

# Something old ... something new



The 5th hole at The Ledges Golf Club in York, Maine.

## Cape Arundel GC resurrecting Travis' design from 1921

By MARK LESLIE

**K**ENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — Noted architect Walter Travis built Cape Arundel Golf Club here in 1921. George Herbert Walker kept the front nine open during World War II and grandson George Bush, the former president, calls it his home course. Its mere 5,869 yards has beaten up on such luminaries as England's John Majors and Canada's Brian Mulroony, and on such golf greats as Arnold Palmer, Hale Irwin, Doug Sanders and Jose Marie Olazabel.

In July, Fred Couples and Davis Love III visited Bush and played Cape Arundel for a week, shooting a best of 65 in generally calm conditions on a site where winds can ravage a golf game.

"The old girl still holds up," remarked Bruce Hepner, a golf course architect with Tom Doak's Renaissance Golf Design in Traverse City, Mich., who is renovating Cape Arundel.

Calling the course "a great example of architecture," Hepner said it has "the two great variables in golf: putting surfaces and wind. Those are the great equalizers of golf. They will stabilize anybody."

Besides that, Hepner said: "There is quirky stuff here. But that's what I love about these old golf courses. There is character to them. Man has a hard time

The state of Maine is a microcosm of the entire country. New course construction... old course renovation and restoration... nine-hole additions from the Atlantic Ocean to the White Mountains. Great tracks like the Walter Travis-designed Cape Arundel Golf Club and Donald Ross-created Poland Spring Golf Club are being restored. Members at Penobscot Valley Country Club and Augusta Country Club — both Ross designs — are seriously considering restoration work. And at the same time new tracks, like Brad Booth-designed The Ledges Golf Club in York (at left), Dan Maples-designed Dunegrass in Old Orchard Beach (at right) and Clive Clark-created Belgrade Lakes (Maine) Golf Club, have opened.

This abundance of work is keeping course architects, builders and superintendents bustling from East Coast to West. Here we take a look at two particular projects in Maine.



Cape Arundel Golf Club's 18th green complex, with its bunkers and green restored to the way Walter Travis built it nearly 80 years ago.

making character. It's more difficult to make something look natural. Nature is random, very random."

Using old deeds, photographs, aerial photos, and Turn of the Tide magazine stories about Travis and his 16-man crew working here, Hepner has gone far in restoring the course's original greens and returning long-extinct bunkers.

Although not a lot is known about Travis' design philosophy — he was not a prolific writer like George Thomas or A.W. Tillinghast — Hepner said of the

three-time U.S. Amateur and one-time British Amateur champion: "Travis was a great player and one of the great putters of his time. He wrote a book about it, in fact. You see that here [in his design]. You have to have a short game here to be a player. Length has nothing to do with it. Equipment hasn't changed this course."

"We're doing fine brush-stroking," Hepner said, "getting the course back to the original elements of its design."

Foremost has been returning the

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The 17th hole at Dunegrass in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

## Poland Spring GC reclaiming Ross' famous bunkering

By MARK LESLIE

**P**OLAND SPRING, Maine — "Donald Ross was the father of golf architecture in the United States. He was the best. He still is one the best. But he's gone," says Dick Fahey. So Fahey, the course superintendent at Poland Spring Golf Club here, has shouldered the burden of restoring the track to the way Ross envisioned it.

Despite Ross' fame, Poland Spring Resort owners Mel and Cindy Robbins were not aware he had designed their course until Fahey attended a workshop taught by golf course architect and historian Geoffrey Cornish in 1988. "Cornish told me Poland Spring was a Ross course — an addition of nine and a revised nine," Fahey said.

The original nine holes, Fahey discovered, were designed by Arthur H. Fenn in 1896. In 1910 Ross visited the property, revised the original nine and added nine, completing the work in 1913.

Since the discovery, the resort has named its entrance road Donald Ross Drive. Its score card proudly states it is a Ross design. And Fahey has been given the go-ahead to use his staff in his restoration efforts as well as resolve drainage and cart-path problems.

Bolstering the bunker work was the

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## BRIEFS

### HILLS' LEGENDARY RUN OPENS 9

#### CINCINNATI

— Legendary Run Golf Club, an 18-hole upscale public course here designed by Arthur Hills and Associates, opened its second nine on May 15. "Legendary Run is an intriguing golf course," said Hills. "The front nine, which is almost treeless, has a series of holes that are as good as any we have done; the back nine plays through deep, wooded ravines..."



### PRESERVE PICKS PALMER

FENTON, Mich. — Arnold Palmer and Palmer Course Design Co. have selected to design the Preserve at Black Bear Resort here. The 18-hole championship course is being developed by the Preserve Corp. The Preserve at Black Bear Resort is scheduled to open during the summer of 2000.

## Leaving behind other careers, Hammer opts for golf

By MARK LESLIE

SIREN, Wis. — "What would be your ideal job?" the career counselor asked civil engineer and MBA student Jim Hammer.

"To own a golf course," Hammer answered.

"Then why don't you?" the counselor asked.

That simple exchange several years ago, while civil engineer Hammer was two-thirds through his studies toward an MBA at the University of St. Thomas, changed his life.

"That question really got it rolling," recalled Hammer as he looked ahead to the opening of Siren Glen Golf Course here in midsummer 2000. "I decided then to chase my life dream of owning a golf course."

Married and working as a civil engineer, Hammer realized that something more fulfilling awaited him. He had returned to school part-time to pursue his MBA when he had that fateful meeting in 1993 with the career



Jim Hammer stands at the championship tee for the par-3, 240-yard 8th hole at Siren Glen Golf Course. Some 40 feet below, a pond will hug the green to the right and rear.

counselor. He was in a perfect position to tailor his education toward his dream. He enrolled in a course on

entrepreneurship and venture management and used the in-class training to

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