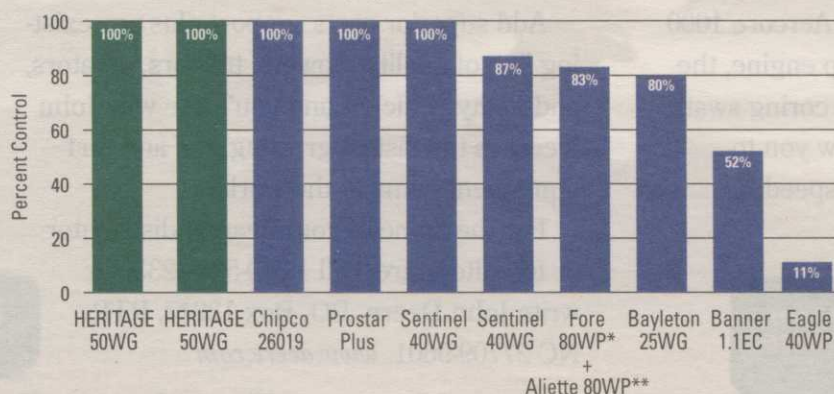


Oz./1,000 sq. ft. 0.4

Application Interval (days) One application, treatment applied 3/7/96, final reading 3/18/96

Dr. Larry Stowell, PACE Turfgrass Research Institute, San Diego, CA, 1996 US 84-96-P104

Red Thread (*Laetisaria fuciformis*) on Perennial Ryegrass



Oz./1,000 sq. ft. 0.4 0.2 4.0 2.5 0.25 0.33 8.0* 4.0** 2.0 2.0 0.6

Application Interval (days) Single applications, all treatments applied 3/21/97, final readings 5/2/97

Dr. Houston Couch, Virginia Tech, 1997

US 12-97-P902

Construction debris landfill to make way for golf facility

SPRINGFIELD, Va. — Owners of a construction debris landfill on Telegraph Road plan to build a nine-hole course and other recreational amenities over a closed portion of the landfill.

The Fairfax County supervisors recently approved Hilltop Sand & Gravel Co.'s proposed

\$8 million recreational complex that will initially include a nine-hole course, miniature golf course, batting cages, clubhouse, picnic area and snack shop.

Lindsay Ervin has designed a nine-hole track.

The developers hope to find a firm that can both cap the land-

fill and construct the course. Construction should begin early in 1999, with the facility ready for play by late summer or early fall 2000.

Another nine holes are expected to be added in about 15 years, once the part of the landfill that remains operational is full and has to close.

GRIFFITHS DESIGNS TENN. COURSE EXPANSION

MURFEESBORO, Tenn. — Golf course architect Denis Griffiths has begun work on a preliminary plan to expand the city-owned Old Fort Golf Course from 18 to 27 holes.

The course expansion is part of an overall plan to develop a conference center and

150-acre business park next to the course. The city would have to acquire an additional 330 acres and then relocate nine of the existing holes for the entire project to work.

The golf course work would represent \$5.75 million of the entire \$50 million project.



Peoria tribe plans to build Oklahoma links

MIAMI, Okla. — The Peoria Tribe is reviewing bids for construction of a golf course the tribe plans to build near here.

The construction contract should be awarded soon, with construction starting in late September. NationsBank is financing the project.

According to Chief Ron Froman, the 18-hole, par-72 public course will be built on a 290-acre tract two miles east of town. Plans include a driving range, clubhouse and a pro shop.

The course should open next fall. Pittman, Poe and Associates is designing the course.

Casper, Nash team in Chicago

HUNTLEY, Ill. — Construction is progressing on Greg Nash/Billy Casper-designed Whisper Creek Golf Course in this Chicago suburb.

The course, owned by Del Webb, will be the centerpiece of Del Webb's Sun City master-planned community.

Whisper Creek, which is expected to open by summer 1999, will be a 7,140-yard layout. Fairways, tees and greens will be planted with bentgrass, roughs with fescues and bluegrass.

Construction management will be handled by Lohmann Golf Designs and final shaping and grow-in by Golf Creations, both of Marengo.

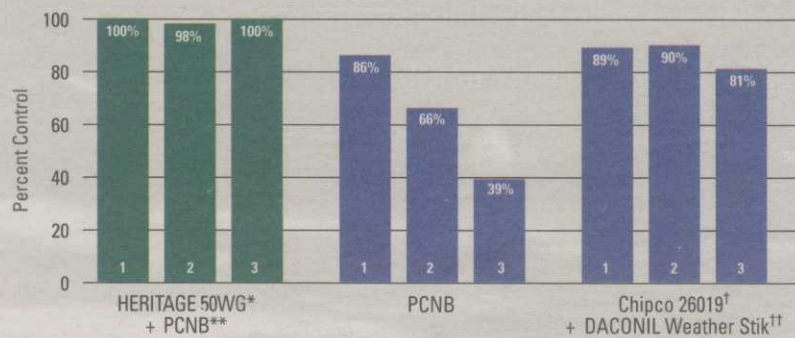
Ala. layout to reopen in Dec.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Developers of the Boswell-Highland Golf Course hope to have 90 acres of new sod laid by the end of September and the renovated course ready for play by December.

The original course was built in 1903 and renamed for local blind golfer Charlie Boswell. The course closed in 1996 and construction began this past April.

Torchmark Development Corp. has contracted with the city to renovate and maintain the course. Bob Cupp is the architect.

Snow Mold (*Microdochium nivale* and *Typhula ishikariensis*)¹ on Annual Bluegrass (*M. nivale* only)² on Turfgrass (*T. incarnata*, *T. ishikariensis*, *T. phacorrhiza* and *M. nivale*)³ on Annual Bluegrass



Oz./1,000 sq. ft.	0.4* 12.0**	16.0 ¹ 12.0 ² 3.1 lb ³	4.0 [†] 5.5 ^{††}
Application Interval (days)	Single applications, all treatments applied 10/21/97, ¹ 11/17/96, ² and 11/7/97, ³ final readings 4/1/98, ¹ 3/26/97 ² and 3/29/98 ³		

¹Bozhan, MT ²Amherst, MA ³Sayner (Plum Lake), WI

¹Dr. Rob Golembiewski, Montana State University, 1998

²Dr. Gail Schumann, University of Massachusetts, 1997

³Jeff Gregos, University of Wisconsin—Madison, 1998

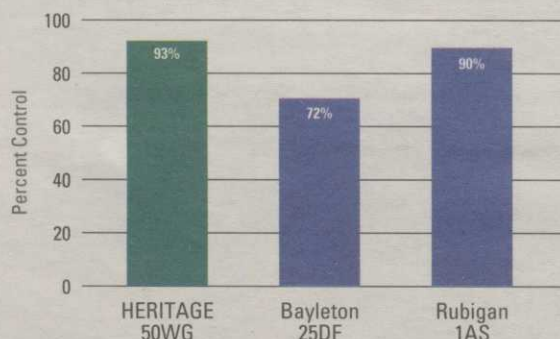
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US 20-98-P900

US 12-97-P550

US 63-98-P901

Take-all Patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *avenae*) on Colonial Bentgrass



Oz./1,000 sq. ft.	0.4	4.0	4.0
Application Interval (days)	Two applications, all treatments applied at 28 day intervals		

Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State University, 1995

USNP-95-P019

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Coastal Commission to decide fate of California golf course project

SEAL BEACH, Calif. — After many delays, the California Coastal Commission was due to vote on the 196-acre Hellman Ranch project in mid-September at a meeting in Eureka, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Dave Bartlett, representing developer Hellman Properties LLC,

said Hellman hopes to build a gated community of 70 homes and a Ted Robinson-designed course along with open space and restored or new wetlands.

Hellman would fill 18 of the 27 wetland acres, restore the remaining nine acres and create another 30 acres of wetlands.

Seal Beach officials strongly endorse the project. But, the Coastal Commission staff has said filling wetlands to create a golf course is not allowed under the Coastal Act.

The staff originally accepted the course but later called for it to be removed from the plan because it did not adhere to the Coastal Act. The latest staff report recommends approving the 70-home project without the golf course.

VEGAS OFFICIALS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN 3 COURSE PROPOSALS

LAS VEGAS — The Clark County Commission is still debating between three competing golf course proposals for a parcel of Bureau of Land Management property at the southern end of the Strip. Local course developer William Walters wants to build a

27-hole course. Club Corporation of America plans a similar project. The United States/Grand Prix-Las Vegas Partnership, headed by Sig Rogich, hopes to hold a golf course and Formula One auto racetrack on the site. No deadline has been set for a decision.

Jones dedicates New Brunswick golf facility

MONCTON, N.B., Canada — Rees Jones of Montclair, N.J., was in Moncton on Sept. 2 to take part in a sod-turning ceremony to officially kick off the construction of a championship golf course called Royal Oaks Golf & Country Club, which should be ready for play next summer.

Ronald J. Goguen, president of Royal Oaks, said that hiring an architect with Jones' reputation and experience and combining those skills with the quality of work performed by the contractor, NMP Construction, will all but ensure that Royal Oaks will be designed and built to world class standards. Jones has played a key design role for such courses as The Country Club at Brookline, Baltusrol, Hazeltine, Congressional and Bethpage Black for either past or future U.S. Open Championships.

Royal Oaks is well under construction and many of Jones' design features with rolling fairways, huge bunkers and easy-to-reach, large greens are evident. This championship course will play at 7,190 yards from the back tees and has more than 10 lakes incorporated into the design.

Chris Pinnell, of course builder NMP Construction, has built many Canadian courses, but said that this has been the highlight of his 28-year career.

Royal Oaks, Jones' first course design in Canada, will cater to all golfers, he said.

The Hon. Roly McIntyre, minister of economic development & tourism for New Brunswick, said Royal Oaks will be an excellent catalyst for attracting golfers, high-profile events and tourists from not only other parts of Canada but the United States.

Mayor Brian Murphy reflected on the various economic spinoffs that this project has and will provide to the region. Royal Oaks is also a housing community, and will offer a unique lifestyle featuring an outdoors theme centered around the golf course as well as the bordering 2,600-acre nature park.



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Former sand-mining facility home to New York layout

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. — Set up in any of the bunkers at the newly built Harbor Links Golf Course and you might just be standing in a spot where some of the most famous Manhattan skyscrapers were born. It's a piece of land that lies between a long line of bluffs and the wedge of water known as Hempstead Har-

bor. The area made its mark in history as a sand-mining facility and now it will function as a golf course.

The LandTek Group, Inc. of Amityville was selected by the town of North Hempstead to build the executive course. It was a challenging business opportunity for the firm, due to the to-

pography and landscape unique to the property.

"This project was particularly challenging considering the old sandpits on which the course is located," said LandTek Vice President Greg Sharp.

With its tall bluffs to the west, Harbor Links required a substantial amount of engineering which

resulted in myriad drainage lines.

Harbor Links is part of a much larger complex to be operated under the town's supervision. LandTek is also constructing athletic fields on 15 acres of land within the same site. The golf course was expected to be completed in September.

Course proposed atop Va. landfill

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Developers have submitted a proposal to the Albemarle County Planning Department to build an 18-hole, daily-fee course near the former Ivy Landfill.

Mark Watson of the Ivy Investment Ltd. Partnership plans an 18-hole, public course on 250 acres to be called Pounding Brook Golf Club. Watson will also design the course and use local builders during construction.

The developers were scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors in mid-September to seek a special-use permit. In addition to the course, a clubhouse and practice facility are also planned.

Officials give nod to Minn. golf developer

OTTERTAIL, Minn. — The city of Ottertail has given the Thumper Pond Group the go-ahead to build an 18-hole, daily-fee course along the shores of Thumper and Katie ponds.

Developer Verle Blaha said the development group is negotiating with an architect to design the new facility. Plans are to start construction this fall and have the course ready for play by May 2000.

Ahlfs Construction Co. of Ottertail will be the course builder. Blaha said the group plans to hire a professional manager to operate the course.

Missouri links on target for spring opening

BELTON, Mo. — Renovation work to Belton Municipal Golf Course is proceeding on schedule.

Plans are to open the golf course next spring.

Among the \$2 million in renovations are the installation of an irrigation system and new cart paths, seeding and sodding, improvements to the clubhouse, remodelling four cart-path bridges, and construction of two new bridges.

Rounds were down to 9,900 during this partial season and are expected to rise to approximately 45,000 in 2002.

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Facts, figures, interviews and Public Golf Forum

I gotta call a couple days ago from a reporter on a Virgin Islands' newspaper who was writing a travel story for islanders who were dying to get out and see the Upper 48.

"If you were to plan your ideal golf vacation in the States, what would you do?"

"Well, I'd round up the usual suspects, rent a Winnebago, tap a keg of ice cold beer and head for Michigan for two solid weeks of public golf mayhem," I said, thinking, for just a moment, that I may have been a tad too frank with her.

There was a slight pause. "Michigan?"

"Yes," I said. "Michigan."

She obviously hadn't seen a the most recent copy of the National Golf Foundation's (NFG) Trends in the Golf Industry report — I took a wild guess that she hadn't seen any them.

"Let's talk East North Central golf," I said in NGF-speak to sound like I knew what I'm talking about. "Of the nine regions in the United States, the East North Central [ENC] had the highest percentage [79 percent] of public golf courses relative to total courses. The ENC also has the highest number of public courses [2,639] and accounts for 23 percent of the nation's supply of public golf. You could go for, I don't know, two months, I guess. That is if you have the time to do Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin too. Now there's a trip," I added enthusiastically.

There was a long, uncomfortable pause. I thought I'd lost her.

"A hu...", she said. I heard her fingers flying across her keyboard. I thought she might like to get the phone numbers for the NGF to get the facts from the appropriate source. She kept typing and I dove in to get a laugh.

"I'd suggest to your readers that they drink the beer only after a round and when the Winnebago has been parked and secured at a registered camp site," I added, but there wasn't anything in the way of even a chuckle. Instead I heard her fingers continue to punch out words.

"Okay Mr. Levans. Thanks very much indeed." Our conversation came to an abrupt close.

The facts and figures continue to astound and amaze. Public golf is king, the ENC (Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio region) continues to lead the way with 3,332 total courses (21 percent of the nation's golf course supply) and player participation figures are finally growing. There has simply never been a better time to be in this business.

If you're in this business, which I know you are, I'd grab a copy of the NGF's latest trend report. The report may make you wonder how long all this can carry on. Although the number of total golfers over the age of 12 increased by a little over 2 million from 1996, the biggest move in six years, one would think that we're going to have to see more impressive numbers than that over the next three to four years if we're going to fill the more than 930 courses that are currently under construction.

Oh, by the way, if you want to take advantage of this information and successfully steer your public-access course in the proper direction, well, you *must* attend Public Golf Forum. Turn to pages 16 and 39 for more info.



Michael Levans,
editor

With objectivity in question, readers must beware of the "subversive"

Bayer Beware! is a term that can be translated into many languages — like the languages of golfers (*Slicer Beware!*), superintendents (*Snow Mold Beware!*) golf course builders (*Underground Boulders Beware!*).

But the warning that can affect us all is *Reader Beware!* With some writers, especially today, we really have to be on our toes.

To give you some insight into the modern media, read this statement: "Instead of objectivity, which forces reporters to be the mouthpieces of the powerful, citizens need journalistic perspective."

I tell you, this is not a joke. Reported in *Washington Journalism Review*, it came from the mouth of one Deni Elliot, an "ethicist" and former television newscaster who is a professor of ethics and director at the University of Montana's Practical Ethics Center.

Get this now: This person is teaching future news reporters and newscasters, whose "news" reports you will be hearing and reading, but hopefully not always believing. Future reporters, at least in Montana, are being told by the likes of Elliot to be "objective" conduits but serve an "active role brimming with professional perspective."

Try dividing truth and fallacy from that call to duty.

This reminds me of other blatant remarks unveiling bias of reporters.

My old-time favorite is from *Boston Globe* environmental reporter Dianne Dumanoski, who said more than once: "There is no such thing as objective reporting... I've become even more crafty about finding voices to say the things I think are true. That's my subversive mission."

If you have a pulse, you know that distortion of fact and disregard for truth are key ingredients in some media.

So, when you tune in or read on, *Beware the Conduit!* — especially you folks in Montana and Massachusetts.

...

Portraits of Courage (or is that Foolishness?):

- Mowing greens in Texas — in August — without sun screen.
- Proceeding with construction on a fairway assuming that that 2-foot "puddle" in the landing area is not a wetland.
- Selecting a turfgrass cultivar for your new golf course based solely on the experience of a superintendent just 5 miles down the road.
- Dumping a cooler of Gatorade on John Daly after he wins a tournament.
- Playing PGA West without one of those long-armed ball-pickers.
- Playing from the tiger tees while your strapping 17-year-old son plays from the forward tees — for \$5 a hole.
- Stepping to the 7th tee at Pebble Beach having already selected a 9-iron.
- Sporting a "Perot '92" bumper sticker on your car in 1998.
- Deciding you can operate your golf course at its highest level of profit *without* attending *Golf Course News'* Public Golf Forum in Palm Springs, Calif., Oct. 26-27.
- Assuming you can plug your own conference without catching flak as a flak.

...

If the Brits are coming to America (*see page 1 story*), can the Scotsmen be far behind? Maybe yes, maybe no. There seems to be a dearth of architects in golf's homeland. Look at the membership list of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects and you will find

nary a one in Scotland. David McLay Kidd, director of golf design for Gleneagles Golf Development (GGD), is located in Scotland, as are designers Ronnie Lumsden and Robin Hiseman.

This, dear friend, is the home of Old Tom Morris, of Donald Ross, of Willie Park Jr., of Willie Watson, of Willie Campbell, and of Tom Bendelow. Perhaps we could put a call into Walter Woods, the old-time greenskeeper at St. Andrews who retired a couple years ago. Do you have your finger on the dial, Terry Buchen?

plant-protectant chemicals needed to grow a paper supply, *Audubon* magazine might not exist. Then again, without farmers using fertilizers, water and plant-protectant chemicals, those editors of the *Audubon* magazine might not eat.

Merrill J. Frank, CGCS
Columbia Country Club
Chevy Chase, Maryland

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Has Audubon gone too far?

Having read with interest and agreement your editorial "How green are these greens?!" in this month's [September] issue of *GCN*, the National Audubon Society has now gone too far.

I cannot recall anyone telling me it is the responsibility of the National Audubon Society to rank golf courses as to the amount of water use

and/or plant protectant chemical applications. I'm sure you will find this mission not even remotely mentioned in their by-laws. Besides, what is their expertise in these matters? Then to add the disclaimer about opinions expressed by authors as not official is another joke. The magazine printed their opinions, didn't it?

Without fertilizer, water and

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Seri Selangor showcases the possibilities of public golf in Asia

By ANDREW OVERBECK

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — There is little doubt that the emergence of the golf course industry in Asia during the 1990s has had a huge economic impact. Golf course development has, for the most part, placed emphasis on private and exclusive membership facilities. While this development strategy produced short-term financial gains for investors, it has also limited the size of the potential golf market in the long term.

It is becoming clear that the lack of public golfing facilities and the restricted accessibility of golf to the general public are hampering the continued growth of golf in Asia.

Indeed, at the Golf Asia conference in Singapore this past March, public golf was an issue that was widely addressed and discussed. While dialogue on this pressing issue is a good start, there needs to be more action and risk taking if the problem is going to be solved.

Andrew Overbeck is currently on a Watson Fellowship studying golf course development in Asia and is regularly contributing to GCN. He is visiting both existing golf courses and those under construction in Thailand, China and Vietnam.

A.S. Khamis is working to create a viable model of public golf development for Asia. His newly-opened Kelab Golf Seri Selangor Public Golf Course outside of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is the first public golf course to open in the country.

The Selangor Economic Development Committee began construction of the 18-hole Ross Watson-designed golf course in 1995. Khamis came on in late 1996, to help the committee to refine its goals and to ensure "that the project became the first truly public golf course in Malaysia."

In order to finance the construction costs, the golf course was built on a turn-key basis. While the land and property still belongs to the local government, a developer has been granted free access and building rights in the residentially zoned area. In return for the land rights, the developer agreed to finance the construction of the golf course, which is part of the new residential area.

As general manager, Khamis has the challenge of making the course self-sustaining in the first 5 years of operation. The committee is covering operational expenses during this period, but after this time, Seri Selangor will be cut loose and the government expects to receive a percentage of the yearly profits.

While this may seem to be a tall order,

Khamis is undaunted. Instead, his focus has been on identifying three primary objectives that the golf course must address in order to cure the ills of the golf industry in Malaysia.

Khamis' independent research shows that there are over 5,000 golfers in the Kuala Lumpur metropolitan area that are regular golfers but yet do not belong to a golf club. This represents a stable and

ready market for the golf course to become the "home for homeless golfers."

Indeed, his research has proved accurate, in the first three weeks of operation they have already hosted over 2,000 golfers who have undoubtedly been attracted by the low green fees (less than \$12 a round).

However, Khamis' philosophy goes beyond the profit margin — he wants them to not only come out and play, but to also participate in educational seminars

Continued on page 54



Looking down the 4th fairway at Kelab Golf Seri Selangor Public Golf Course outside of Kuala Lumpur.

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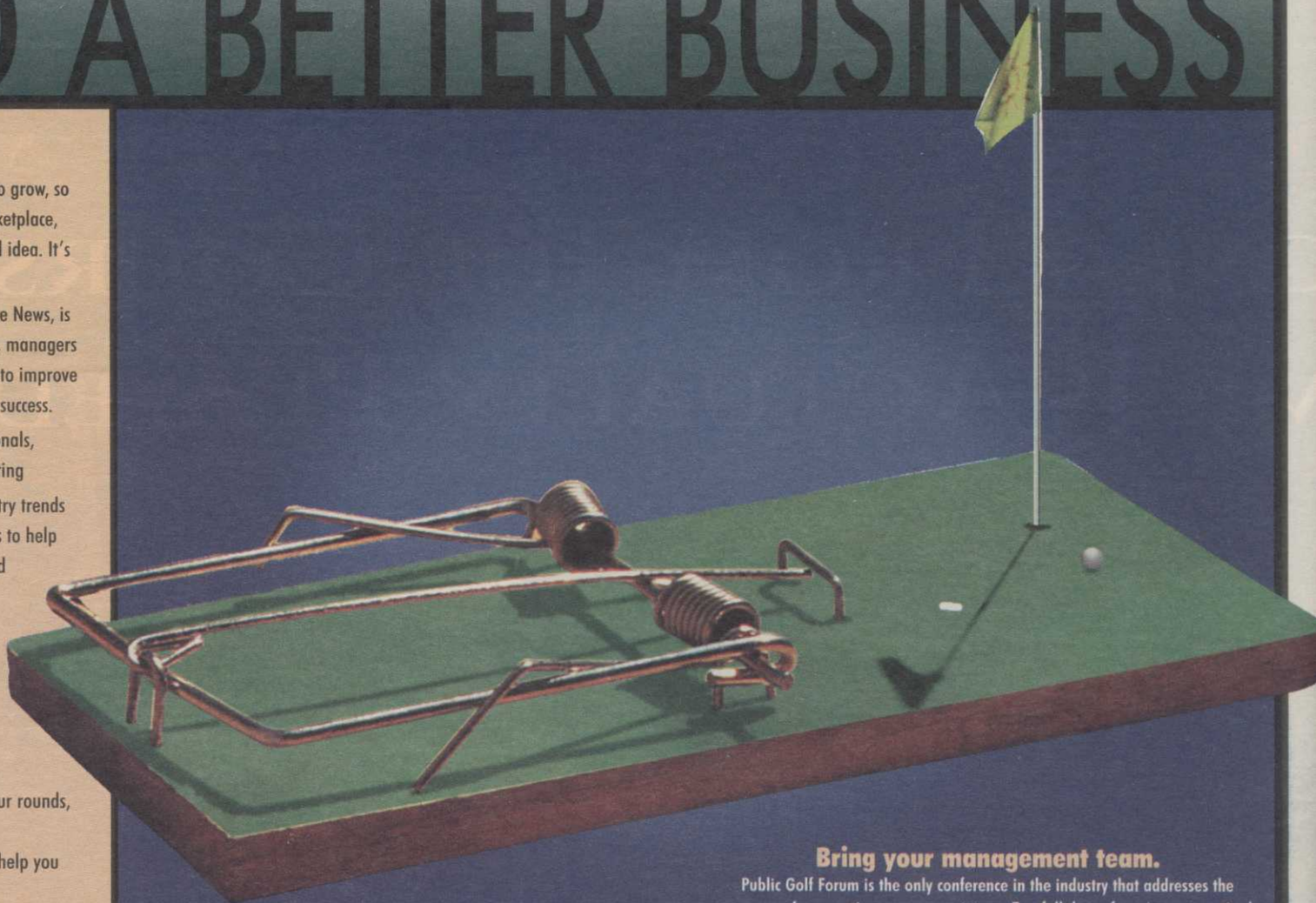
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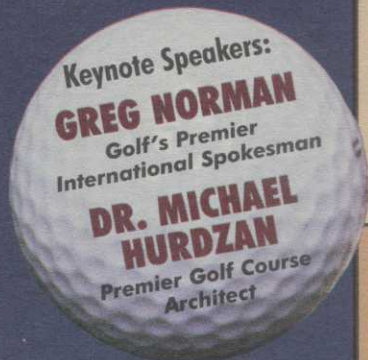
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	10:00 - 10:50 AM	Business Factors Changing The Face of Public Golf Management	Renovation: Putting New Life Into The Old Track	Poa Annuua Control: The Solution Is Here!
	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	LUNCH & EXHIBITS		
	2:00 - 2:50 PM	Developing New Markets: Resurrecting a 9-Holer in a Resort Marketplace	Pitch-and Putt as a First Step Into Regulation Course Development	Country Club-type Fertility On A Public Course Budget
	3:00 - 3:50 PM	Owner Focus: What Do Top Management Companies Look For in a Public Access Course	New Developments: The Advantages of The Totally Organic Course	Widow's Walk: The First Results/The Proof's In the Pudding
	4:00 - 4:50 PM	PGA of America's Career Links Program: Golf Pros As Golf Course Managers	Access For All: The Barrier-Free Design Concept	Pros and Cons of "Going For the Top"
OCTOBER 27	5:00 - 7:00 PM	RECEPTION AND EXHIBITS		
	9:00 - 9:50 AM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION Tomorrow's Player Starts at Today's Public Venues—Greg Norman		
	10:00 - 11:30 AM	GENERAL SESSION The First Tee Roundtable		
	11:30 AM - 2:00 PM	LUNCH & EXHIBITS		
	2:00 - 2:50 PM	Leasing vs. Buying: What's Best For You?	Permitting Made Easy: A Step-By-Step Guide	Team vs. Zone Approach to Maintenance Crews
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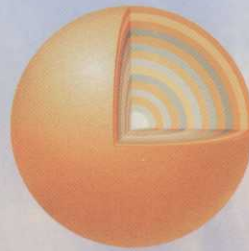
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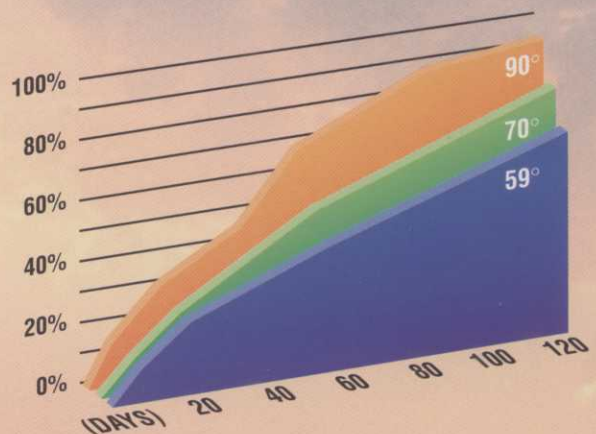
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BRIEFS



FAIRY RING DATABASE SOUGHT

DALLAS — Dr. Phil Colbaugh of Texas A&M University is collecting and cataloging the fungi associated with fairy ring. This will be used to develop an identification database for future research. Colbaugh is asking superintendents across the United States to send samples of fairy ring fungi to him at Texas A&M University at Dallas, Research & Education Center, 17360 Coit Rd., Dallas 75252; telephone 972-231-5362.

NEVADA SUPERS RAISE FUNDS

LAS VEGAS — The Southern Nevada Golf Course Superintendents Association (SNGCSA) will host its annual golf tournament for its scholarship and research fund at Painted Desert Golf Club here on Nov. 11. People may contact Dave Reich at 702-737-0272 for tournament details.

DAR HONORS RYBICKI

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Ted Rybicki of Panama Country Club has been cited by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for his distinguished conservation record. The DAR cited his conservation work over the years and his effort in having Panama CC designated, in May 1997, as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International. John Spivak is superintendent at the club. Rybicki has been involved in the preservation of the Florida environment since 1961. Since 1992 he has served on the board of the Bay County Audubon Society and has been chairman of the Panama Country Club Environmental Committee.

N.Y. TURF CONCLAVE PLANNED

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), in cooperation with Cornell University, will hold its annual Turf and Grounds Exposition, Nov. 10-13, at the OnCenter here.



The conference will feature more than 80 business and technical sessions. Speakers will include Bob Alonzi of Winged Foot Golf Club; Joe Hahn of Country Club of Rochester; Dr. Norman Hummel of N.W. Hummel & Co.; Jim Moore of United States Golf Association Green Section; and horticulturists from Hershey Park. For more information call NYSTA at 800-873-8873, 518-783-1229 or write NYSTA, P.O. Box 612, Latham, N.Y. 12110.

Study gives fungicides 'green light'

By DOUGLAS PAGE

Fungicide use on golf courses, long suspected of contaminating into surface- and ground-water runoff, has been given a green light by a Purdue University environmental study.

Four years of research at Purdue's Turfgrass Research Center found that fungicides do not seep into surface-water runoff or leach into ground water as previously feared.

"In terms of golf course superintendents, what we've shown is that they can use the chemicals without fear of

huge negative impact on the environment," said Ronald Turco, professor of agronomy and director of Purdue's Environmental Sciences and Engineering Institute. Fungicides, he said, do not present a problem to the environment if they are applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

"The reality of any fungicide application to dense turf is that most of the fungicides do not reach the ground," said Turco. "About 90 percent of the fungicide remains on the grass leaf blade, where it is absorbed by the plant within 48 hours."

While fungicides make up less than 10 percent of all the pesticides used in the United States, they are used on many types of plants, including vegetables and fruits. By far their most popular use is on golf course greens and tee boxes. Extensive use in such small areas led to the concerns.

Fungicides are known to cause birth defects and sterility in laboratory animals. Their long-term consequences on plants and animals are unknown. According to recent estimates, homeowners and lawn-care companies apply as much as 70 million

Continued on page 20

Merrill 9 joins Ross in Maine



Brian Merrill

By PETER BLAIS

LOVELL, Maine — Just in case architect Geoffrey Cornish and *Golf Digest* architectural editor Ron Whitten are interested, here's a new listing for their much-heralded book "The Golf Course."

**Lake Kezar Country Club
Lovell, Maine
Donald Ross**

**Lake Kezar Country Club (A. 9)
Lovell, Maine
Brian Merrill**

Donald Ross, who designed the original nine at Lake Kezar near the New Hampshire/Maine border back in 1923, is a name most in the golf business likely recognize. But Brian Merrill, who designed the adjacent nine-hole addition that opened this summer, is probably a tad less familiar.

Merrill has served as superintendent of the Western Maine golf club for the past dozen years and it is his new holes that have received considerable acclaim from golfers, the press and his fellow superintendents this summer.

With legendary architects like Ross and Alister Mackenzie placed on such lofty pedestals that golf societies have been



The 16th hole of the Brian Merrill-designed second nine at Lake Kezar Country Club.

formed to protect their works, did Merrill feel any added pressure in designing a new nine next to a Ross original?

"A few of the older members that really hold Ross in esteem would joke about it," Merrill acknowledged. "But there really wasn't much said."

Besides, as with many courses that survived the Depression and the labor shortage created during World War II, the original nine at Lake Kezar has lost several of its Ross-designed features. An abandoned tee next to the No. 2 ladies tee is still visible, but it is impossible to tell which hole it served. Another abandoned tee adjacent to the 3rd green once served either the 4th or 5th hole, "but no one knows for sure,"

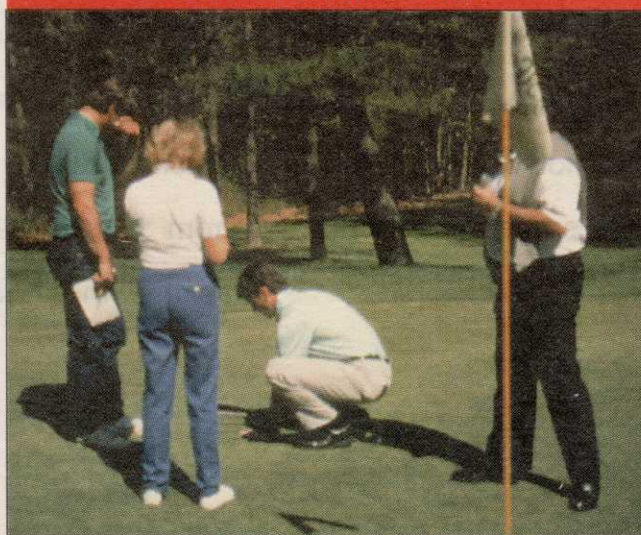
Merrill said. The green on the par-4 6th has obviously been moved back and to the right of its original location. And the putting surface on the current 18th hole, formerly the 9th, was also relocated to make the one-time par-4 into its current par-5.

"The original nine holes are certainly a Ross design, but they have changed over the years," Merrill said.

While Merrill may be a neophyte in the world of golf course design, this isn't the first time he's entered a domain with which he was unfamiliar. He had no formal agronomic training when he made his initial foray into golf course maintenance in 1982.

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GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



U.S. Golf Association turf visits check agronomic issues.

There are 'standards,' and then there are standards

By RON DODSON

Setting standards for protecting the environment is a challenging process, and no less so for golf courses. Generally, no matter what environmental standards we discuss, some people demand the highest standards; others claim that if standards are set too high, they will not be economically feasible; and then of course, others believe environmental standards are not necessary at all.

Personally, I'm uncomfortable with the word "standard" and particularly "minimum standard." Why shouldn't we try to do the absolute best we can rather than establish the least we can do? But, even more important, how do we measure our environmental "best," and how do we balance economic concerns with environmental concerns?

Continued on page 24



TINY KING DATABASE SOUGHT
DALLAS — The Fall Colough of Texas A&M University is collecting and cataloging the tiny associated with tiny king. This will be used in developing an identification database for tiny king research. Colough is asking researchers across the United States to send samples of tiny king to him at Texas A&M University, 2135 TAMU, Box 2135, TAMU, TX 77703-2135. Tel: 713/257-3262. Fax: 713/257-3262.

NEVADA SUPERS RARE FUNDS
LAS VEGAS — The Southern Nevada Golf Course Superintendents Association (SNCSA) will host its annual golf tournament for the scholarship fund at Pineda Golf Club in Pahrump, Nev. 11. People may contact Dave Reich at 702/737-2727 for tournament details.

DAN HONORS BYRON
PANAMA CITY, Fla. — The Florida Panama County Club has been elected to the National Society of the Distinguished Conservationists (NSDC) for his distinguished conservation work. The NSDC cited his conservation work over the years and his efforts in having Panama CC designated in 1997 as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International. John speak is a special interest in the club. Details have been involved in the preservation of the club's environment since 1981. Since 1992 he has served on the board of the Florida County Audubon Society and has been chairman of the Panama County Job Environmental Committee.

Study gives fungicides 'green light'

MAINTENANCE

BY DOUGLAS PAGE

Fungicide use on golf courses long suspected of contaminating soil surface and ground water runoff, has been given a green light by a Purdue University environmental study.

Four years of research at Purdue's Turfgrass Research Center found that fungicides do not seep into surface water runoff or leach into ground water, as previously feared.

"In terms of golf course superintendent, what we've shown is that they can use the chemicals without fear of

having negative impact on the environment," said Ronald Turco, professor of agronomy and director of Purdue's Environmental Sciences and Engineering Institute. Fungicides, he said, do not present a problem to the environment if they are applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

"The reality of any fungicide application is that most of the fungicides do not reach the ground," said Turco. "About 90 percent of the fungicide remains on the grass leaf blade, where it is absorbed by the plant within 48 hours."

While fungicides make up less than 10 percent of all the pesticides used in the United States, they are used on many types of plants, including vegetables and fruits. If, for their most popular use in golf courses, fungicides are used in such a way that they do not leach into the environment, fungicides are known to cause birth defects and sterility in laboratory animals.

But long-term consequences on plants and animals are unknown, according to recent estimates. Pesticide manufacturers and their care companies apply as much as 10 million

Continued on page 30



WATER RESISTANT

Douglas Ross, who designed the original boot, said the boots were designed to protect the feet from water and mud. The boots were designed to be worn in the rain and mud. The boots were designed to be worn in the rain and mud. The boots were designed to be worn in the rain and mud.

Merrill said the boots were designed to be worn in the rain and mud. The boots were designed to be worn in the rain and mud. The boots were designed to be worn in the rain and mud.



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Continued on page 34

112 Golf Association has with club members.

Fungicides

Continued from page 17

pounds of pesticide active ingredients to the nation's grass lawns each year. U.S. agriculture uses another 815 million pounds.

Inspired by these concerns, the U.S. Golf Association funded the Purdue study on turf.

"This began about seven years ago," said Turco, who has several years experience studying chemicals and chemical fates. "At that time, there was a lot of concern around golf courses about their potential impact on the environment. People assumed because you use chemicals on the golf course you'd be impacting surface and ground water."

In a series of experiments, Turco and agronomy Prof. Clark Throessell examined where the fungicides went before they were broken down. They discovered the fungicides don't wash off into local water tables.

"Once the course is built and the grass is established, the problems of runoff tend to go away," said Turco. "It's that early time period when you're getting the grass to grow, where you have bare spots and thin stands, that you see problems of pesticide movement off the golf course."

Once the course is established, he said, the whole body of literature around golf courses supports the notion that not many of the chemicals leave the site.

They found the turf protects the ground much the same as the fungicide protects the turf.

"The plant actually converts the fungicides to other things," said Turco. "It has a very active metabolism for these chemicals. The plant breaks them down like a microbe might do in the soil. Or the plant moves them around internally, sequestering them, blowing them off as carbon dioxide, binding them up in cell walls."

The 10 percent of the fungicide that doesn't get absorbed by the grass leaf blade is caught up in the thatch layer. "The thatch layer is a great binding agent," said Turco. "We've never seen any of the fungicides leaching out of the thatch layer. The fungicides get hung up before they reach the soil."

The chemical makeup of the fungicides themselves apparently causes this to happen. "They are large, sticky molecules," he said. "In the laboratory we had to take great caution not to lose them on liners and on our equipment."

Presenting a paper at the Boston meeting of the American Chemical Society in August, Turco said it is the unnatural state of the grass on the putting green that creates the need for frequent fungicide application. "Homeowners don't need fungicides," he said. "They're expensive and the need is not there in taller grass. It's only when you start to cut grass to the short height that putting greens require that you

have to apply fungicides."

For superintendents who must manage these unnatural greens for exacting customers, fungicides are a great asset. "They are one of the few chemicals that you can spray on turf and see a difference within a couple of days," said Turco. "On the other hand, fungi can cause a green to turn brown in eight or nine hours. That can cause great disappointment to golfers and, in

turn, tremendous stress on the golf course superintendent."

There doesn't even seem to be a limit to how much fungicide a plant can take up. Nothing the researchers saw led them to believe that a typical golf course would ever get anywhere near any threshold for absorption.

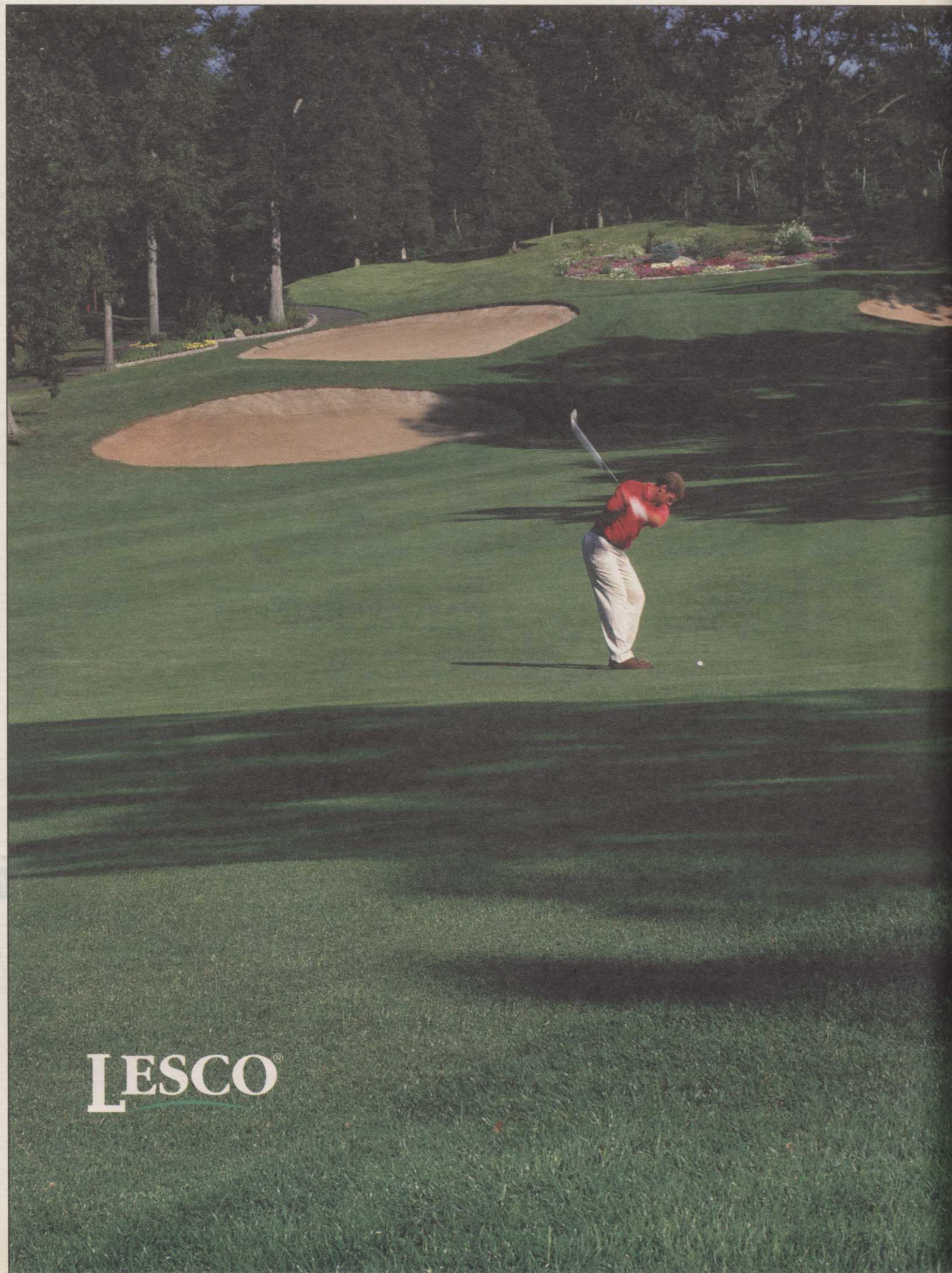
"They've always been able to absorb everything we put on," Turco said. "There probably is a threshold, but we don't approach

it with the rates we work with in the lab studies. My feeling is, you'll probably never see it exceeded in the field when you're actually applying chemistry."

Nevertheless, Turco believes that managing golf courses to use fewer chemicals of all sorts is better than relying heavily on chemicals to control pests and conditions. This awareness, he believes, should start with the design of the course and a pru-

dent placement of trees so the greens can breathe adequately, preventing stagnant air conditions that promote fungi to develop on the turf in the first place. The trees look nice, but they inhibit air circulation.

"If you're building a course you probably want to build it to minimize the potential for air inversion and air stagnation over the greens so you don't need to use a lot of chemicals," he said.



LESCO®

Merrill focused

Continued from page 17

"I just stumbled into it really," he recalled. "I was out looking for a job and I ended up getting one working for Paul Perry at Bridgton [Maine] Highlands Country Club.

"I worked for Paul for four years. In that fourth season, some Lake Kezar members who had played Bridgton and thought it was in great shape called Paul and asked

if he knew anyone who could bail them out of the situation they were in [a course that was in rough shape and needed attention]. Paul told them about me and I ended up going there."

Merrill took over Lake Kezar in 1986 and got the Ross nine back in shape in short order. "It was just a matter of having a lot of drive and a little knowledge," he said.

Lake Kezar, which celebrated its 75th anniversary earlier this

year, had purchased enough land years ago to build an additional nine. The club's 30 stockholders had long discussed the possibility before seriously researching the feasibility of the project in the late 1980s.

After completing the wetland mapping, several architects submitted routings for the new holes. Some suggested changing the existing Ross layout, something the stockholders vehemently op-

posed, Merrill remembered. "They wanted to keep the layout they had, or at least change it as little as possible," he said.

A new president assumed control of the club and invited Merrill to become more involved with the process. Merrill drew up a couple layouts on his own. The board of directors met, discussed the various proposals and selected one of Merrill's.

In addition to overseeing the

existing nine-hole track, Merrill became the point man in dealing with the state Department of Environmental Protection and other local, state and federal agencies that needed to sign off on the project.

"Revisions were made right up until we broke ground," Merrill said. "The changes were not so much in the layout, but in things like sediment traps and things like that."

Construction of the new holes began in late 1995. Four holes were completed in 1996 and the other five in 1997. The new holes eventually covered 60 turfed acres.

Garland Lumber did the clearing and stumping. Green Links Construction of Manchester, N.H. was the course contractor. Bennett & Sons provided the greens and tee mix. Merrill served as the project manager.

After studying Maine and New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association-funded turf plots in Amherst, N.H., Merrill developed his own seed blends for the addition.

"For the tees and fairways," he said, "we used two Colonial and two creeping bentgrasses. The Colonials were Highland and Bardot. The creeping bents were Southshore and Putter. Colonials require less maintenance and don't require as much fertilizer. The creepers provided the best quality playing surface, and since I didn't know which would do best with our climate and cultural practices, I used both. We used a creeping bentgrass, four-way mix on the greens — Providence, Cato, Southshore and Putter."

Lack of labor was the biggest headache Merrill faced during the design and construction process. "I had four people working for me who were mainly devoted to taking care of the existing nine. We had to take care of everything — both the old and the new course. Having to maintain a [existing] nine-hole course and take care of numerous things with a staff of four as construction of the new nine was going on was very difficult. A 14-, 15-hour day was pretty standard. And that went on for two years."

The biggest battle Merrill is waging on the new nine involves dollar spot, which can thrive on creeping bentgrass. "I don't use any fungicides to control diseases on the fairways," he said. "It's all cultural practices. I don't have as much of a problem on the old nine because there is a smaller percentage of creeping bentgrass. The old fairways are kind of a Heinz 57. It's quite a variety out there."

But the toughest challenges should be softened by the knowledge his name will be found next to Donald Ross as co-designers of Lake Kezar.

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Leishman gets Stewart Creek post at Three Sisters

CANMORE, Alberta, Canada — Western Golf Properties, Inc. has selected **Ronald Leishman** as the golf course superintendent at Stewart Creek Golf Course, a track that will open next May at Three Sisters Resorts here.

Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Western Golf Properties manages this 18-hole, Gary Browing-designed course.

Leishman is a graduate from the University of Guelph. He hails from Edmonton Country Club, where he was

superintendent for three years. He spent the previous 20 years at 45-hole Royal Montreal Golf Club in Blizard, Quebec. He has hosted several major Canadian Golf Championships.

In 1980, he received the Citation of Performance Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

SPANISH SPRINGS, Nev. — **Timothy**



Schobert has been named superintendent at Red Hawk Golf Club's Springs and Hills courses, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Hale Irwin, respectively.

Schobert has been Class A superintendent for Snowcreek Resort and Golf Course in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., for the past seven years.

A daily-fee course, Red Hawk has been working with Audubon International to-

ward becoming the first Nevada course to achieve Signature Sanctuary status.

"Red Hawk is both a challenge and an opportunity," Schobert said. "The challenge is to maintain its high-quality turf and greens in the harsh desert environment and the opportunity is working in a world-class master-planned golf community featuring some of the world's best golf courses."

After earning a bachelor's degree in business administration from UCLA, Schobert was hired in 1980 as assistant superintendent at Sunset Whitney Country Club in Rocklin, Calif. In 1984 he moved to Nevada County Country Club in Grass Valley, Calif. From 1989 to the present he was a turf consultant for B.N.T. Management.

NAPLES, Fla. — Cypress Woods Golf and Country Club, which will open in October, has hired **Augustin Lucio** as its golf course superintendent.

Lucio has been involved in golf course construction and maintenance as an assistant and head superintendent since 1983. He has worked at Grey Oaks and Naples National Golf Club.

A Rosedale, Miss., native, he is pursuing an associate degree in business at Edison Community College.

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Western Golf Properties has selected **Michael Twito** as the superintendent for Estrella Mountain Ranch Golf Club, which is expected to open here in January. The club features an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus II-designed course, clubhouse and practice range.

Twito comes to Estrella from Westin Mission Hills Resort in Rancho Mirage, Calif., where he served as superintendent from 1995.

Twito has been in the maintenance business since 1986, after graduating with distinction from Iowa State University with a degree in horticulture, specializing in turfgrass management.

Elsewhere:

- **Scott Slemp** is the new superintendent at Pinetree Country Club (CC) in Kennesaw, Ga. His replacement at Centennial Golf Club in Acworth is former assistant Bob Glutting.

- Bacon Park Golf Course in Savannah, Ga., has hired **Rob Whitney** as superintendent. Whitney left Fort Stewart Golf Course.

- **Hampton Kicklighter** has been hired as superintendent at Oyster Reef in Hilton Head Island, S.C. He left Cross Creek Golf Club in Smyrna, Ga.

- Hidden Hollow Golf Club, an executive course in Flowery Branch, Ga., has hired **Doug Witt** as superintendent.

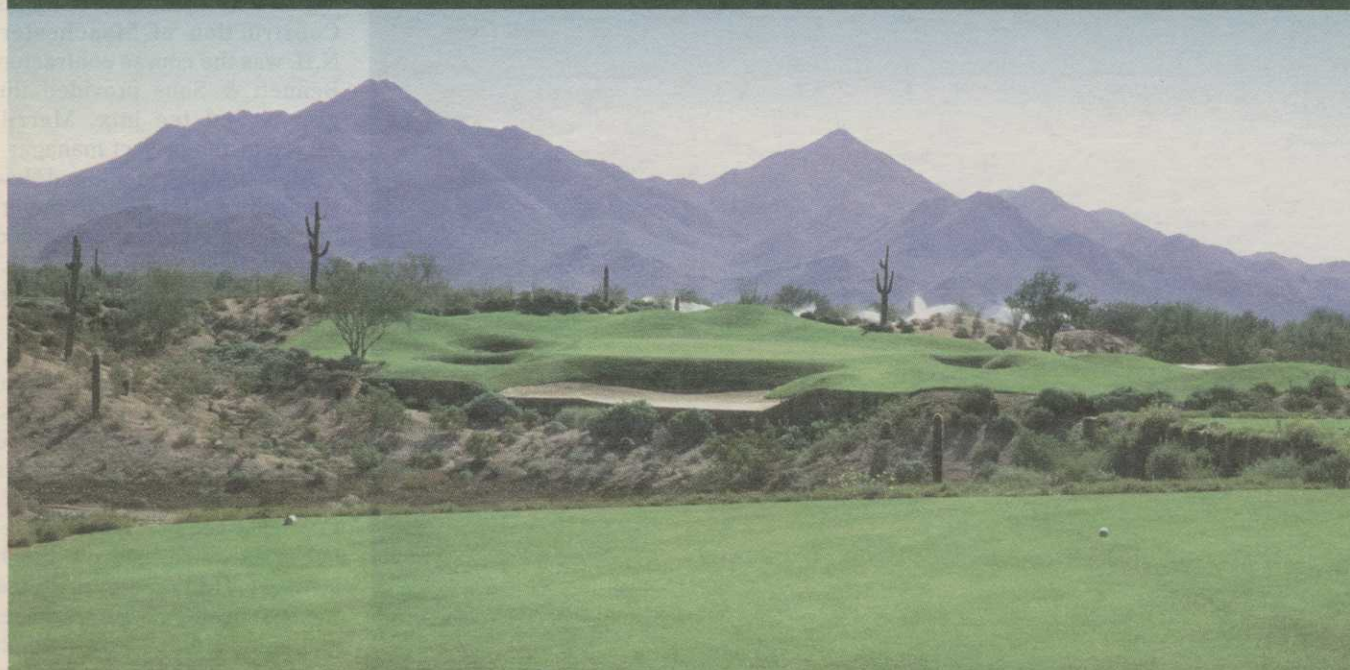
- Former assistant **Tim Rutledge** has succeeded **Bob Perry** as superintendent at Griffin (Ga.) Country Club. Perry moved to Hickory Ridge Golf Club.

- Barnsley Gardens and Inn in Georgia, which is scheduled to open next spring, has hired **Kyle Marshall** as superintendent. **Stacy Jones** has replaced Marshall as superintendent at White Columns in Alpharetta, Ga.

- **Ashley Brownell** has left an assistantship at Big Canoe to become superintendent at Spring Lakes Golf Club, formerly Wesley Hills Golf Club, in Georgia.

- Southland Golf Club in Stone Mountain, Ga., has hired **Charles Sheran** as superintendent.

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Where Great Grass Begins

The '2 Rule' rules in the maintenance business

By TERRY BUCHEN

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — "Standards of the industry" is a term we hear more and more often as people reach for goals of perfection. Golf course maintenance has its own set of standards, including several easily remembered through the "2 Rule."

Here are a few:

- The two-day rule for mowing greens is one of the better standards to rely on — as when greens are not mowed on a typical Monday, it will take two days for them to be the same firmness and speed as they were on Sunday. I have researched these findings over many years of testing with the Stimpmeter and with a prototype United States Golf Association (USGA) firmness testing device designed by Dean Knuth, formerly with the USGA. Even if the greens are double-cut on Tuesday, they still will not be the same as they were until Wednesday. The same holds true for firmness.

- After a significant rainfall and thunderstorm, extra turf growth is not experienced until two days later. The nutrients from the rain and nitrogen from the thunderstorm take two days to "kick in." A slight amount of growth is normally experienced the next day, but the second day is when more growth is noticed, especially on greens.

- When adding new sand to a bunker, the normal standards are 2 to 3 compacted inches on the slopes and 4 compacted inches on the bottom. When adding sand to the bottom of bunkers, the 2-inch rule takes effect as 6 inches of sand are needed, which will settle 2 inches down to the desired 4-inch depth over a 90- to 120-day period. On the slopes, add 1 extra inch to achieve the desired 2- to 3-inch compacted depth.

- The "2" rule also is significant when double-cutting greens since they will play much smoother and faster with a second mowing. This is witnessed on the better conditioned courses in the country as well as during amateur and professional tournaments and championships.

- When mowing greens with a triplex greensmower, the "2" rule comes into effect. Using two Whiele-type rollers on the front and rear will provide a better and lower height of cut by providing a better bed-knife angle. Two Whiele-type rollers can also be used with the same

results on fiveplex fairway mowers and utility triplex mowers. Be careful of the extra wear that can take place during stressful times of the year.

There are none-2 rules as well, such as:

- When setting the mowing height on a triplex greensmower to cut the same

height as a walk-behind greensmower, the triplex will have to be set one "notch" below the walk-behind model because of its floating head versus a fixed head. That is, 9/64 inch on the triplex mower equals 5/32 inch on a walk-behind.

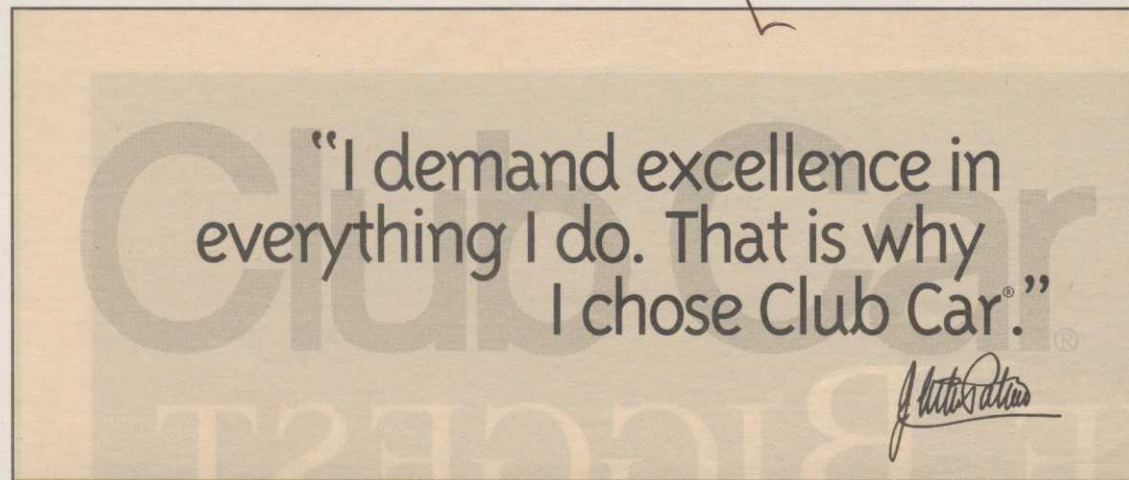
- Methyl bromide can still

be manufactured until Dec. 31, 2000.

It is hoped that it can be sold on a de-escalating scale from 2001 until the year 2005, but this has not yet been determined and approved by the EPA and United Nations.

- The USGA Green Section agronomists are now using

digital cameras to further enhance their reports, which helps course officials further understand the complexities of agronomic conditions on their golf courses.

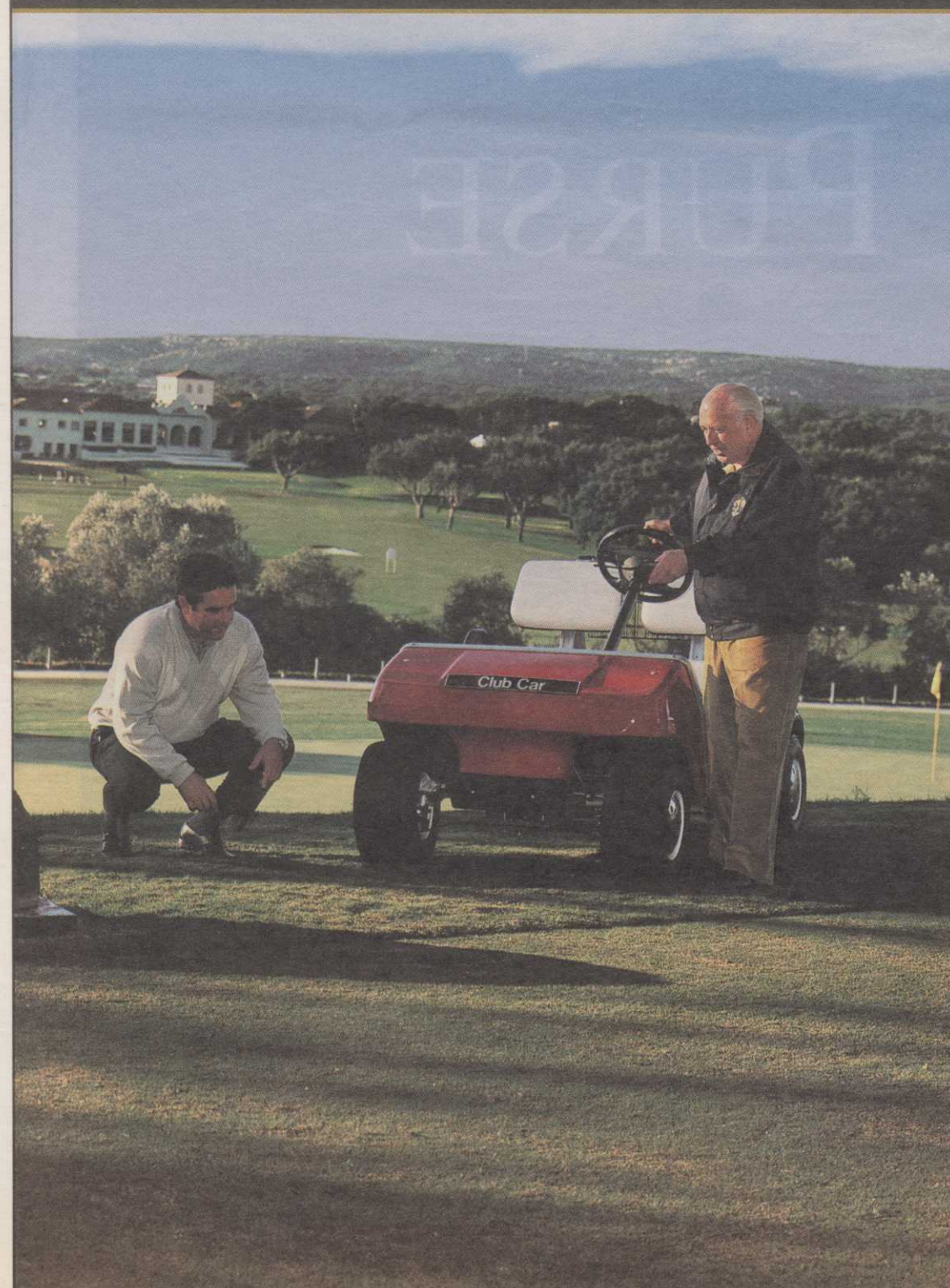


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Standards

Continued from page 17

Perhaps the problem with "standards" is the implication that they are absolute; they never change; and they have universal application. It would be wonderful to have standards like the "Golden Rule" for golf courses — something applicable to all people, for all time and all situations. But that would mean the standards would

have to be exceedingly broad and not terribly useful as "guidelines."

The Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program is premised on a mutual partnership between the environment and the economy. It is designed for anyone who is developing property and wants to adopt a sustainable development process. And as with any program, it needs to provide some guidelines, even "standards," that are

applicable in a variety of situations to diverse properties.

Through the Signature Program, we've tried to establish some Environmental Guidelines that are meant to be "dynamic" standards — standards that require thought and dialog, and periodic review.

We've found that no matter how broad or narrow our guidelines, some governmental agencies would like us to require cer-

tain "standards." Some environmental groups would like us to set our "standards" higher. Some golf course architects think our "standards" are fine, and others think we expect too much.

The bottom line for our organization is our mission "to enhance the quality of life and the environment through research, education and conservation assistance." Through this and Audubon International's guide-

lines, our "standards" are meant to help us and those we work to achieve that mission.

So to further this discussion about standards, I'd like to focus attention on four topics that seem to concern people not only involved in the Audubon Signature Program but in the golf industry, and those involved in the "golf and the environment" debate.

Please consider this an open invitation for you to express your opinion concerning the following topics. We would like to hear from those who defend our "standards" as well as those who question their value.

USGA greens: At present, it is a requirement that members of the Signature Program build USGA-spec greens. This requirement is based on our belief that the USGA has conducted more research and has provided more data on USGA greens than any other type of green. Given the research, we also believe USGA greens provide optimum conditions to grow turfgrass for putting greens, and therefore, will provide the least impact on the environment. On the other hand, we require USGA greens even though nobody, including the USGA, will certify that a green is actually a USGA green.

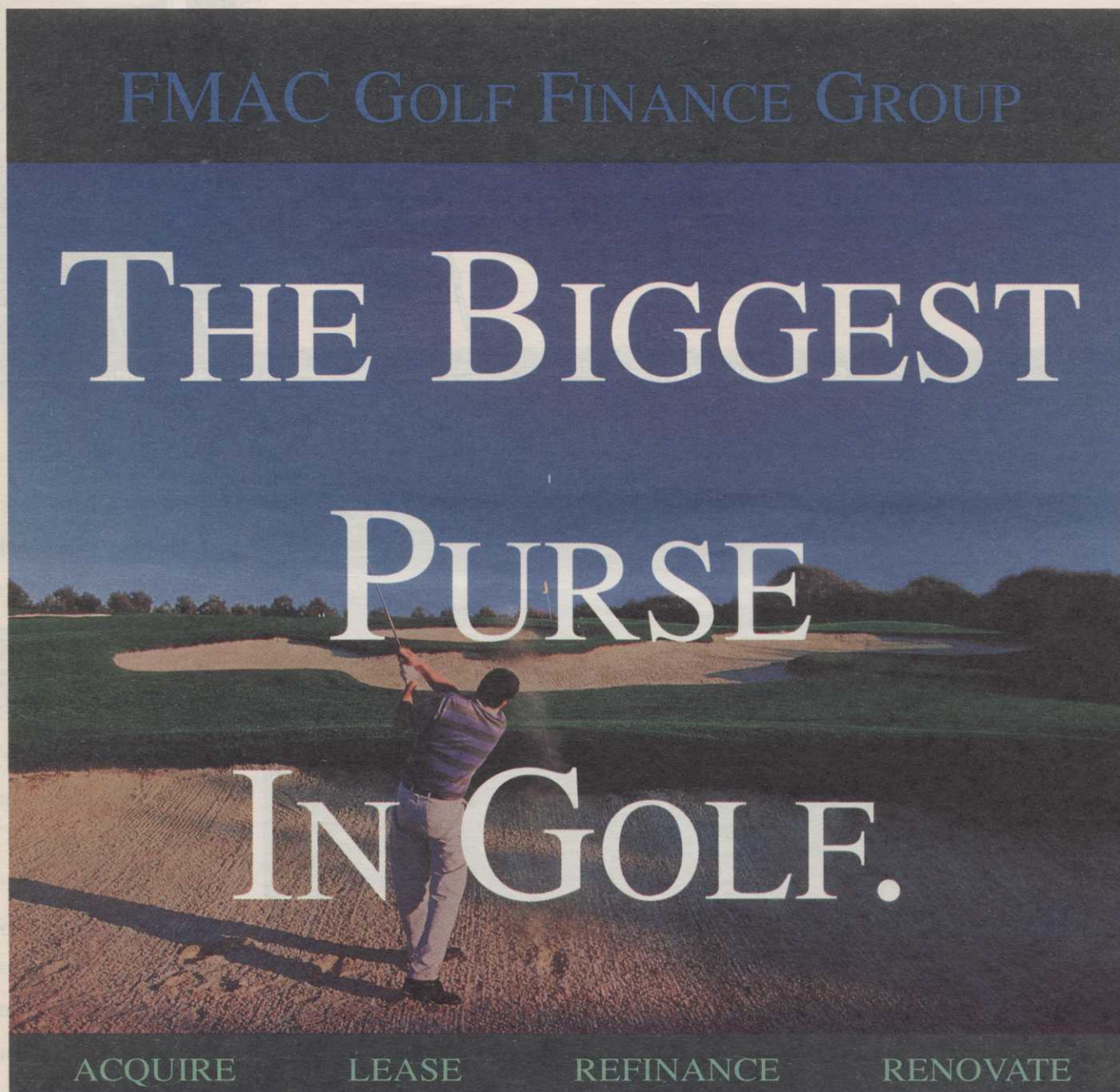
Drainage: In response to concerns about water quality, present Signature Program guidelines say that drain lines should not be put directly into water bodies. If drain lines are put into water bodies, then a buffer of at least 25 feet must be established around the receiving end of the drain where no fertilizer or other chemical products are used. We feel creating as much opportunity as possible for a trapping approach for filtering water is preferable to dumping drainage directly into water. In addition, for the good of golf's image, as well as for the environment, it is unfortunate to have drain lines, or "point sources" of pollution, running directly into water bodies.

Pesticide storage: At present, the Signature Program requires that chemical storage areas be located in buildings separate from the main maintenance building, and that there should be a minimum number of feet between the buildings. Others say that if fireproof walls are used, along with appropriate drain/recycling systems, exhaust fans, etc., storage does not have to be in separate buildings.

Irrigated turfgrass acreage: One major requirement for obtaining the Audubon Signature designation is that you must have no more than 90 acres of irrigated turfgrass per 18 holes of golf course. The purpose is to minimize the area to be irrigated, thus conserving water, and to minimize the areas that must be managed with various tech-

Continued on next page

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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Building stores course's soil, fertilizer, et al

By TERRY BUCHEN

ROBINSONVILLE, Miss. — Superintendents dream of helping design the floor plan and inner workings of a new maintenance building. At Cottonwoods Golf Club here, superintendent James D. Harris had a hand in state-of-the-art soil-storage and fertilizer buildings that were built for his complex.

Designed by Hale Irwin and Stan Gentry and built by Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., Cottonwoods Golf Club opened for play in May. The soil-storage portion of the building has five bays. Each measures 14 feet wide and 20 feet deep, with a metal roof that slopes back from 16-feet-10 inches high to 13-feet-10 inches. The 10-inch-thick reinforced concrete walls, separating the bins, are 6 feet high, with wood construction and metal sides up to the metal roofline.

An enclosed soil-storage bin is used for greens top dressing, which has a manually operated, retractable metal garage door to keep the materials dry during inclement weather. Overall dimensions are 75 feet wide and 20 feet deep. Eight-inch-thick concrete-reinforced floors, along with a 20-foot-deep concrete slab apron, all slope away from the building.

Since rainfall predominantly comes from the south/southeast, the bins face north. This keeps landscape mulch, fairway topdressing sand and bunker sand dry.

The building's fertilizer storage area



The five-bay combination soil-/fertilizer-storage building at Cottonwoods Golf Club.



ON THE GREEN

measures 41 feet wide and 20 feet deep. Two 12- by 12-foot metal garage doors are separated by a 3-foot-wide walk-through door. An additional 3-foot wide walk-through door enters from the north side of the building.

Forklifts can stack fertilizer and soil amendments two pallets high on the reinforced 8-inch-thick concrete floors, while the walls are 8-inch-thick concrete cinder block materials. A 24-inch diameter exhaust fan runs 24 hours a day, keeping the building well ventilated. Additional air movement is provided from a vent that can be opened and closed in the cupola.

"We are very pleased with the way the combination soil-storage and fertilizer building turned out," said building architect Doug Balsley of

It is really great that we can keep our materials separated and mostly dry, with the way the roofline and positioning of the soil-storage building bay.'

— James D. Harris

Robert Lamb Hart. "It is very functional while utilizing the existing space provided in an efficient manner."

"Our maintenance staff is quite pleased

and very proud of our combination building," said Harris, a certified golf course superintendent. "It is a state-of-the-art design which is helping set the standards in our area.

"It is really great that we can keep our materials separated and mostly dry, with the way the roofline and positioning of the soil-storage building bay," said Harris.

"The fertilizer storage stores plenty of materials so we can keep enough fertilizer and soil amendments in stock, which is kept dry and available on a moment's notice."

Ozment finds 'tacky' solution for stakes

By TERRY BUCHEN

ITHACA, N.Y. — Looking for a way to make paint last longer on hazard stakes, Country Club of Ithaca golf course superintendent D. Cord Ozment found one: sticky paint.

Using an assortment of PVC pipe left over from an irrigation system installation, Ozment and his crew used 1-inch pipes for red lateral water hazard and yellow water hazard stakes, and 2-inch pipes for white out-of-bounds stakes.

"We first built a paint stand using a 12- by 24- by 2-inch board where holes were drilled on 8- to 10-inch centers, and where a 10-inch spike was mounted upwards through the holes," he explained. "PVC pipes were then cut into 32- to 36-inch lengths. Next we applied a generous coat of PVC primer to the entire surface of each stake and placed each stake onto the paint stand.

"We waited approximately 15 minutes to allow the PVC to get 'tacky,' then followed up with two coats of Rust-Oleum spray can paint," Ozment added.

"The real secret is in the PVC primer," Ozment said. "It allows the paint to stick to PVC, which makes for a very solid paint bond to the plastic pipe. We usually get two seasons before they become weather-beaten, or the victim of a frustrated golfer."

Standards

Continued from previous page

niques. Some members feel this requirement is extreme, that it slows down play, and that it is an arbitrary number. Others say we should reduce the number even more. (We do have some members in our programs with as little as 60 acres of irrigated turfgrass.) Still others say that private and public courses should be treated differently. Finally, some have said that if you construct a course on an area that is mostly slope and you don't want to move a considerable amount of earth, then you need more turfgrass on the course.

So, this is your invitation to comment. Please send me your thoughts. In particular, if you know of existing research regarding any of these topics, I would like to know about it. I'll report on the various comments in future issues. Send comments to: Ron Dodson, Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, N.Y. 12158.

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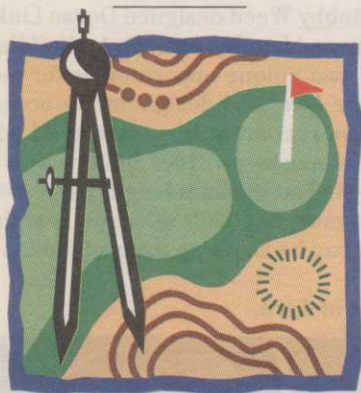
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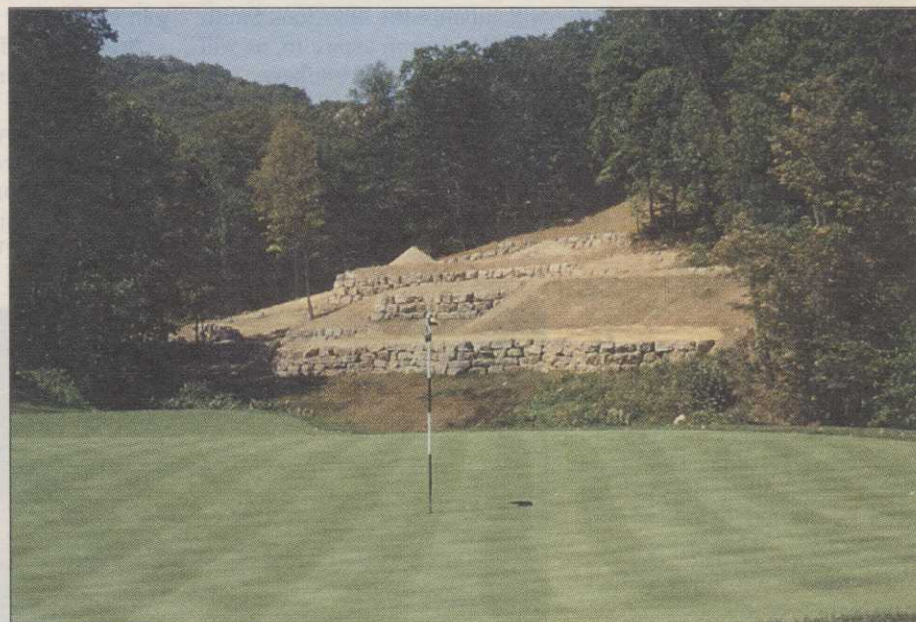
By MARK LESLIE

ELLWOOD CITY, Pa. — The dynamiters at the quarry can't blast the limestone fast enough to keep up with construction of Olde Stonewall Golf Club here. Ten- to 14-foot-high stone walls stretch as long as 420 feet on parts of the course and serve to bulwark many tees and greens, while visitors might confuse the maintenance building or clubhouse with an English castle and this Pittsburgh suburb with British countryside.

"The golf course is starting to look like a quarry," said Joe Niebur of golf course builder Niebur Golf, Inc. "People will be shocked when they play it."

"Purely for scenic reasons, you will go away talking about it, in awe of what the guy has done," said course architect Dana Fry about developer Rick Hvizdak, who fell in love with the limestone produced by a nearby quarry and decided to make it a keystone of the design.

"There is no cutting corners [with Hvizdak]," Fry said. "In a way, he's the ultimate client because he makes his decisions totally on what's best for golf, period. A lot of guys talk the talk, but he lets his wallet do the talking and he does it first-class."



Limestone boulders formed walls and served as the foundation for tees and greens at aptly named Olde Stonewall Golf Club outside Pittsburgh. This shot of the par-3 15th hole looks back from the green at four sets of tees in the background.

Initially to be called Heron's Landing, Olde Stonewall Golf Club became the course's name when it became apparent boulders would play such a dominant part in the project. Ranging in size from 2 tons to 12-ton giants that dwarf even

bulldozers on site, the rocks total 35,000 to 40,000 tons at \$32 per ton. Do the arithmetic, and that is about \$1.28 million for stone on the \$11-million project.

It is so much that folks at neighboring

Continued on page 28



BLACK KNIGHT AT GRAND TRAVERSE'S NORTHERN KNIGHT

Gary Player patrols his first signature course in the state of Michigan, Northern Knight, currently under construction at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. The 7,161-yard layout was completely seeded by mid-July and is scheduled to open in the spring of 1999. Fairways and greens are seeded with Providence bentgrass, tees with Penncross bentgrass and roughs with bluegrass and fescue. Country Golf is the course builder. KSL Recreation owns and operates Grand Traverse.

OWL'S NEST OPENS FOR PLAY

CAMPTON/THORNTON, N.H. — The owners of Owl's Nest Golf Club here have opened its par-72, 7,012-yard layout. Owl's Nest Golf Club was designed by Cornish, Silva and Mungeam, Inc., and has been sculpted around the natural topography of the Pemigewasset River Valley and White Mountain National Forest. Owl's Nest offers five sets of tees on every hole to accommodate golfers at any skill level.

FAZIO'S BIGHORN FACES DEC. OPENING

PALM DESERT, Calif. — Bighorn Golf Club's new Tom Fazio-designed Canyons Course is nearly complete and will be ready to open for member play in December. The Canyons Course, a 7,054-yard, par-72 layout, is set among rock-studded canyons, copper foothills, streams, waterfalls and rich desert flora. It includes a variety of environmental and elevation changes, and panoramic views from every hole.

\$500M PROJECT BOASTS COURSE

AURORA, Colo. — U.S. Home Corp. has broken ground on a \$500-million adult housing development here, Heritage at Eagle Brand, that will feature an 18-hole golf course.

Vegas course copies great holes from British Open

LAS VEGAS — Eighteen holes inspired by famous holes played in the British Open comprise the new Royal Links here.

A daily-fee course developed by Southwest Golf and designed by Dye Designs International, the project will include a traditional Scottish-style clubhouse and numerous museum-quality displays honoring the history of the game.

"Golf is very, very special to me," said Bill Walters, chairman and CEO of Southwest Golf. "I look at this as an opportunity to give something back to the game by providing players who might never visit Great Britain an opportunity to experience golf the way it was originally in-

tended."

The Royal Links is not associated nor affiliated with or sponsored by The British Open or any of the courses that inspired The Royal Links, nor has permission been sought or attained to use their names or hole designs.

In designing the 6,970-yard, par-72 Royal Links, Perry Dye sent his design team to the United Kingdom to experience the golf courses for themselves.

"What we learned from visiting the actual golf holes that inspired The Royal Links is much more than simply what the holes looked like and how things were laid out," said Dye. "Those things

you can get from a drawing or a photograph. Rather, we gained first-hand knowledge of the real nuances that give these great holes their endearing character.

"For instance, we now know exactly what it feels like to stand in one of these menacing sod-faced bunkers and peer out towards the green. We know from experience how deceptive reverse bunkers can be to a player. And, all of these 'feelings' will enable us to ensure that what we are building here in Las Vegas is truly authentic."

The scorecard reads like an all-star

Continued on page 29



The par-4 3rd hole at Arcadia Bluffs looks out over Lake Michigan. The photo is taken from the tee box. The green is being watered at the center of the background.

Rick Smith's Arcadia Bluffs set for 1999

ARCADIA, Mich. — Perched dramatically above Lake Michigan, and offering water views on every hole, Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club is entering its final construction phase in anticipation of a summer 1999 opening.

"It reminds me of Ballybunion in Ireland," said course designer Rick Smith of the property located just north of Manistee.

"When I'm here, I stay on-site until sundown, because the landscape is so intriguing and so enjoyable to work," said Warren Henderson, the senior design associate on the project. "There's not a day that goes by when I don't see something new and amazing."

Continued on page 28

Arcadia Bluffs

Continued from page 27

"With no water hazards on the course, the fescues, bunkers and chipping areas around the greens will make Arcadia Bluffs look as much like a seaside links as possible," said Smith. "And, best of all, it won't require a passport or an overseas flight to get there."

The Arcadia Bluffs site is com-

prised largely of sand, lending itself to a windswept dunes appearance. Native grasses and fescue will enhance the links look Smith and Henderson aspire to, as will dozens of sod-wall bunkers.

"The sod-wall bunkers create a fantastic visual effect," said Smith. "As the sun goes down late in the day, they create shadows which give every hole a unique look, one that seems to change by the hour."

The par-72 layout stretches over a 245-acre parcel situated 150 feet above the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Arcadia Bluffs will be a daily-fee course offering private club amenities. The club will feature a clubhouse overlooking Lake Michigan as well as a practice facility and practice putting greens. The project was commissioned by RVP Development Corp. of Grand Rapids.

DYE, WEED OPEN OCEAN LINKS AT AMELIA ISLAND PLT.

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. — Featuring five holes along the Atlantic Ocean, the Pete Dye and Bobby Weed-designed Ocean Links at Amelia Island Plantation opened for play on Sept. 1. "Building this golf course represented two unique opportunities for me: working with my mentor, Pete Dye, and designing the ocean-front holes," Weed said. "It was certainly an experience I will remember for some time. The course provides golfers with a memorable experience as well. The medium-length par-3 15th plays directly towards the Atlantic, and club selection is at the mercy of the ocean breeze. It can be anything from a 5-iron to a bazooka," Weed said.

The first nine holes opened in April.

Olde Stonewall

Continued from page 27

Connoquenessing Country Club nicknamed Hvizdak "The Stone Baron," a moniker that will be given to the bar in the 30,000-square-foot, castle-like clubhouse, which will boast 47-foot-high turrets on the corners.

Superintendent Richie D'Ambrosio, who came here after serving three years as an assistant at both Allegheny Country Club and Diamond Run Golf Club in Sewickley, sits in a 8,000-square-foot maintenance building also shaped like a castle.

Yet, D'Ambrosio points to other facets of the course that set it apart. Among them:

- a 30-foot-high bridge that spans a 250-foot natural ravine and has a natural rock waterfall ledge beneath it; and
- a par-3 14th hole on which two waterfalls front the green.

But in the end, Fry said, the upscale public-access course "will gain its notoriety from the amount of rock walls. It physically is unbelievable, especially when you see the size of these rocks."

To wit:

- More than 2,000 linear feet of sloped rock served as rip rap along the Connoquenessing River.
- The 420-yard length of the par-4 6th hole was "rock-walled."
- All the tee boxes, curbing, lakes, rivers and streams were rock-walled.
- Rock walls serve to hold up many areas along the back nine that were built with severe elevation changes and deep cuts.

For Niebur, the project encompassed challenges far beyond the norm. "We're using a 690 with an oversized grapple," he said. "We busted the thing twice, but it's as big as we could find."

"The other problem was getting the rocks to the back of the property where the terrain is severe."

But it was worth it, Niebur said, adding: "The owner has a good taste for quality. He and Dana have come up with some great stuff."

Fry summed it up:

"Rick loves golf," he said, "and is one of those guys that if one rock's good, two is better, and three must be the best."



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British Open holes spice Vegas creation

Continued from page 27

roster of British golf. The 8th hole will play similar to Royal Troon's famed "Postage Stamp." Number 10 will be reminiscent of St. Andrews' hazardous "Road Hole." And the 12th hole will remind players of the pivotal No. 6 at Royal Birkdale, where Mark O'Meara nearly lost his golf ball

and the title on the final day of the 1998 British Open.

"Many players never get the opportunity to play the grand old courses of Great Britain. And for them, The Royal Links is meant to provide a connection to the history and tradition that make golf the game it is," said Walters. "But even without all that, this course

will stand on its own as an exceptional and challenging place to play. Even though in many aspects it will feel as though you're walking through a museum, players should come expecting a real test. We chose the holes we did because they represent some of the best golf has to offer."

"Because the plants that grow

in Scotland will not grow in the desert of Las Vegas, we sought to simulate the texture of Scottish landscaping by using relatives of those species found in Scotland from other parts of the world," said Dye. "I think people will be amazed how closely the desert plants we have selected resemble those in the Scottish countryside. We've even heavily sanded the fairways to give them the same feeling as those in the

Scottish links land."

Players at The Royal Links will have the option of walking the golf course assisted by caddies, and the course will feature monuments indicating the spots where great moments in golf history took place on the holes that inspired The Royal Links. A scoreboard on the course will feature the scores of players from various rounds of the British Opens throughout history. A display honoring American winners of the British Open will be erected near the practice green to add to the museum-like quality of the golf club.

Building the \$20 million The Links of Las Vegas, Impact Golf Construction, Inc. faced major irrigation and drainage challenges. The scheme is elaborate, drawing reclaimed and treated water from the sanitary treatment facility adjacent to the property on the east side of the city.

Joe Gomez, project manager for Impact Golf, oversaw initial grading that began last December and the entire drainage, irrigation and course shaping that was accomplished by mid-May in order to meet the grass and landscaping schedules.

"What took Mother Nature hundreds, if not thousands of years to develop naturally in the British Isles, we're trying to shape in a couple of months with graders and scrapers," said Gomez. "The mounds and moguls, links-type fairways, and bunkers are all to the exact measurements of their real counterparts along with the oversized greens that are signatures of the Scottish golf courses."

The fairways are going to be planted with Bermudagrass and the rough will be a combination of fescue, tall meadow grass and zoysiagrass that will help deliver the patchy look of the Scottish links courses.

The drainage system is quite intricate. Although Las Vegas expects to have only an average of 4 inches rainfall a year, there will be a series of 600 small catch basins and more than 60,000 feet of drainage pipe under the golf course, rough, tees and greens.

"From time to time on golf courses built on desert ground with high salinity," said Gomez, "you have to totally flush the grass salts from the soil under the grasses. In these circumstances we will water everything to the maximum, collect the water in the catch basins and drain the water away."

Gomez has employed a Vermeer V-5750, 59-horsepower rubber tire trencher with a trencher/plow combo to install the system. Cutting trenches at a minimum of 4 feet for the solid HDPE pipe, the trencher's vibratory plow was used to install the coiled 1-inch flexible polyethylene drip lines for the trees and bushes.

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Little Thunder Hill adds 'kids' dimension to facility

By JOHN H. TIDYMAN

MADISON, Ohio — Last fall, Fred Slagle and his two boys, Darian, 6, and Damon, 5, were walking around the property adjacent to his Thunder Hill Golf Course. "What do you think we should do with this land?" he asked. "Dad," Darian piped up, "we gotta build a kids' golf course." Slagle laughed and continued the hike.

In 1967, he had built the most fearsome course in the area, Thunder Hill speckled

with nearly 100 ponds and lakes, almost that many traps and a topography difficult for tanks.

On the way home, Darian tugged on his father's pant leg. "We could call it Little Thunder," he said. Slagle looked at the earnest eyes of his boy and laughed again.

At the supper table that night, it became clear Darian wasn't finished selling the idea of a golf course for kids. His mother, Eliette, suggested the boys could sneak out on Thunder Hill. Darian heaved an exagger-

ated sigh and turned to his father.

"Dad," he explained slowly, "we can't hit balls over the lakes and those people don't want us there anyhow. Not only that, but where can our friends play?"

Slagle promised to look into the matter. Over the next week, he called the PGA, the United States Golf Association and other golf organizations to ask where can kids age 6 to 12 might play golf. The answer was always the same: nowhere.

Then along came The First Tee, a pro-



Reaching Out

One of a series of stories on projects and initiatives undertaken to bring new golfers into the game.

gram designed to bring kids to golf. "We immediately contacted them," Slagle said. "They were going to cities and hoping to have a few acres donated on which they would build a driving range and a three-hole course. It occurred to us, kids still wouldn't have a place to play."

Part of The First Tee calls for encouraging public courses to accommodate youths. "It's a well-known economic factor," Slagle said, "that it's very difficult to maintain any pace of play (with kids on the course.) We wish them the best, but it may be unrealistic to expect courses to accommodate kids."

The Slagle property measured 65 acres, roughly half what was needed for a regulation-length course. He crunched numbers in his office and came up with a greens fee structure. Too bad it would prevent any kid from playing. "To build, maintain and operate the course would mean green fees of \$25 to \$35. There's no way a kid can afford that. So we looked into the possibility of a non-profit golf foundation."

Two angels alighted immediately: Slagle's attorney, Tim Cannon, and his accountant, Bert Hudson. Both volunteered their professional services.

The normal way would have been to start the foundation and raise money for a couple years and then begin clearing the land, Slagle said. But he doesn't work that way. Taken with the idea of Little Thunder - A Kid's Golf Foundation, he was walking the property, tagging tulip, dogwood and dogwood trees. By the time he finished, nearly 900 trees had been tagged.

Dick Psolla, of REP Consulting, in Canfield, brought his son, Eric, to the property and the two took soil samples and had them analyzed at Brookside Laboratories, in New Knoxville. The abandoned farm land was perfect for a golf course.

The team was slowly forming, with neither a bugle nor a conscription. When providers of services or goods were asked to volunteer, all but one said yes.

Tim Stocker, of Crabbs Survey in Painesville, who has worked in the past for Slagle, offered his help with engineering; same with professional shaper Robert Zanko, from nearby Geauga County. Mahnen Machinery, Inc., in Painesville, loaned an excavator and bulldozer.

Over the winter, Slagle took topographical maps of the land to his winter residence in Costa Rica. It was there he designed the 18 holes.

When the family returned last spring, Slagle staked out the center lines. The routing plan was remarkably compatible with the 900 tagged trees; only seven had to be removed.

Five dozen sand traps and three lakes were incorporated into the design. Two of the lakes are aesthetic, one is for irrigation. None of the lakes is a forced carry.

It was time for a few more angels to appear and they did.

"As we worked, we realized the cost would be substantial, that we didn't have the resources to do it all. At that point," Slagle said, "we thought, 'we haven't

Continued on next page



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Little Thunder

Continued from previous page raised any money.' And that's the hardest thing to ask for. And none of us had any experience asking, either. So we wondered if people would help with raw materials and services."

Slagle's pitch was a simple one: He was building an 18-hole golf course for kids, a course where kids would be welcome, where they would learn the lessons golf offers all its students: honesty, fairness, consideration, respect.

The army of angels grew: R.W. Sidley Co. provided all the sand for the greens mix as well as tons of gravel for the base of greens. It also offered sand for traps.

Arms Trucking in Geauga County offered to haul the 4,000 tons of sand. "They did it according to our construction schedule, not theirs," Slagle said.

Blending the mix for the greens calls for a blender. Construction company executive Don Haueter had the blender trucked to the site and sent three of his employees there to do the blending.

Slagle called Barry's Trucking to see if it could help with the cleaning and shredding of the topsoil taken from the construction of the lakes. "He screened all our topsoil and then offered to do some trucking for us."

Psolla, the consultant who did the soil survey, put Slagle in touch with Chicago peat moss broker Jeff Kozell. Sungrow Horticulture, a Canadian peat moss company, was asked and truckloads of the stuff arrived.

"Dick also told us about a lime dealer in Detroit. We needed about 80 tons to sweeten the soil and make the growing faster and easier," Slagle said.

Alan Meyer, the Detroit, dispatched the lime and Janson's Soil Service, from Rock Creek, brought in a spreader and applied the lime.

The course needed drain tile and Advance Drainage, in Columbus, offered to provide all that was needed.

The shaper, Zanko, climbed aboard his bulldozer in July and made the place look like a golf course. While he went back and forth, a team of volunteer union pile drivers led by Albert Redden arrived and built a retaining wall.

"We'll be planting grass this month," Slagle said.

Even IMG, the sports promotion and agent company, got in the act. Slagle produced a six-page summary for use as a fundraiser. IMG created a color topographical rendering of Little Thunder to be included.

It is part of Little Thunder's application to the USGA for a \$100,000 grant for classrooms and equipment. "We'll know in November," Slagle said.

Next on the schedule is the

building of a log cabin golf school. The Amish community will donate that. Logging Enterprises is owned by Wally Byler of Middlefield and he will assemble a crew that will apply its barn-raising talents to a big pile of donated logs.

Words and Images helped create the logo which features a hand coming down from the clouds and children jumping from the palm to the golf course.

"One of the big challenges was creating a unique logo for Little Thunder," she said. "We looked at lots of other junior golf programs, but they all had a small boy with a bag on his shoulder. We wanted something a little more exciting, something with more impact."

Fine Line Printing, in Cleveland, created the stationery and Clean Stream, Inc. is providing environmental services. Lake Erie Golf

Cars, in Solon, and North Coast Golf Equipment, in Warrensville Heights, join Meadowbrook Golf Group in loaning equipment and carts. Meadowbrook manages Thunder Hill.

Little Thunder will be 100 percent for youths when out of school, Slagle said. "But we'll also have the opportunity to use the facility and allow the public to use it during the off-kids time."

The general public can pay

normal fees and it will help subsidize the kids."

It is Slagle's dream that kids' green fees be minimal or non-existent. He also dreams of money. Corporate sponsorships to complete the course and operate it are next on the list.

Slagle is looking for an executive director who will form the board of trustees and serve as rainmaker.

The dream is well under way.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Kemper Sports Management has hired two-time U.S. Open Champion Ernie Els and architect J. Michael Poellot to design a course here.

"There are some great old courses in the D.C. area, like Congressional Country Club, which has a special place in my heart," said Els. "We want to offer that traditional, yet champi-

onship feel to the public golfer in this area."

The future Whiskey Creek Golf Club sits on gently rolling terrain framed by the Catoctin Mountains. Golfers will experience elevation changes, some open holes, tree-lined holes and a stretch of holes through

a pine forest.

The property also features many unique rock outcroppings and a 19th-century barn that will influence the strategy on the 18th hole. Whiskey Creek will be an upscale, daily-fee golf facility.

"Poellot brings an abundance of technical, aesthetic and golf

course design experience, and Ernie adds a special element of strategy and tradition," said Steve Lesnik, chief executive officer of Kemper Sports, which is developing Whiskey Creek Golf Course with Dunn/Goodwin Associates and will operate the course.

"The Whiskey Creek site offers a wonderful opportunity for a highly memorable round of golf due to the great diversity of its natural setting," said Poellot.

"We have placed great emphasis on routing an 18-hole golf experience that will bring into play virtually every aspect of this beautiful site. It's hard to believe our entrance is only two miles from Interstate 270."

Els teams with Poellot on D.C. track

Robinson design: More shoreline than any in world

WINDSOR, Colo. — Sitting "virtually on an island," the Ted Robinson-designed Pelican Lakes Golf Course will boast more shoreline than any other course in the world when it opens for play by mid-summer 1999, according to its developer, Trolco Inc., of Windsor.

The lakes, created from previously mined sand and gravel pits, surround the course while the river snakes through the middle.

Pelican Lakes, situated between Ft. Collins, Loveland and Greeley, can claim such a title thanks to the integration of the Cache La Poudre River in its layout as well as the inclusion of four mammoth lakes. Robinson incorporated water as a feature on 17 of the 18 holes. In fact, some holes of this par-72 course are lined on both sides by water.

Trolco spokesman Martin Lind said RBI Golf, Inc. will wrap up construction and seeding this fall.

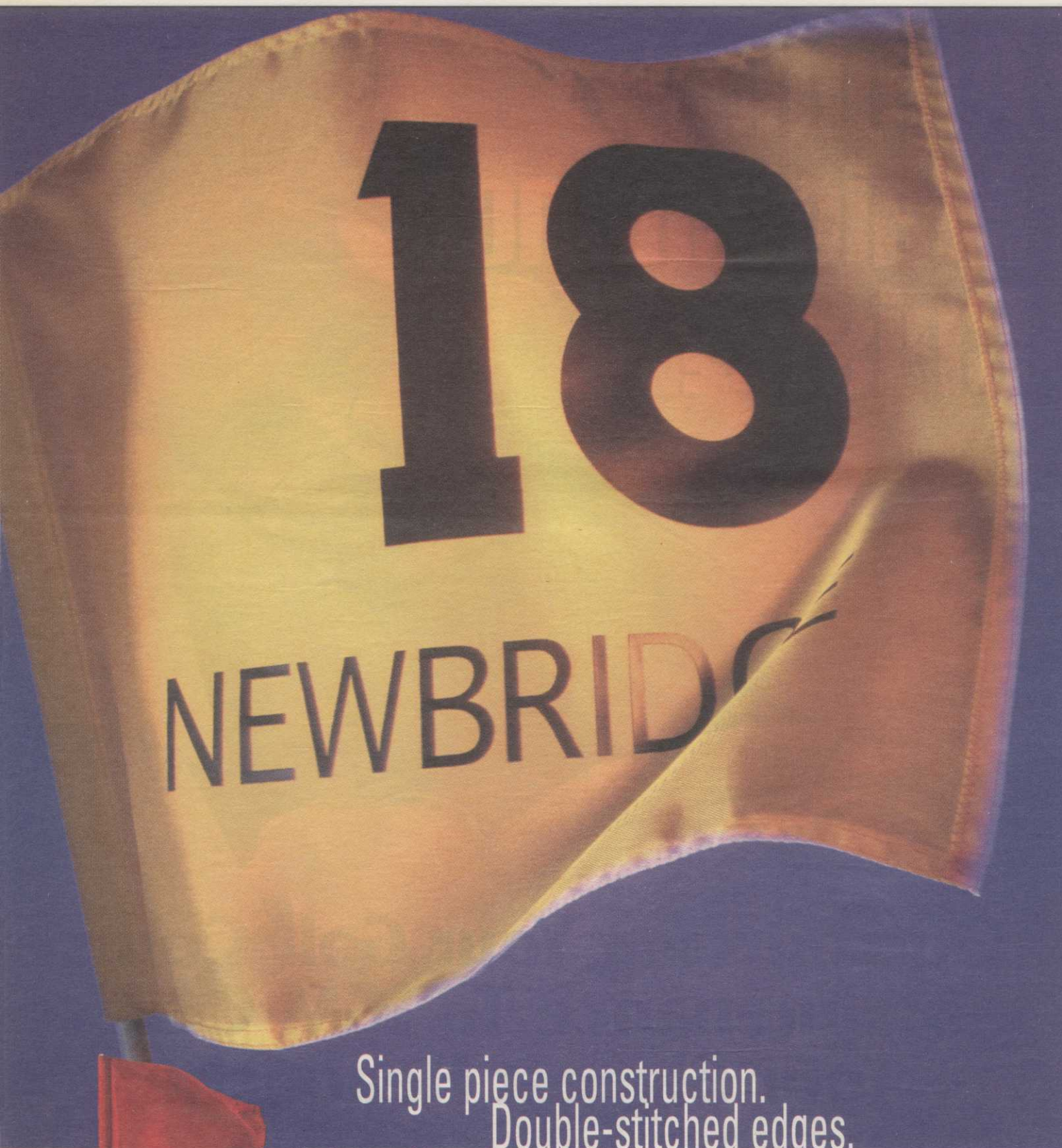
The property is also unique because the lakes of the Water Valley subdivision buffer it from residential development. Privately owned by Pelican lakes, LLC, the golf course will be semi-private. While the course will be open to the public, memberships also will be available.

Nicklaus' Rocky Gap opens

CUMBERLAND, Md. — Rocky Gap Lodge & Golf Resort, located in the mountains of western Maryland, plans to open the first nine holes of its Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course later this year.

Overlooking Lake Habeeb, the 7,000-yard course ranges from gently rolling, relatively open fairways to rugged terrain surrounded by woods.

Natural rock formations dot the periphery of the course, and the landscape contains many springs and wetlands, each carefully preserved. Grass and foliage native to the region have been planted to maintain the course's harmony with its natural surroundings.



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Andrews AFB becomes first military base with 54 holes of golf

By MARK LESLIE

CAMP SPRINGS, Md. — “Non-appropriated funds” and “great golf” are the key words at Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) here as it became the first military base in the world with 54 holes of golf when the South Course opened Aug. 1.

The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) built the third 18-hole course with no taxpayers’ money, just profits from the other two courses operated by Michael Thomas. And they built it in what could be termed the best-case environmental scenario.

“We took an old refuse site, capped it, and built a beautiful golf course on top,” said Brian Ault of Ault, Clark & Associates, who co-designed the South Course with his son Eric. “We created wetlands, discovered an endangered wild flower during the process and fenced off a half acre to preserve it, and greatly improved the overall property.”

Ault cited course builder Ryan Central of Janesville, Wis., for doing “an outstanding job under a very bureaucratic process that involved a lot of regulations and paperwork not routine in constructing golf courses... I don’t know that another contractor could have persevered.”

Whenever Air Force One was flying in or out, for instance, the rule was that



The 3rd hole on the new South Course at Andrews AFB, overlooking the base lake with the flight line in the background.

work must stop and workers must gather in one spot until released.

The landfill caused other problems, such as when a crew digging out a pond ran into underground debris and had to abandon it.

And the drought of 1997 exacerbated problems for head superintendent Luke Maisonpierre and assistant Chris Dwyer, since water had to be shut off to the other 36 holes while a well was dug.

Since all three courses had to start at a common clubhouse, Ault borrowed two holes from the East Course for the new nine and built two new holes for the East Course.

But the results, Ault said, are inspiring, especially since one of the other nines at the base was designed by Ault’s father Edmund.

“They made it clear from the beginning,” he said, “the East and West courses

were modest in challenge and character. This new one was to have some sparkle to it and attract the ardent golfer.”

Ault said they took “great advantage” of the existing Base Lake, layout out the par-3 3rd hole and par-4 4th along the water. “They are the signature holes,” he said.

Concerned with conserving water and chemicals, the military mandated that Bermudagrass be used on the fairways.

Partners line up for World Golf Village

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The St. Joe Co. and Davidson Development, Inc. will join forces to help develop Saint Johns and the World Golf Village.

St. Joe has agreed in principle to acquire 400 acres of the core commercial portion of Saint Johns from SJH Partnership LTD., an affiliate of Dunavant Enterprises, Inc. St. Joe will also be acquiring certain commercial development rights for office and warehouse development within Saint Johns, home of the World Golf Village in St. Johns County.

The 400-acre corporate campus/business park is designed for companies that want to conduct their day-to-day business in an especially pleasant and well-planned setting.

Zoned for office and industrial, the park is expected to attract national and international companies.

“Golf is a great office part amenity, and we believe there is the potential to create a premier business environment complementing this exceptional development,” a spokesman for The St. Joe Co. said.

Jim Davidson, president of Davidson Development, developer of Saint Johns said, “We wanted a company that shared our commitment to cutting-edge development that respects individual and community needs. Given the track record of St. Joe’s people, we are confident that we have aligned with the best team possible.”

Billed as “a small city,” Saint Johns will eventually offer more than 6.4 million square feet of office, commercial and industrial space along with 7,200 residential units, 54 holes of golf, environmental preserves, parks and schools, in addition to the World Golf Village international destination resort, according to Davidson.

Saint Johns and the World Golf Village is a 6,300-acre, \$1.75 billion real-estate project that local government officials believe could attract as many as 1 million visitors each year.

It includes a World Golf Hall of Fame, a golf academy, a championship golf course, and the headquarters of PGA Tour Productions.

Architects release RFP info

Developers, investors and companies involved in golf course development can benefit from a free planning guide offered by the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).

Request For Proposal For Golf Course Architectural Services is a comprehensive document designed to help developers address key elements of a project, including general notice, scope

of services, owner’s responsibilities, submittal requirements and the selection process.

“The Request For Proposal document benefits everyone involved in a golf course project,” said Bob Lohmann, president of the society.

Those interested in obtaining a copy of the RFP form and the ASGCA’s membership list should contact the ASGCA, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill 60601; phone 312-372-7090.

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The (Fundraising) World According to Father Leo

By PETER BLAIS

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Golf and the Church. An unlikely partnership? Not really, according to Leo Armbrust, a Catholic priest who is trying to couple a \$60 million teenage drug and alcohol rehabilitation campus with a world-class golf course here.

Father Leo, as he is affectionately known in the Greater Miami community where he also serves as the National Football League Miami Dolphins' team chaplain, took a few minutes recently to explain why marrying golf with programs to help troubled kids makes all the sense in the spiritual/practical world

and, particularly, how he has succeeded in raising \$20 million in 16 months for the project.

"The challenge," he said, "isn't to come up with new ways of helping people. There are already cutting-edge operations and procedures and philosophies out there that are doing tremendously good work. The challenge

today is coming up with creative ways of funding programs that help people.

"If I want to go to New York to meet Fortune 500 CEOs, I soon found out that every time I go, I have to get an entree from someone who knows them. I might be lucky to get 15, 20, or at best 30 minutes to sit down and talk

about what I'm doing. And usually, that's not enough time.

"So, instead of me standing outside an office in a mile-long line, I discovered how addictive golf is as a behavior. I know people with incredible IQs, who will stand outside in a terrific thunderstorm and try to hit a little white ball. All intelligence and reason goes out the window.

"So I decided if I was going to

Continued on next page

Tidal wave

Continued from page 1

Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Pete Dye and Tom Fazio. The five architects have donated their design services, said Armbrust.

"The hardest thing about this is putting the five of us together in a room and seeing if any of us come out," joked Nicklaus during the press conference announcing the project.

"I'm happy to be here and happy to find out what Jack knows about building golf courses," chided Palmer.

A half-dozen contractors have also offered free services to build the course. Profits from the private club will help operate the treatment center and also provide a training ground for the teenagers to learn golf course maintenance and landscaping skills.

"I have 70 percent of the golf course being built right now for nothing," Armbrust said.

Armbrust hopes to start construction by late 1999 and have the course ready for play by the end of the year 2000. He's already raised \$20 million toward the \$60 million project in the past 16 months.

"A lot of my friends who have given, violate the 14-club rule," Armbrust said. "They don't have more than 14 clubs in their bag. They belong to more than 14 clubs."

Last May, a Florida-based golf course maintenance company approached Armbrust and offered to do all the horizontal work for free. Armbrust's attorney estimated the value of that donation at \$2.5 million. What did the company want in return? Nothing.

According to Armbrust: "The company said 'We do \$350 million of business around the country and employ 4,000 people. We don't have a human resource pool. If you allow us, we'll build a facility to teach your kids landscape maintenance, agronomy and golf course maintenance. If we train them, we'll hire them.'"

The private, non-profit facility will provide therapy, education and vocational training for South Florida's troubled youth. It will have 250 kids in residence, aged 13 to 18. Another 300 to 500 slots will be available for day students.

•••
Nearby, construction could
Continued on next page

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Tidal wave

Continued from previous page

begin in October on the Golf Digest Magazine community, which would eventually include two 18-hole championship courses, an 18-hole pitch-and-putt track, elaborate golf campus, 105,000 square feet of office space, 50,000 square feet of commercial property and 2,150 homes. The project is located on the north side of PGA Boulevard, directly across the street from the PGA of America headquarters.

Developer John Bills of JCB is teaming with *Golf Digest* on the ambitious 2,300-acre project, which will also include 10 corporate lodges, 100 golf cottages and hundreds of acres of open space. JCB Golf Ventures also developed nearby Ballen Isles Country Club, according to project director Jack Mathis. *Golf Digest* will be part owner and is lending its licensing name to the project.

"This will fulfill a need for *Golf Digest*, which has been looking for a place to hold corporate events and a base for its golf schools," Mathis said.

Tom Fazio is designing all three daily-fee courses and the practice center that will serve as headquarters for the *Golf Digest* golf schools.

"The 18-hole, pitch-and-putt course will be roughly 1,000 yards long, with holes ranging from 25 to 95 yards," Mathis said. "The holes will be lighted."

If all goes as planned, the golf component could be ready for play by November 1999, with a grand opening tentatively planned in conjunction with the January 2000 PGA Merchandise Show. Green fees will be commensurate with nearby upscale, daily-fee facilities, Mathis added.

•••

Then there is Jack Nicklaus, the designer/investor of a planned course that partner and former NFL running back Tucker Fredrickson calls "Jack's legacy."

Nicklaus, who makes his home minutes away in North Palm Beach, and 34 founding partners plan to begin construction in October on The Bear's Club, a premier private club located on 369 acres along the Palm Beach/Jupiter border. The new development is tucked between the existing Frenchman's Creek and Admiral's Cove golf communities.

"I've always dreamed of building a very fine private golf club in my own backyard," said Nicklaus, who will also be the club chairman.

The Bear's Club has been compared to Muirfield Village in Nicklaus' native Ohio. But unlike Muirfield, it will not be a high-profile facility nor will it host a major tournament. There will be a 12-room lodge, 12 golf cottages and 70 house lots. Plans are to limit members to 300.

The project, which like Renaissance Village is located on property owned by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, has received city approvals and is awaiting the go-ahead from the South Florida Water Management District, Fredrickson said.

Fredrickson, the former New York Giants running back, has worked in the securities and real-estate market and was involved in the construction of the Greg Norman-designed Medalist Golf Club that opened in 1995 in Hobe Sound.

"We're awaiting bids from a number of local contractors," Fredrickson said.

The World

Continued from previous page

go ahead and get corporate CEOs for more than 15 to 30 minutes, I could invite them and three of their friends down to play at this world championship golf course. Now I've got them for four hours, with no phone, no faxes and no interruptions. Where else can you get someone for four hours to do that? Not only that, I don't need the handsome brochure, fantastic slide show or great spiel. I got them where I want them.

"Today, you have to give people something back for their philanthropy. You have to make it a worthwhile and needed cause and it has to be tax-deductible. It has to be a win-win situation.

"[From the charitable facility's standpoint] Not only is it a way to market and advertise what you're doing, it's a way of enlisting high-profile corporations that get something back, and at the same time enjoying the prospect of having their company name on a hole or a building on a campus that is helping kids.

"Florida ranks 44th in the nation in child-care services and education. Last

year, we were 47th, ahead of Louisiana, Mississippi and the District of Columbia. And we will be the third-largest state in the nation, passing New York, by the year 2000. So, essentially, this problem is not going away.

"I'm all in favor of promoting golf today for kids. Kids are getting opportunities on courses they never had before. But somebody has to cut the grass. So, part of the project we are endeavoring to build will teach these kids golf course maintenance, agronomy, landscape maintenance and a lot of things related to the golf

Continued on page 38



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Topping the polls

Following are British and Scottish golf course architects and the ranking of their designs by *Golf Digest* in its latest list of America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses, released in 1997:

1. Pine Valley GC, Pine Valley, N.J. — George Crump (American) and H.S. Colt, Brit (1922)
2. Augusta National GC, Augusta, Ga. — Alister Mackenzie, Brit (1933)
3. Cypress Point, Pebble Beach, Calif. — Mackenzie (1928)
9. Pinehurst CC No. 2, Pinehurst, N.C. — Donald Ross, Scotsman (1935)
10. Oakland Hills CC South Course, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. — Ross (1918)
11. The Olympic Club (Lake), San Francisco — Willie Watson, Scotsman (1924)
12. Seminole GC, North Palm Beach, Fla. — Ross (1929)
13. The Country Club (Clyde/Squirrel), Brookline, Mass. — Willie Campbell, Scotsman (1895)
16. Medinah CC No. 3 — Tom Bendelow, Scotsman (1928)
18. Crystal Downs CC, Frankfort, Mich. — Mackenzie (1931)
22. Oak Hill CC East Course, Rochester, N.Y. — Ross (1925)
32. Scioto CC, Columbus, Ohio — Ross (1921)
33. Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio — Ross (1919)
34. Maidstone Club, East Hampton, N.Y. — W.H. Tucker, Brit (1899)
39. Plainfield CC, Plainfield, N.J. — Ross (1921)
46. Interlachen CC, Edina, Minn. — Watson (1911)
52. Wannamoisett CC, Rumford, R.I. — Ross (1916)
62. Olympia Fields CC North Course, Olympia Fields, Ill. — Willie Park Jr., Scotsman (1922)
63. Canterbury GC, Shaker Heights, Ohio — Herbert Strong, Brit (1922)
73. Milwaukee CC, Milwaukee, Wis. — Colt and Alison (1929)
79. Salem CC, Peabody, Mass. — Ross (1926)
83. Pasatiempo GC, Santa Cruz, Calif. — Mackenzie (1929)
85. The Valley Club of Montecito, Santa Barbara, Calif. — Mackenzie and American Robert Hunter (1929)
88. Aronimink GC, Newtown Square, Pa. — Ross (1928)
94. East Lake GC, Atlanta — Ross (1915)



'I think you have to live over here. I don't think you can play ball from the other side of the Atlantic. It would be very difficult to be "in the know."

— Clive Clark



'If you're a good conductor of the orchestra, it doesn't matter your nationality — you can still play Carnegie Hall.'

— Donald Steel



'Wherever we lead, the others eventually follow ... Martin [Hawtree] would love to go back [to America].'

— Fred Hawtree

The Redcoats are coming!

Continued from page 1

Paul Revere, the Redcoats are, indeed, returning.

Traditional golf course design was forged in America by a small group still considered the "classical architects": Brits Alister Mackenzie, H.S. Colt, Herbert Fowler and Tom Simpson, and Scotsmen Donald Ross, Willie Park Jr. and Willie Watson. (Eight of today's top 15-ranked courses in the country were designed through the 1920s by their hands and those of their countrymen.)

Then, Americans turned the tables. Men like Robert Trent Jones Sr. — and more recently Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and others — took up the call and spread the design of golf courses around the globe. A few, like Nicklaus, Arthur Hills, Bob Cupp and Robert Trent Jones Jr., even had the balderdash to design layouts in the United Kingdom.

But the pendulum may be swinging back yet again — this time, initially, in the persons of British designers Clive Clark, Donald Steel and, as a vanguard 25 years ago, Fred and Martin Hawtree.

"Perhaps this is a new trend," acknowledged Clark, a former British Tour and Ryder Cup golfer and television color analyst who has designed 20 courses in Europe but, until this summer, had none in the United States. "There has been a long gap between British designers coming to America. So, yes, I suppose these things, like the Ryder Cup, go in movements,

don't they? For a long time we didn't win the Ryder Cup, then it turned around and the Brits started doing OK." [with the aid of Messrs. Ballesteros and Langer et al...]

Tom McKenzie, a lead architect for Donald Steel & Co. of West Sussex, England, put it this way: "There is certainly a move in American golf back toward traditional methods. Whether that will be done through American or European architects is hard to tell. But, that style is one the Brits have advocated for centuries, so we have a head start."

Steel himself said: "If you're a good conductor of the orchestra, it doesn't matter your nationality you can still play Carnegie Hall. For us, this is a new challenge and an opportunity for people to see our work. Hopefully, they will judge it favorably. If they do, one might see a change of style or approach [in America]."

While Clark was "first in" in this latest incursion into the United States, with his Belgrade Lakes (Maine) Golf Club opening its front nine in July and back nine in September, the initial push was made by Fred Hawtree in 1973 at Mount Mitchell in North Carolina.

"The developer, Vern Floyd, went to St. Andrews and met John Campbell, the superintendent," said the 82-year-old Hawtree from his Oxfordshire office. "John was a friend of mine and introduced us. It was thought that a 'little

touch of British' might give it [the new course] an edge. In theory the aim was to get away from the American style."

The exclusive Carnegie Club, which hired Steel to add a nine-hole track to his Carnegie Links at Skibo Castle in Dornoch, Scotland, has hired him to design an 18-hole course as the cornerstone for Cherokee Plantation. Ground was broken in late August on this 4,000-acre development along the Combahee River between Savannah, Ga., and Charleston, S.C. "Our client is British, which makes a difference," said McKenzie.

"The whole concept with Cherokee Plantation is for visitors to enjoy the experience, which is like Skibo's Edwardian-type life."

Jim Tullis, the developer at the Spirit Ridge Golf Course at Blount Springs, Ala., imported Steel to design a traditional-style golf course reminiscent of those early British-designed projects in the United States.

Tullis's wife Linda explained: "The historical tie with the United Kingdom is hard to ignore, Birmingham, Ala., being named after Birmingham in England. We had seen examples of Steel's work elsewhere in the world and were keen to have him design his first course in the United States."

It is ironic that when Blount Springs first came to prominence as a health resort, golf was heading west over the Atlantic from the UK, and now during its second birth its owners have gone back to the homeland of golf for an architect.

"The course is designed to fit in with the 'New Old Town' and be distinctly different from the new golf courses in the area," McKenzie said.

Old World-New World. Classic Style-Modern Style. The clash, and the comparisons are continual fodder among golf course architects from the two continents.

"My complaint," said Steel, "is that too many architects today, even if they got into the Garden of Eden, would not be satisfied. They'd turn it upside down and put it back together again. That may be fine in certain parts of the world, but I think the golfing world will get fed up sooner or later.

"One objection of mine," he added, "is that [the modern] style of design forces the golfer to play only one style of shot — all big powerful through the air. The old choice of shots that you could play is disappearing fast."

Having grown up in the UK where golf originated, Steel, Hawtree and Clark have those classic courses in their blood. That influence is obvious in their design philosophies.

"The pre-war architects had to use their wits much more and keep the thing simple," Steel said. "I'm not sure modern architects haven't complicated things unnecessarily. Simple is best, certainly cheapest.

"I don't think golf courses are different

Continued on next page

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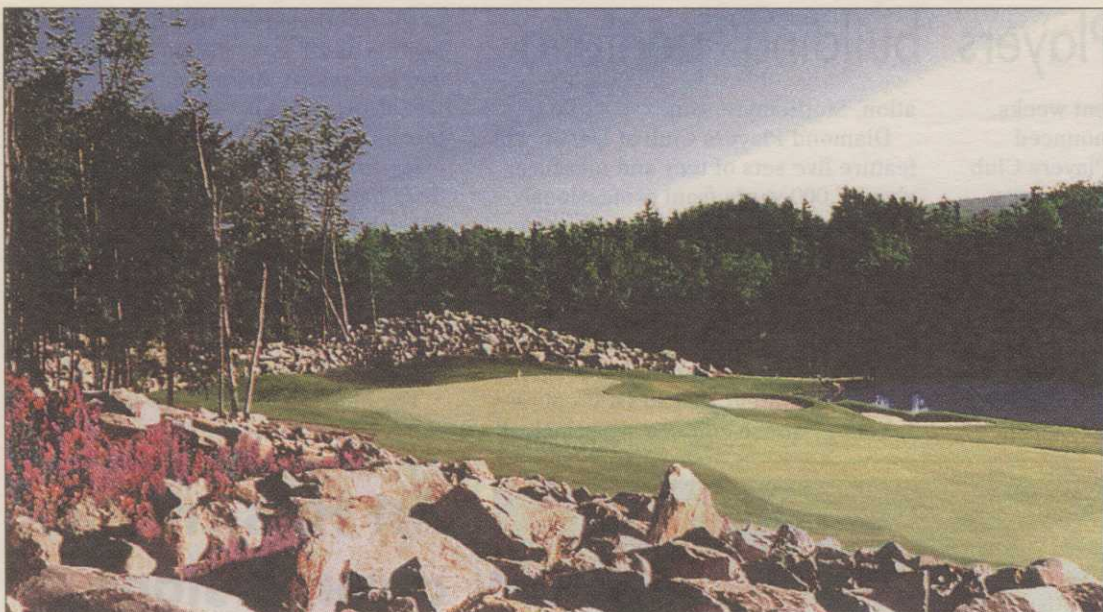
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Photo by Charles Brisco-Knight



The greens complex on the par-5, 520-yard 6th hole at the Clive Clark-designed Belgrade Lakes (Maine) Golf Club.

The return of the Redcoats

Continued from previous page

from any other fashion in the world... Some people think you have to keep changing your product. It's not perhaps a direct parallel, but this [modern] style of golf course architecture couldn't possibly have taken place 40 to 100 years ago. It depends on high-technology and mechanization as well as money."

This financial observance is backed up by Hawtree senior who, along with partner and son, Martin, designed a second course in the United States some seven years after his first project.

"With our second course [at Asheville, N.C.], we tried to make it English," Martin said. "But what, after all, is the English style? Links? In the middle of North Carolina? The style is simpler perhaps; it is certainly cheaper."

"I think you've got some very bold courses in Britain, great courses that have stood the test of time," Clark said. "And, contrary to what most Americans think, they're not all in Scotland. There are some very good courses in England. They don't get played by Americans to the same extent, because a lot of people over here think of Gleneagles, St. Andrews, Turnberry... In terms of design, a lot of these old courses look natural. They not only look like they've been there for 100 years; they have been there for 100 years. And they tend to fit into the golfing environment extremely well."

Asked if he is seeing a return to the British style of design, Clark said: "I think it's a cross between the British style and high-tech. Traditional courses are being built that are enhanced by technology, if you will. In general terms, and in particular in the desert area here, the courses are more high-tech regarding earth-moving and landscaping.

But, definitely there has been a trend away from penal golf in last few years. In terms of playability, softer courses are more in demand.

"On the very old golf courses on the links land, the earth was already moved... Even a lot of the bunkers were virtually there because of the sheep. Links land is a very specific land and has a definite look. Now 'links' is a word that's very bandied about."

At this point, Clark is working on Patton Station Golf Club in San Bernadino, Calif., a resort course on which ground was broken in September, and a resort project located between Palm Springs and Los Angeles, which is in the early planning stages.

Here, he will again get to ply his trade, a design style which he says is "the traditional look but with features."

"I love features brooks, lakes, bunkers, rough, trees, anything that causes trouble on a golf course," Clark said. "If you like introducing features, that's great. But you have to be very careful that they don't crowd the course, or make the fairways too narrow or affect the landing areas too badly."

Besides having more projects, America offers larger budgets to build courses.

"There is the belief," said Steel, "that the more it costs the better it is. That's redundant nonsense."

"In England you generally have to make do with smaller budgets, simply because there is virtually no housing permission and any new course is going to be stand-alone," said Clark. "If you were thinking of spending millions on it, you would have to think very carefully, because you have nothing to sell but the golf."

ENTERING THE FRAY

While Steel and Hawtree have ventured across the pond largely

In America 'you get more bites of the apple. In a year, there are at least 400 new courses going in here.'

— Clive Clark

due to their connections in Britain, Clark contends that architects must move to America to gain a foothold in its highly competitive market.

"I think you have to live over here," he said from his office in Palm Springs, Calif., where, since 1997, he lives nine months of the year. "I don't think you can play ball from the other side of the Atlantic. It would be very difficult to be 'in the know.'"

"With so many Tour and Senior Tour players designing courses, plus the big-name designers like [Tom] Fazio, [Arthur] Hills and the Trent Jones family, it's very competitive," Clark added, "and people, to some degree, want to buy a fine product and endorse it with a 'designer label,' which is understandable."

On the other hand, Clark said, in America "you get more bites of the apple. In a year, there are at least 400 new courses going in here. There aren't 400 being opened in Great Britain and Europe. So although there are more designers and more competition, there is also a lot more action over here."

At the same time, he acknowledged that gaining recognition in America is more difficult because of its size and population. "To put it in focus," he said. "England probably drops into California three times, and then you've got another 49 states left. The scale of it is absolutely vast."

Nevertheless, Clark said, "It might sound rather big-headed but I've always had enormous confidence in my own ability.

Therefore, it is a challenge, but I am aiming to get to the top of the pile."

For all these Brits, patience is a virtue. "Any new market you come to takes a long time to get successful in," Clark said. "First to get your first job, then for that job to be ready to show."

"If we're invited, we'd love to," said Steel about designing more courses in America. "With a more limited amount of new work in Britain at the moment, one is looking for new avenues.

And working in America marries the background of so many of courses being built by British architects."

Born into the era of British design exports, Fred Hawtree wryly observed that "Wherever we lead, the others eventually follow."

Although he recognizes that he personally is a little beyond trailblazing, the new generation is ready to take up the baton.

"Martin would love to go back [to America]," Fred said.

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DESTIN, Fla. — Diamond Players Club (DPC) began construction in mid-August on a new championship golf course near this town.

According to Todd Stottlemire, Texas Rangers pitcher and CEO, the course is being designed by Mike Young and will be built by his company, Traditional Golf.

The facility is being built in conjunction with a Capital First Holdings housing development, Magnolia Bluffs, in Freeport. It is expected to open in mid-1999.

The project is the second new course

Diamond Players 'building' portfolio

announced by DPC in recent weeks. Stottlemire previously announced construction of Diamond Players Club at Orlando, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1999. DPC, a golf management company, will own the Orlando facility and will have a 30-year lease on the Destin course, with extension options.

DPC also manages the Bellevue Biltmore Golf Club in Belleair, and has several other projects under consider-

ation, Stottlemire said.

Diamond Players Club at Destin will feature five sets of tees and measure about 7,000 yards from professional markers, said Gregg Gagliardi, PGA professional and DPC's chief operating officer.

It will have a two-ended practice range, with one end devoted to the DPC Golf Academy, an instruction program that will be integral to all DPC courses.

Young, whose courses are principally

in the Southeast but who has designed layouts as far away as Sao Paulo, Brazil and Bangalore, India, said the 220-acre DPC-Destin site is "ideal golf course terrain."

It is rolling and situated on a 100-foot-deep base of fine sand that will provide outstanding drainage."

He said the course will feature four lakes, and will offer a fair test for golfers of all abilities from all tee markers, without a lot of "forced long carries."

The club will be semi-private with about 150 members.

Art Hills creation a cornerstone at Marsh Creek

NORTH PORT, Fla. — When it opens by the end of the year, The Preserve at Marsh Creek community will feature a private Arthur Hills Golf Course.

"Arthur Hills is one of the most prominent golf course architects in the country," said Development Manager Jim Beviard. "We are very excited about the golf course he has designed for this community."

Hills described his layout as "a very picturesque course that will blend into the nature of the site very well."

He said many water features enhance the course's beauty but do not hinder the average golfer.

Also, many of the holes have elevated tees, giving the golfer a better perspective.

"Elevated tees allow the golfer to really see the course and adjust his shots," Hills said.

"They also really let the player see the natural beauty of this course. The Preserve at Marsh Creek is a master-planned community on 850 acres that will consist of patio and single-family homes and attached villas in the initial phase.

The gated community will also have a clubhouse, tennis center, junior Olympic-sized swimming pool and fitness center.

The World

Continued from page 35

course world. These kids will be exposed to these opportunities, so that when they leave this facility, they will have the skills that allow them to become productive citizens.

"I don't want to just take away a problem. I want to be able to replace it with some productive life and coping skills so that whatever they face in life, they can rebound a little bit better and be more resilient, rather than collapsing in ways that imprison them in drug and alcohol abuse or disruptive behavior.

"And it's all built around golf. It's a way of luring the high-profile philanthropist/benefactor/donor. If I were to just build this drug and alcohol facility for adolescents, you [Golf Course News and other media] would have never called me. But since I aligned it with golf, you wouldn't believe the coverage we've been getting, all over the country."

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The main hotel at Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort in Palm Springs.

Public Golf Forum: October 26 & 27 at Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort in Palm Springs, California



Greg Norman eyes some bunker work on site.

YARMOUTH, Maine — With Norman and Hurdzan on board as keynoters for this year's Public Golf Forum, this is shaping up to be the hardest hitting line up of speakers Golf Course News has ever assembled.

Greg Norman, golf's premier international spokesman and all-time money winner, will kick off day two of this year's Public Golf Forum, the *Golf Course News*-sponsored business conference and expo for superintendents, owners, managers and developers of public-access golf facilities on October 26 & 27 at Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort in Palm Springs, Calif.

"It's great to see a publication focusing on public golf, and I'm excited to be a part of this year's Forum," said Norman, president of Jupiter, Fla.-based Greg Norman Golf Course Design.

Part two of this year's dynamic double bill is the guru of environmentally sensitive public golf design, Dr. Michael Hurdzan, president of Columbus, Ohio-based Hurdzan-Fry Golf Course Design Inc.

Hurdzan is slated to kick off day one of this year's Forum at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 26. More info on PGF exhibitors can be found to the right.

ProShot to show new value-add options

Public Golf Forum exhibitor ProShot Golf Inc. said it has strengthened its position in the golf GPS distance-measuring industry with the introduction of a variety of revenue-enhancing and course-management systems.

The company's value-added options include: The Marshal Plan for mobile course management, ProMotion Advertising which enables advertisers to target a high-quality, captive audience, Food and Beverage Ordering from a cart-mounted system and "PIP," a personalized information package.

ProShot's Dx1800 unit, mounted on the marshal's cart, communicates directly with the central computer in the pro shop using GPS technology and radio frequency and enables marshals to receive slow pace information directly from the OmniGolf System and message carts anywhere on the course. For more information, see ProShot Golf at Public Golf Forum.

CIRCLE #208

Excel to highlight bridge solutions



Excel Bridge Manufacturing is a full-service company that can supply the public golf market with clear span steel truss bridges, or other large variety of pre-manufactured bridges with the look of wood.

At the request of BIGHORN Golf Club, The Canyon's course, Excel Bridge Manufacturing has engineered and completed the new "Arch Plate Bridge Series" (see photo above). The Arch Plate Bridge concept is simple: provide a self-weathering steel under structure that is very

strong, with very little bridge deflection, and ship to site ready to accept on site natural rock that is to be applied on site by either Excel personnel or others. The end result is a beautiful aesthetic looking masonry bridge that clear spans your waterway.

For more information see Excel Bridge at Public Golf Forum.

CIRCLE #209

Lohmann does double duty at PGF

Not only is Bob Lohmann slated to speak as part of the Development Track of this year's Public Golf Forum, but he'll be putting in his time at his booth as well.

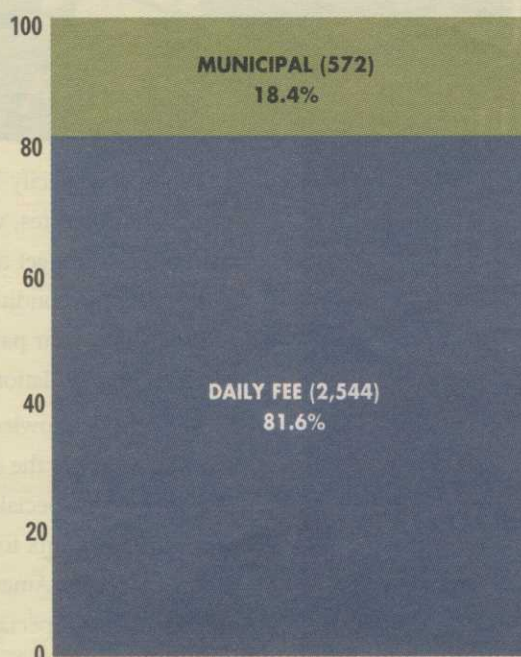
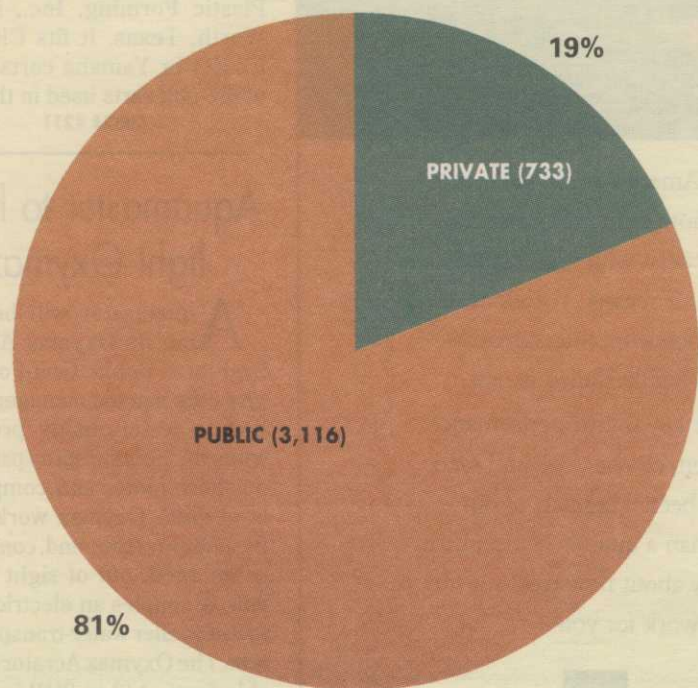
Take some time to meet the current President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects after his session. Lohmann will be ready to discuss his latest work, the new nine at Maple Valley Golf Course in Suring, Wis.

Working with Golf Creations, its sister construction firm, Lohmann Golf Designs (LGD) have finished shaping and seeding nine new holes here, some 40 miles northwest of Green Bay.

When the new holes are ready for play next year, LGD will set about creating three more holes and redesigning six on the original layout. "The original course is fairly ordinary, but the owners have showed real vision," said Lohmann. "In order to draw players from a wide area, the owners realized we needed to create something special."

CIRCLE #211

TOTAL GOLF COURSE OPENINGS BY TYPE FOR 1986 THROUGH 1997



Public golf, specifically daily-fee golf, was primarily responsible for the upsurge in golf course development. From 1986 on, almost 80 percent of all openings were either daily-fee for municipal. In 1997, almost 90 percent of new course were public facilities. (Source: National Golf Foundation)

NovaGreen offers new concept in turf

NovaGreen International, Inc. will offer a new concept in grass surfaces for golf courses and driving ranges at Public Golf Forum.

"We have developed a patented process that provides the comparable playability and reaction of a top level natural grass system for golf," said

Wayne Larson, president of NovaGreen

"NovaGreen turf is not limited to tee application only. It is used for putting greens, a great tool for shade areas and cart paths," said Dave Daniels, operations director. You will see this artificial grass product at Booth 300.

CIRCLE #210



Unicar's new Acente, a standard car alternative.

Unicar launches singlerider Acente

One look tells you this isn't just another look-alike golf cart. And one ride will show you the differences go far beyond Acente's sleek-looking, distinctive styling.

Acente from Unicar overcomes the limitations of the two-passenger golf-cart mindset.

Acente is ideal for convenience transportation—in and around the neighborhood, to and from the local pool and tennis courts, quick trips to wherever—as well as being a better way to golf.

Acente's smaller size and turning radius make it easier to maneuver than the typical two-passenger golf cart. It's great for getting in and out of tight spots on a course and tight parking places and garages.

CIRCLE #211



The Wind Cheater tames the wind

Golfers consider the wind when lining up a shot or deciding which club to use. But the wind doesn't consider golfers. Wind and rain can ruin a weekend outing or an expensive golfing vacation.

The Wind Cheater consists of a clear, rigid plastic windshield and side doors that attach easily and quickly to most golf carts. The Wind Cheater's clear polycarbonate panels won't discolor with normal use. The Wind Cheater doesn't crinkle, like soft plastic does, so you can see through it easily.

The Wind Cheater is made by Plastic Forming, Inc., in Fort Worth, Texas. It fits Club-Car, EZ-GO or Yamaha carts—most of the golf carts used in the US.

CIRCLE #211

Aquamaster to highlight Oxymax

Aquamaster will be showing its Oxymax Aeration System at Public Golf Forum. It gives the aquatic manager a solution to water-quality problems when no fountain spray pattern or on-shore motor and compressor is desired. Oxymax works from the bottom of the pond, completely submerged, out of sight and silent. It couples an electric motor to a propeller water-transport system. The Oxymax Aerator is available from 1/2 to 2HP in single- and three phase motors. See them at PGF for information handbook and your nearest distributor.

CIRCLE #212



At Medalist America, Our Turf Specialists Are Part Of The Mix



When you specify Medalist America preformulated blends and mixtures, you get more than performance-proven seed. You get a turf specialist who is an expert on the growing conditions in your region. There's no guesswork on your part. Just knowledgeable, research-based recommendations from a highly skilled expert.

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CIRCLE #125

PGF: Maintenance Track preview

Continued from page 1

day will be full of talks from some of the country's best-known superintendents and agronomic experts. Among them, Michigan State University's Dr. Joe Vargas; Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Past President Bruce Williams, CGCS, of Los Angeles Country Club; Pebble Beach Co. Vice President of Resource Management Ted Horton, CGCS; agronomic consultants Terry Buchen, Master Greenkeeper and CGCS, and Dave Wilber, CGCS; and Widow's Walk Golf Course superintendent Jeff Carlson, CGCS.

Vargas and EcoSoil, Inc. Vice President of Product Development John Doyle will address what for many decades has been the single most frustrating obstacle for many superintendents: killing *poa annua*.

For many, *poa annua* is an invasive weed. Now, it appears, the solution has arrived via research efforts led by Vargas, combined with the technology of EcoSoil's BioJect System, which grows bacteria and delivers it through the irrigation system to the golf course.

A professor of botany and plant pathology at Michigan State, Vargas in 1997 was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the GCSAA. He developed the first mathematical prediction model for turfgrass disease, discovered the first bacterial disease in turf on Toronto creeping bentgrass, helped develop the first biological control for annual bluegrass and created a fungicide timing model for summer patch.

The golf world has been waiting since the spring of 1997 for the results of the many studies being performed on Widow's Walk Golf Course in Scituate, Mass., the nation's first environmental demonstration golf facility. They will be disclosed by Carlson, who now has a year and a half, including one full season, under his belt of managing the course.

The 18-hole Widow's Walk was built as a working laboratory to discover the impact of a golf course on wetlands, wildlife and habitat. Using three different greens types and three different root-zone mixes in each type, Widow's Walk is anticipated as a wealth of information for environmentalists, scientists and the golf industry.

Williams, who served as GCSAA president in 1996, will speak on "The Team Versus the Zone Approach to Maintenance Crews."

He will examine the pros and cons of each of these crew-management systems, helping attendees choose which method would best serve them.

Horton knows of what he will

speaking in his talk, "Pros and Cons of Going for the Top." He has been a superintendent at two of the country's most famed facilities (Winged Foot Golf Club and Westchester Country Club), served as director of sports and grounds at Westchester CC, was a regional vice president of a golf course management company, and since March 1993 has been

in charge of the all Pebble Beach Co.'s golf courses and other land.

How many public course superintendents wish they could have country club-type fertility on their public course budget?

Wilber, who owns and operates Wilber Turf and Soil Services in Rocklin, Calif., and consults on golf courses across the United States and in the United Kingdom, will tell them how to accomplish it.

The subject of turfgrass fertil-

ity is an ever-changing and often-complicated road of twists and turns, he says, but by being aware of several key areas, turfgrass managers can untangle the knots that might otherwise keep them from having the best possible fertilizer program. In many cases, "less expensive" does not have to mean "cheap," he says. It can mean "success."

In his talk, "Put-a-Pencil-to-It Help for Supers," Buchen will

unveil a treasure chest of money-saving tips, tricks of the trade and a potpourri of maintenance ideas. One of only 14 golf course superintendents in the world who has been certified as a Master Greenkeeper by the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Buchen's many travels to hundreds of golf courses have revealed to him myriad opportunities for improving maintenance operations.

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developed not only to facilitate absorption by the leaves and roots, but to increase mobility of the calcium within the plant as well.

Quelant™-Ca is normally applied as a foliar spray and may also be applied through fertigation. Either way, it is tank-mix compatible with herbicides, soluble fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and plant growth regulators. It will even help improve the efficiency of most of these treatments by increasing their absorption and translocation within the plant.

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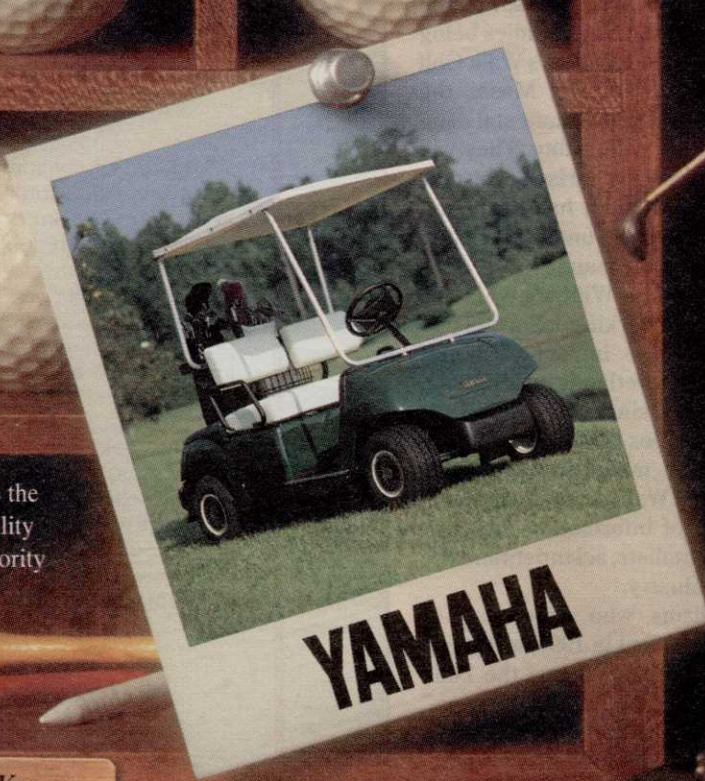
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CIRCLE #114

BRIEFS



COBBLESTONE APPOINTS WILCOX

DEL MAR, Calif.—Cobblestone Golf Group, Inc. has appointed Gary Wilcox general manager at Sabal Point Country Club here. Prior to joining Sabal Point, Wilcox was general manager and director of golf at the Tournament Players Club at Eagle Trace in Coral Springs, the site of several Honda Classic events on the PGA Tour. In addition, Wilcox was also director of golf at Pinehurst National Golf Club in Pinehurst, N.C., and at La Paloma Country Club in Tucson, Ariz.

PALMER OPENS NUGENT DESIGN

CROWN POINT, Ind.—Developer Jim Hawk, president of Hawk Development Inc., and Arnold Palmer Golf Management opened White Hawk Country Club Sept. 12. Designed by Dick Nugent, White Hawk stretches 7,080 yards and features bent-grass greens and fairways. There is also a grass driving range and clubhouse.



Dick Nugent

UNITED PURCHASES CHICAGO TRACK

NEW YORK—United Golf Group has added the Blackhawk Golf Club to its portfolio for \$5.7 million. The 18-hole course was ranked one of "Chicago's Top 25 Public Courses" in 1997 by *Chicagoland Golf Magazine*. United Golf is a course ownership company based in New York. Formed in early 1998, United Golf is actively acquiring public and private courses throughout the country.

GOLF TRUST CONTINUES GROWTH

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Golf Trust of America Inc. has closed its acquisition of Osage National Golf Course, a 27-hole, daily-fee golf facility, for \$11.2 million. The price includes the issuance of operating partnership units in Golf Trust of America LP valued at about \$3.5 million.

The course will be leased to the prior owner of Osage National. The initial term of the lease will be for 10 years with four, 5-year renewal options.



Bay Harbor Golf Club in Petoskey, Mich., part of Boyne USA.

Boyne USA successfully mixes golf, skiing

By PETER BLAIS

PETOSKEY, Mich. — Recently, ski resort operators such as Intrawest and American Skiing Co. have increasingly turned to developing and/or acquiring golf courses as a way to help even out their cash flows and entice aging Baby Boomers to buy second homes.

It's a good strategy, but hardly new. Detroit auto dealer and Boyne USA founder Everett Kircher, 82, launched

his recreation empire with the founding of Boyne Mountain (Mich.) in 1947. He opened his first ski facility there in December 1948. Seventeen years later (1964), he purchased Boyne Highlands 30 miles northwest near Harbor Springs and opened his first course (Heather GC) in 1965. He followed that with the purchase of Big Sky in Montana in 1976, Boyne South in Naples, Fla., in 1992 and Crystal Mountain in Washington in 1997.

Today, Boyne USA boasts a total of 196 holes of golf located at the following facilities:

- Boyne Highlands, Harbor Springs, Mich. — Located on the northwest lower peninsula of Michigan, Boyne Highlands boasts four golf courses: Heather Golf Course (GC), designed by Robert Trent Jones, opened 1965, 18 holes; Moor GC, Jones, 1974, 18 holes; Ross Memorial GC,

Continued on page 45

Toll Brothers names new club and golf operations director

Allan Irwin has joined Toll Brothers as director of club & golf operations. He will be responsible for setting up and managing the company's club and golf operations throughout the nation.

Previously the vice president of club operations for the Jack Nicklaus Development Co., and former president of Intergolf, a golf industry consulting firm, Irwin has over 20 years of experience in the golf industry. Some of the private courses Irwin has been involved with include Medinah Country Club, Country Club of the South, Wynstone Golf Club and Peninsula Club.

Toll Brothers is currently building seven new Arnold Palmer Signature

courses, including locations in Florida, California, North Carolina, Michigan, New Jersey and Virginia. As the clubs are developed, Irwin will be recruiting management and operations staff for Toll Brothers' courses nationwide.

Toll Brothers, Inc., a leading builder of luxury homes, continues to grow at a record pace, recently recording its 29th consecutive quarter of record sales. Toll Brothers has more than 125 communities and is currently building in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Golf Communities purchases Texas golf development

NORTH ARLINGTON, Texas — Golf Communities of America has acquired The Lakes of Arlington, a commercial and residential development property here.

The property is designated for 2.4 million square feet of commercial space on 496 acres as well as a 384-acre residential development. The planned, private gated community will have 920 homes and feature an exclusive 18-hole championship golf and country club.

Appraised as-is value of the property at closing was \$67 million. Under terms of the transaction, Credit Suisse First Boston, a 24.9-percent equity owner in Golf Communities of America, provided \$50 million of financing. Golf Communities will issue 11.4 million shares of unregistered common stock to the seller, who has received a note pending authorization of the shares. Appraised completion value of the property is \$75 million, and total sell-out is projected at \$143 million, of which \$93 million is residential and \$50 million commercial.

The property includes 14 private lakes with 350 acres of water surface and numerous parks totaling 217 acres. It is expected to benefit from the strong demand for commercial and residential development generated by the economic strength of Dallas, which was the second fastest-growing major metropolitan economy in 1997, and Fort Worth, which ranked 18th.



TROON INVADES FLORIDA

SARASOTA, Fla.—Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. (SMR) has announced the sale of its Legacy Golf Club to Troon Golf. The Legacy Golf Club at Lakewood Ranch was designed by Arnold Palmer as a high-end, daily-fee course. Troon owns or manages other top courses, including Troon in Arizona, Turnberry in Scotland, and Innisbrook near Tampa.

FAMILY GOLF REPORTS RECORD SALES, REVENUES

MELVILLE, N.Y.—Family Golf Centers reported record sales of \$34.6 million for the second quarter and \$56.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 1998. During the second quarter, Family Golf completed acquisition of Eagle Quest Golf Centers, which has been accounted for a pooling-of-interests.

Meadowbrook to manage two new Florida tracks

ORLANDO, Fla.—Meadowbrook Golf Group, Inc. of Kissimmee has been selected to develop and manage two high-end, 18-hole golf courses in the self-contained, 1,200-acre Champions Gate Community near Disney World. Champions Gate, developed by RIDA Development, also includes two hotels, an office complex, timeshare units, retail shops and a residential section.

Bill Stine, chief operating officer of

Meadowbrook said it will use different designers for each course. Negotiations are ongoing with several course designers. Construction is scheduled to begin in January. The first course is projected to open in early 2000.

Meadowbrook also has been contracted to operate both courses, and Meadowbrook's subsidiary, International Golf Maintenance, will oversee all golf course maintenance.



John Golden

RBI appoints new director of management

LITTLETON, Colo.—RBI Golf Management has hired a new director. John F. Golden now oversees management operations for the company, a division of the RBI Companies. He arrives from Perry Park Country Club in Douglas County, Colo., where he served as the club's general manager since 1995. Golden has more than 20 years of experience in the sales, management and marketing industries. He has a bachelor's degree in commerce/economics from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala.

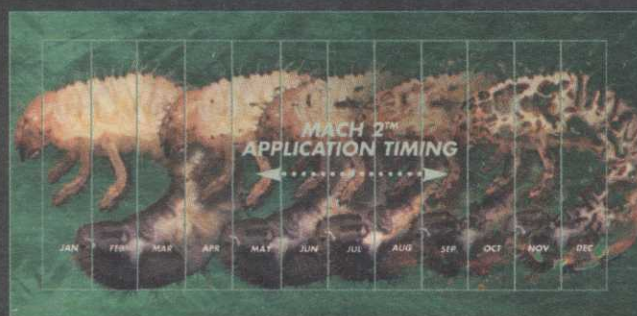
Golden is a member of the Club Managers Association of America, the Colorado Golf Association, and the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the board of directors for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Denver, is actively involved in the Colorado golf community and is a two-time winner of the Colorado Golf Association's Senior Amateur Match Play and Stroke Play championships.

RBI Golf Management is a growing course management company offering its clients personalized, comprehensive services. With a strong background in agronomics and business management, RBI Golf Management helps new courses with their start-up efforts in addition to assuming management of existing courses.

GRANITE REPORTS RECORD YEAR

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—Granite Golf Corp. reported first-quarter results for the three-month period ended March 31. Revenues for the period were \$1,422,717, a 2,475 percent increase from revenues of \$55,261 in the same period a year ago. Net operating income or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) increased 27 percent to a loss of \$210,905, or 3 cents per share for the period, as compared to a loss of \$286,773, or 5 cents per share in the first quarter a year ago.

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Boyne USA

Continued from page 43

William Newcomb, 1989, 18 holes; Hills GC, Arthur Hills, 1995-98, nine holes completed and nine under construction.

- Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls, Mich. — Located in Charlevoix County on the northwest Lower Peninsula, Boyne Mountain has two 18-hole courses and a nine-hole executive track: Alpine GC, Newcomb, 1970, 18 holes; Precision GC, Newcomb, 1973, 9 holes; Monument GC, Newcomb and Stephen Kay, 1986, 18 holes.

- Big Sky, Big Sky, Mont. — Located 18 miles north of Yellowstone National Park, Big Sky of Montana GC features an 18-hole course designed by Arnold Palmer and Frank Duane that opened in 1974.

- Boyne South, Naples, Fla. — Located on the edge of the Everglades, Boyne South features an 18-hole course designed by Bruce Deblin that opened in 1981.

- Boyne USA also operates 18-hole Crooked Tree Golf Club (Harry Bowers, 1994) and 27-hole Bay Harbor GC (Arthur Hills, 1997-98), both located in Petoskey.

In addition to golf, Boyne USA runs ski facilities at Boyne Highlands, Boyne Mountain, Big Sky, Crystal Mountain in Washington and Brighton in Utah as well as the Gatlinburg (Tenn.) Ski Lift.

The elder Kircher is still very involved in the day-to-day operations of the company, according to Boyne marketing representative Steve McPhee.

Kircher's two sons and two daughters are also active in the company. John runs the Western U.S. ski operations; Stephen operates the Michigan facilities plus Big Sky Montana; Amy oversees Boyne South Naples; and Kathryn heads Boyne Design Group, the resort firm's interior design division.

While skiing holds a slight edge, making up 60 percent of Boyne's recreational revenues, golf contributes a healthy 40 percent.

"Skiing has always been our main money maker," McPhee said. "You can put a lot more people on a ski hill than you can on a golf course. We do anywhere from 3,000 to 6,000 people on a Saturday paying \$30-plus for a ski lift ticket on a Saturday where you can only put 200 golfers on a course per day at an average of \$60...But, last year we averaged 20,000 rounds per course for 3 1/2 months from mid-May to September."

As for the future, McPhee said: "Stephen has a master plan that calls for building more golf courses at each property. If something

comes up for sale at the right price, he'd consider purchasing it here in the local (northern Michigan) area. He's not one to jump on things. He's a thinker who looks at it and asks 'If we're not going to make money, why do it?'

"We'll finish the second nine holes at the Arthur Hills course at Boyne Highlands next summer and open for play around September."

Greenlinks names new controller

FRANKLIN, Tenn.—Kenneth Rebman has been named controller of Greenlinks, Inc.

Prior to joining Greenlinks, Rebman most recently served as regional controller for Danka Corp. in Nashville. Prior to that, he was an accountant with Rebman and Associates in Huntsville, Ala. As controller, Rebman will be responsible for overseeing all financial opera-

tions for the company.

Greenlinks, Inc., based in Brentwood, Tenn., owns and operates the Country Club of Franklin and Old Natchez Country Club. The company has a separate division that is also developing 69 residential lots at Old Natchez Country Club in Brentwood and is active in golf course construction and general excavation.



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TORO

IRRIGATION

OB Sports expands office to Seattle

KIRKLAND, Wash. — OB Sports is expanding its offices to the greater Seattle area. The new office is located in Kirkland and will serve as the official national headquarters for OB Sports and will include the following staff: Orrin Vincent, president; Bob Marshall, president, Northwest Division; Jamie Cook, vice president of fi-

nance/chief financial officer; C.A. Roberts, director of business development; Bill Campbell, vice president of construction & agronomy; O.D. Vincent, marketing and development; Jackie Estes, office manager.

The previous office in Portland, Ore., will continue to be occupied by the growing staff of John

Fought Design, along with other OB Sports personnel including: Greg Elliott, corporate controller; Ulrich Sauerbrey, project engineer; and Tim Schlabach, buildings coordinator.



Orrin Vincent

INTRAWEST ANNOUNCES 5TH YEAR OF RECORD PROFITS

VANCOUVER — Financial results for Intrawest Corp. for the year ended June 30, 1998 show strong increases in all areas of the company's performance, resulting in a record year for the company. Intrawest's revenue increased 55 percent from \$389 million to \$602 million. Intrawest is a leading developer and operator of mountain resorts across North America. It is becoming increasingly involved in the golf business. Intrawest owns Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Florida and 14 other golf courses.

NGP acquires private San Antonio facility

SANTA MONICA, Calif.— National Golf Properties Inc. has acquired The Club at Sonterra, a 36-hole private club in San Antonio, for approximately \$28.5 million. For the year, National Golf has now acquired eight golf courses representing an aggregate investment of approximately \$56 million. Sonterra has been leased to American Golf Corp.

The Club at Sonterra is located in the rapidly expanding northern corridor of San Antonio and serves as the central feature in a 4,000-acre master-planned residential community considered one of the premier residential developments in Texas. Sonterra offers two championship 18-hole golf courses, driving range, golf practice facilities, 23 tennis courts, fitness center, swimming pool and banquet and conference accommodations.

LinksCorp buys 2nd S.C. layout

NORTHFIELD, Ill.—LinksCorp, Inc. has opened Eagle's Pointe Golf Club near Hilton Head Island, S.C. Located in the "off island" growth corridor of Hilton Head, Eagle's Pointe is a Davis Love III Signature course.

In addition to Eagle's Pointe, LinksCorp owns and manages 20 other private, semi-private, resort and daily-fee golf facilities, with most located in the Southeast. Eagle's Pointe is the second golf facility purchased in South Carolina by LinksCorp. The other is Hunter's Creek Golf & Country Club located in Greenwood.

GOLF TRUST REPORTS FINANCES

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Golf Trust of America reported second-quarter 1998 funds from operations (FFO) per share of 55 cents, representing an increase of 28 percent over the same period in 1997. For the quarter ended June 30, 1998, FFO amounted to \$7.2 million versus \$3.5 million or 43 cents per share for the quarter ended June 30, 1997.

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BRIEFS



TURF-SEED NAMES NEW NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

HUBBARD, OR — Turf-Seed has added John Rector to its staff as national sales representative/agronomist. Rector brings 20 years of Southern California sod production experience to this position, including management of cool- and warm-season turfgrasses, agronomy, pest control, research and development, marketing and sales. John Rector is a native of San Francisco and received his Bachelors Degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in 1978, and is a member of the Industry Advisory Council for the Cal Poly Environmental Horticulture Department.



John Rector

BAYER MAKES FOUR KEY MOVES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Bayer Corporation Agriculture Division has announced transitions and promotions of four employees in the Garden and Professional Care (GPC) Unit. Trevor Thorley was appointed senior vice president, sales and marketing, in the Crop Protection Business Group. Rich Burns had been promoted to director, GPC professional sales and marketing. Michael Ruizzo, Ph.D., has been appointed central area sales manager GPC professional sales and marketing. Jorge Moreno has been promoted to marketing product specialist, and Byron Reid, Ph.D., has been hired as the research product manager for the Bayer GPC pest control market.



Trevor Thorley



Jorge Moreno

GREENSMIX PROMOTES GREENSMIX

WAUPACA, WI — Greensmix International Soilblenders recently announced the promotion of Ellen Davis to executive vice president of the company. Davis, who has been employed by Greensmix for eight years, will be responsible for the management of the daily operations of the company.

Flowtronex pumps up local service with Embry Co.

By MICHAEL LEVANS

DALLAS — In an effort to increase its aftermarket presence in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, pump system manufacturer Flowtronex PSI has acquired Statesville, N.C.-based Richard Embry Co., a pump services company covering North and South Carolina, Eastern Tennessee, Kentucky and parts of Virginia and Georgia.

"We have a dedication to good aftermarket presence," said Emil Gram, president of Flowtronex PSI. "In the Mid-Atlantic we have a lot of pump stations up and running and we've had this association [with Embry] for a dozen years. So it just made good business sense to form this alliance."

Embry Co. has been affiliated with Flowtronex since the early 1980s, serving as a certified FlowNet service provider since 1993.

As part of the deal, Richard Embry will stay on board as manager of day-to-day operations and maintain his current territories. All existing Embry Co. staff have been asked to stay on, and the company said that new service personnel will be added.

According to Embry, in order for Embry Co. to keep up with the expanding golf course market in the region, a new channel of resources had become necessary. "The Southeast is just exploding with new projects," said Embry. "We're trying to keep a good service reputation in an area but it got to a point with me where it was starting to strip away my resources. We do a lot of preventive maintenance work, running a regular schedule with our 600-700 service accounts."

Continued on page 48



Rain Bird's Steve Wingate, K-State alum Jim Colbert, Derek Moffitt, applications engineer for Rain Bird and Dennis Ness, sales representative for Outdoor Equipment on the site at Colbert Hills.

Rain Bird next to donate to Colbert Hills

By MICHAEL LEVANS

MANHATTAN, Kan./AZUSA, Calif. — Rain Bird is the latest supplier to donate equipment to the Colbert Hills Golf Course Project at Kansas State University in Manhattan, a PGA Tour-managed course to be used as a working classroom for students seeking a degree in golf course management (see *GCN*, June, page 17).

In the deal, Rain Bird has contributed a package of equipment, including its Cirrus central irrigation control system, WS-PRO weather station and 732 TG-25 block-style rotors and more than 1,500 Eagle, gear-driven rotors.

"It's a total package of equipment," said Steve Wingate, North/Central sales for Rain Bird. "But we'll also be using this project to test our new equipment." The first piece to be tested will be Rain Bird's new TG 25, the company's latest sprinkler head.

The equipment package will be installed and maintained by Outdoor Equipment, a Rain Bird distributor covering the St.

Louis and Kansas City areas.

"We're going to have a lot of guys learning on this stuff and after they're done, they're going to be all over the country," added Wingate. "That's the best way to bring tomorrow's superintendent up to speed on all our equipment."

John Deere jumped on board the K-State project a few months ago. As part of the agreement, John Deere donated a full complement of turf maintenance equipment and also signed on to be the exclusive supplier to golf courses owned by Jim Colbert and a preferred equipment brand at golf course managed by Colbert.

Continued on page 48

IRRIGATION SERVICES

BoardTronics/AGC hook up national service deal

AUBURN, Calif. — BoardTronics Inc., a national service center for irrigation components, has inked a national account service agreement with American Golf Corp. (AGC) — a first for BoardTronics.

"American Golf had a need to get their components repaired and keep their costs down and keep their costs consistent throughout their entire portfolio of golf courses," said Jordy Smith, national sales manager at BoardTronics.

Under the agreement—which runs through the end of 1999 — AGC courses will pack and ship broken irrigation components to BoardTronics Auburn-based repair/manufacturing facility. BoardTronics, in turn, offers AGC priority scheduling, upgrades and same-day exchanges when necessary.

"American Golf had a need to get their components repaired while keeping costs down and consistent throughout their entire portfolio of golf courses, no matter the geographic location of the course" said Smith.

He added that although this marks the first national account services agreement with a management company, BoardTronics currently has several other similar irons in the fire.



NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH: TORO'S REELMASTER 3100-D

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Toro's next generation trim mower, the Reelmaster 3100-D, is poised for full market introduction this fall. Its unique features include a Toro-patented Series/Parallel traction system, a rear engine design that places the operator in the front with better visibility and optional Sidewinder cutting units that shift up to 24 inches for improved trimming. The out-front operator design provides superior mowing visibility and operator comfort, while the rear engine location greatly improves service access to the engine compartment. The Series/Parallel traction system powers at least two wheels at all times, providing excellent traction and minimizing wheel slippage and turf damage. The Sidewinder cutting units allow the operator to shift the cutting units 24 inches from side-to-side, while on the move. For more information, contact 612-888-8801.

Lebanon Seaboard to market *isobutylidene diurea*

LEBANON, PA — *Isobutylidene diurea*, the nitrogen source in the professional turf fertilizer line, Par-Ex, will now be available from Lebanon Turf Products. Beginning October 1, Lebanon Seaboard Corporation will be the marketer of *isobutylidene diurea* fertilizers, said Paul Grosh, business manager of Lebanon Turf Products.

Isobutylidene diurea, in the past, sold to the professional turf management

market by Vigoro as IBDU, will be sold under the trade name IsoPRO in 15 different blends, including 21-3-16, 24-4-12 and 31-0-0, Grosh said. Lebanon already markets *isobutylidene diurea* in homogeneous granular form as IsoTek31.

Lebanon made the announcement upon signing a marketing agreement with a subsidiary of Nu-Gro Corp., the new owner of the production facility for *isobutylidene*



diurea, located in Bucks, Ala. Nu-Gro recently purchased the Bucks plant from IB Chemical Company.

Vigoro had held a supply contract with IB Chemical Company. IMC Global recently divested its Vigoro Professional Turf division and the *isobutylidene diurea* supply agreement was terminated.

FMC & PBI team on two new herbicides

KANSAS CITY — FMC Corporation and PBI/Gordon Corporation have announced a recent agreement covering two new FMC herbicides, sulfentrazone and carfentrazone-ethyl. U.S. marketing rights for the use of these compounds in PBI/Gordon's Trimec herbicides have been assigned exclusively to PBI/Gordon for professional turf and ornamental, industrial vegetation management and consumer product markets.



Classified as protox inhibitors, the new chemicals have been evaluated for the past three years at the PBI/Gordon Turf Research Center as well as in tests elsewhere.

"Our work with these FMC compounds has shown faster-acting and broader spectrum control using significantly reduced rates of active ingredients," said Dr. Jim Armbruster, vice president of research and development at PBI/Gordon's Kansas City headquarters. Sulfentrazone and carfentrazone-ethyl look very promising in combination with certain other herbicides, he added.

Flowtronex/Embry

Continued from page 47

Today, according to Embry, these 600-700 existing course clients, as well as any new customers Embry gets on board, are more apt to sign on with a preventive maintenance contract to keep their courses in top-notch condition. "Five to seven years ago people didn't know what a preventive maintenance schedule was, but now every one wants one. To have the resources to continue to grow with the market is something that a small business man has trouble doing. Here's Flowtronex, and they're saying they're here to help me grow."

The Embry acquisition comes on the heels of the Flowtronex PSI, purchase of Portsmouth, England-based Action Pumping Services Ltd., the company's first international acquisition.

With Action under its wing the company launched Flowtronex Europe Ltd., a brand new entity headed by Steve Hockley, Action's managing director.

"That's moving along," said Gram. "I'm hopeful that they'll be moved into the newly acquired facility by the end of the year."

Flowtronex PSI has had European representation in Hamburg, Germany for the past two years, however, according to Flowtronex, Action offers a 'local' manufacturing presence and an entrée into European markets that, to this point for the company, have been untapped.

Rain Bird/Colbert

Continued from page 47

Ground-breaking ceremonies for Colbert Hills were held on June 12 on the 1,200-acre site, three or four miles from the football stadium, on the northwest corner of town.

The Jeff Brauer-design will meander through several valleys, and a few of the holes will have trees, he said, but "the predominant character is konza prairie."



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Canadian crisis

Continued from page 1

delaying purchases of U.S. and other foreign-made supplies.

"It's no wonder that people who make large purchases in the U.S. would be backing off or reducing them this year," said Vince Gillis, executive director of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA).

Added CGSA President Doug Meyer of Cedarbrook Golf & Country Club in St. Sophie, Quebec: "This will definitely affect our capital budgets when we are buying new equipment, as well as other course supplies such as chemicals, fertilizers, seed, parts and course supplies. The only products that will not be affected are those produced in Canada.

"At this time it appears that U.S. products will increase in cost more than those from Europe. As a result, many golf clubs may choose to lease equipment manufactured in the U.S. rather than buy new equipment outright. As for the rest of the products, we will have to budget an extra 15 percent for our next budgetary year. Some courses will delay purchases until the spring in the hope that the Canadian dollar rebounds. However they choose to deal with the situation, the low dollar is sure to negatively impact profits in the coming year."

The effects of Canada's struggling dollar may be somewhat offset by this year's increased play at Canadian courses, according to Nolan Duke of G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. of Burlington, Ont., a Canadian distributor of U.S.-made products such as Ransomes, National and Smithco.

"The exchange rate," Duke said, "has caused our prices to go up 7 to 8 percent, which really would have screwed up budgets. But the weather up here since April has been phenomenal. Almost no weekends have been lost to rain and golf courses have been busy from dawn to dusk. So, it doesn't seem it will have as much impact as you would think.

"We have had some customers ask whether they should wait until spring. Will things be better or will they be worse? People are concerned about it. But most have had such good years that it's really not the prime thing on their minds. Most are looking to reinvest the money in their golf courses and pay less taxes. It's had an effect in that people are calling their bankers to see where rates are going. But we don't think it will be as drastic as it might have been. If it had been a rainy season, it might have really kicked the heck out of us."

The CGSA's Gillis agreed this has been a good revenue year for Canadian courses, due again, in part, to the weak Canadian dollar.

"It [the weak dollar] has been

great for tourism in Canada," Gillis said. "More people have stayed at home and visited their own resorts and attractions instead of going to the U.S. Older people who normally spend five or six months in Florida, are having to rethink their plans. Every other part of our economy is doing well — inflation is low, unemployment is lower than it's been in a long time, the Gross Domestic Product is rising. Everything

is great, except the dollar.

Meyer has also noted an increase in play. "Public courses near the border," he said, "will definitely see an increase in play as it is a real bargain to play at Canadian courses this summer. Also, large resorts with golf facilities report an increased number of American players. Private country clubs and courses further from the border will benefit less.

Duke said he and other suppli-

ers will have a better idea of what impact the exchange rate will have within the next 60 to 90 days when golf courses begin their 1999 budget years.

"The golf industry is much like the municipal industry, they may be six months to a year behind in actual spending, because they wait until they have acquired the wealth to actually spend it," said George Bannerman of Bannerman Ltd., a Toronto-

based manufacturer and distributor of topdressing, aeration and seeding equipment. "If they made money at golf this year, it will reflect somewhat on what they buy this year but more so next year."

On the other side of the coin, Canadian manufacturers distributing in America may be benefiting from the loony's woes since the exchange rate makes Cana-

Continued on page 54

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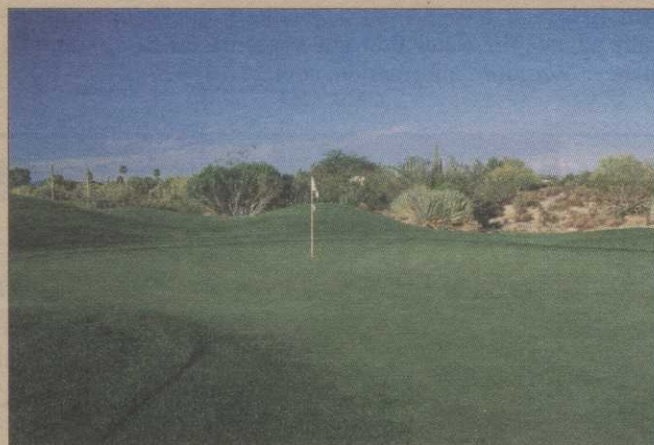
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Scott McBeath —
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Glenmac ready with new Harley

Glenmac has introduced the Harley model S-4 Power Box Rake which can be used with Dingo and Ramrod mini skid-steer loaders.

The S-4 Power Box Rake measures 48 inches. The S-4, like other Harley models, can be used for a variety of time-consuming tasks—gathering debris and stones for piling and pick-up, de-thatching, and removal of old sod. For more information, contact 800-437-9979.

CIRCLE #201

Global Wireless releases VX-10

Responding to the demand for a small yet full powered cost effective two-way radio, Global Wireless has announced the availability of the Vertex VX-10.

At a size similar to a pack of cigarettes, the VX-10 is a five-watt (full powered) 40 channel (102 channel capability with optional key pad) synthesized radio featuring user-selectable scan modes to lock out or avoid busy channels. This unit boasts the capability of handling digital and analog pri-

vate lines and an automatic receive and transmit battery save feature.

In addition, the VX-10 is built to military specifications and achieves a new standard in durability. The radio comes equipped with an extra long-life battery, antenna and spring loaded belt clip. It's user-friendly and all its function keys are conveniently located on the front and side panels for easy access. For more information, contact 941-642-2083.

CIRCLE #202

Par Aide simplifies spike brush

If necessity is the mother of invention, simplicity could be its first cousin. Par Aide's new spike brush cleaning tool will drive home the fact that this simple, flat, comb-like tool is as uncomplicated as any useful tool can get.

Constructed of heavy-duty 11-gauge steel, the tines easily ferret out the most stubborn debris with a quick flick of the wrist. Add to this a powder-coated finish that will deliver a lifetime of use, with sturdy tines designed to fit between the rows of both Par Aide traditional and alternative base brushes, and you'll put this simple tool on the top of your "must have" list. For further information, contact 888-893-2433.

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CIRCLE #139



Huxleys announces new turf alternative

Following the successful introduction last year of Campbell Turf for tees, pathways and practice grounds, Huxleys is now launching Campbell Turf Greens as a premium quality, minimal maintenance alternative to natural turf on golf greens.

Designed primarily for use on pay and play courses, hotel and leisure resort installations and chipping and putting practice greens, the sand-filled, multi-fiber material duplicates the look, feel and density of precision-mown grass on a traditional golf green. Distributed and installed exclusively in the British Isles by Huxleys, Campbell Turf Greens are the result of 14 years' development in the USA. A two-year old installation on a public course at Covington, near New Orleans, was recently inspected by USGA officials. For more information, contact (UK) 07-44-1962-733222.

CIRCLE #203

SyncroFlo unleashes Gator

SyncroFlo's new Gator Pumping System was specifically designed to immediately compensate for low-pressure, no pressure conditions in irrigation applications. The Gator is a programmable booster system that helps grounds maintenance personnel protect turf and landscaped projects. The Gator constantly monitors the water pressure within the system. In low- or zero- pressure situations, the Gator automatically adjusts the water flow and pressure for maximum efficiency. For more information, contact 800-886-4443.

CIRCLE #207

ZeroTol lands registration

ZeroTol Broad Spectrum Algaecide/Fungicide is a newly EPA-registered chemical for the broad-spectrum treatment and control of algae, fungi and bacteria on ornamentals and turf.

Using an oxidation reaction, ZeroTol quickly and effectively kills algae, fungus, bacteria and virus on contact. ZeroTol kills spores on contact, thereby reducing the potential for re-infection caused by dormant spores in the growing environment. ZeroTol has a zero hour REI and is an environmentally friendly product that does not use or produce toxic residues. For more information, contact 888-657-3088.

CIRCLE #205

Mow-Blow ready for market

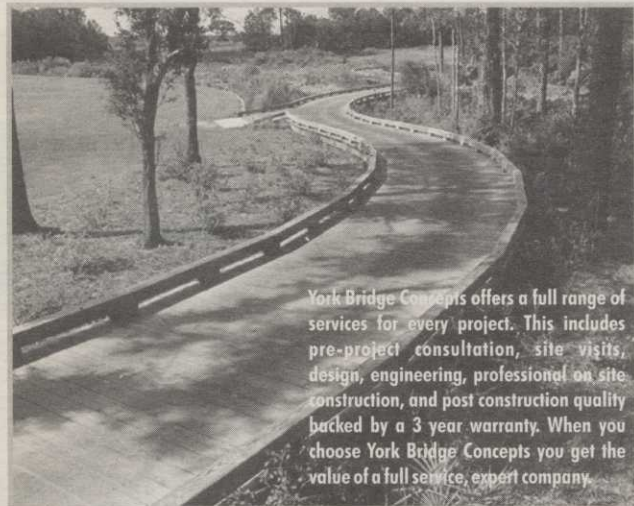
The Mow-Blow was designed by professional lawn-care experts to save time by instantly dispersing clippings. The Mow-Blow works on most major, mid-size 36" to 62" walk-behinds, zero-turn radius riders and front-deck riders. It cuts mowing time up to 50 percent with no clumping or trails by virtually eliminating double or cross cutting, and is easily adjustable or removable for blowing off walkways, curbs and drives. It installs in minutes and eliminates bagging, vacuuming or sweeping clippings. It does well in long or damp grass conditions and is ideal for golf and country clubs. For more information, contact 616-453-2191.

CIRCLE #206



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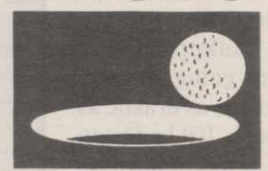
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20 — GCSAA seminar on Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System in Neptune, N.J. *

20 — GCSAA seminar on Golf Course Construction Management and Grow-In in Little Rock, Ark. *

26-27 — Golf Course News' Public Golf Forum in Palm Springs, Calif. Contact GCN Conference Group at 207-846-0600.

November

1-3 — International Irrigation Expo in San Diego, Calif. Contact 703-573-3551.

1-3 — Georgia GCSA annual meeting at St. Simons Island. Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.

3 — GCSAA seminar on Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System in Fairfield Glade, Tenn. *

3 — GCSAA seminar on Employee Safety Training in Industry, Calif. *

3-5 — Penn State Golf Turf Conference in State College, Pa. Contact 814-863-3475.

4-5 — Heart of America GCSA Annual Golf & Turf Conference in North Kansas City, Mo. Contact 816-561-5323.

4-6 — Penn State Golf Turf Conference in State College, Pa. Contact 814-863-3475.

5 — GCSAA seminar on Golf Course Restoration, Renovation and Construction Projects in Boise, Idaho. *

6 — GCSAA seminar on USGA Intermediate Rules of Golf in Maui-Lahaina, Hawaii. *

9 — GCSAA seminar on Bentgrass Management Relationships to Physical, Mechanical, Biological & Chemical Stresses in Lexington, Ky. *

9 — GCSAA seminar on Drainage Systems in Hudson, Ohio. *

9 — GCSAA seminar on Golf Course Restoration, Renovation and Construction Projects in St. Louis. *

9-12 — West Virginia GCSA Turf Conference and Show in Morgantown, W. Va. Contact Robert Maguire at 304-243-4154.

9-13 — New York State Turf & Grounds Exposition in Syracuse, N.Y. Contact 800-873-8873.

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11-13 — Midwest Turfgrass & Ornamental Seminar in Lafayette, Ind. Contact Bev Bratton at 765-494-8039.

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*Appears in regional edition.

Vietnam's growing pains: Part II

Edit Note: The following is part II of Andrew Overbeck's overview of the Vietnamese golf course development market. The story picks up from page 46 of September's Golf Course News.

By ANDREW OVERBECK

The next two golf courses are in Dalat and Phan Thiet and are close enough to be weekend courses for Ho Chi Minh City residents, but they are best positioned to attract resort golfers and other Asian members.

Both courses are owned by Danao International and were assisted in the con-

struction process by International Management Group (IMG) and its golf course design team.

The principal investor behind both projects was the late Larry Hilbloom (the "H" in DHL) who died in 1995. While the Dalat Palace Golf Club was already constructed at that point, his death severely affected the development pace of Ocean Dunes in Phan Thiet. They have faced numerous funding setbacks and construction delays due to the sticky issues surrounding the settling of Hilbloom's estate.

However, the course was completed in July of 1996, and the 123-room Novotel hotel just held its soft opening this April. The Nick Faldo signature seaside course is outstanding and at the moment is probably the best conditioned in Vietnam.

The Dalat Palace Golf Club is the best situated in Vietnam. Dalat is a prime tourist destination, is easily reached by plane from HCM City, and boasts comfortable weather year-round. The course is located in the heart of Dalat offering panoramic town views from its hillside perch.

The cool weather enables the club to have tee-to-green bentgrass — only one other course in Asia can boast this distinction. However, the course is still without a permanent clubhouse and members facilities — they will need more members in order to afford this next step. While other facilities are lacking, accommodation is readily available at both the Sofitel and Novotel hotels that are a part of the project.

Currently, the two clubs are in a bit of a transition period. IMG is no longer providing the management services and have

downgraded its position to a "consultancy." Further, in order for both resorts to take off, international access must improve. An international airport is planned for Dalat in the coming years, but getting to Phan Thiet is still a treacherous four-hour drive from HCM City. This is the last hurdle that the two golf clubs must overcome if they are to compete with other Asian resorts.

The story changes dramatically in the North. There is only one golf course, the King's Island Golf Club which is precariously situated on the banks of Dong Mo lake, northwest of Hanoi. While they have a solid lock on the market, this project has struggled from the very beginning.

Due to a miscommunication between the Thai investors and the local government, the course was built below flood level and the first phase of the golf course construction was flooded out. It took the better part of 1994 and 1995, to resolve this problem, and as a result, the project has lost investor interest. Some credibility has returned lately, as the full 18-hole course has opened and is in high player demand among expatriates on weekends.

Effectively, the "design" was done by the owner, and it, therefore, lacks consistency. It was inadequately constructed and many of the greens have had to be rebuilt. The project will require more investors if it is to become a success.

Clearly golf projects in Vietnam must take a long-term approach to development. Despite the obstacles, however, there are five golf projects that are licensed by the MPI and are awaiting construction.

The first is a Daewoo backed project in the Dong Anh province located near the Hanoi airport. However, with the collapse of the Korean economy, the construction

of this project is well down the line. Another is the Do Son Golf Club in Haiphong which is financed by the California Investment Group.

The golf course industry has faced a tough road in Vietnam, and the newly licensed courses will undoubtedly have their growth problems. Hopefully, the industry in Vietnam can benefit from their experiences thus far and readjust their business strategies to fit the current demands of the market. As the Vietnamese economy continues to grow and to expand, the golf market will undoubtedly expand as well.

In the meantime, the focus must continue to be on creating growth among the local Vietnamese market and introducing them to the game of golf. Movement in each of these areas is presently detectable and the golf in Vietnam will be richer for it.

Malaysia: Public Golf

Continued from page 13

to make them better golfers. With that in mind, golfers are invited to enroll in the seven-part "Homeless Golfers Program" which has been created to ensure golfer proficiency.

The classes cover everything from rules and etiquette to golfing fundamentals and techniques. Lessons from members of the Malaysian National Team and other qualified professionals are an integral part of the program.

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While educating the older golfers on the finer points of golf is necessary to maintain the integrity of the game, giving junior golfers the opportunity to get on the course is vital to the survival of the game itself. Khamis is extremely excited about his "Teen Golf" program.

"Having served as the general manager of private clubs in the past, it has been nearly impossible to set aside time for juniors to have access to the course. However at Seri Selangor, I have been able to create my dream junior program and it will be the center for junior development in Malaysia," said Khamis.

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Continued from page 49

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