

BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The methyl bromide phase-out deadline was extended to 2005 by language included in the omnibus spending bill passed by Congress in October, which President Clinton was not willing to veto. The measure pushed back by four years the 2001 phase-out date for the agricultural fumigant. The new deadline matches the phase-out date for other developed nations and allows more time for scientists to develop effective and economically viable alternatives.

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DETROIT — Toll Brothers has acquired 381 acres in Northville Township, Wayne County, a northwest suburb of Detroit, that will be home to Northville Hills Golf Club, a country club community consisting of 650 single-family homes on an 18-hole Arnold Palmer Signature golf course. It will be built and owned by Toll Brothers.

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NACO, Ariz. — The newly expanded Turquoise Valley Golf Course opened recently. The \$1-million project includes a nine-hole addition, upgraded putting green, and renovation of the original nine holes.

1998 U.S. course openings continue strong

JUPITER, Fla. — The United States enjoyed another banner year for golf course openings in 1998, according to the National Golf Foundation's (NGF) final tracking report.

The data shows a total of 448 new courses came on line, the second-highest figure ever. This also marked the fourth straight year the number of completions topped 400. The record of 468 was set in 1996.

Approximately 35 percent of the courses built in 1998 were additions to existing facilities.

An indication of things to come is reflected in the 1,069 courses still under construction on December 31. NGF data indicates 500 of them are likely to open this year, which would be a new record.

Type	In Planning	Under Construction	Completed
New facilities			
Daily Fee	429	579	224
Municipal	113	90	36
Private	51	95	33
<i>Total</i>	592	764	293
Expansions			
Daily Fee	72	217	108
Municipal	32	45	18
Private	11	43	29
<i>Total</i>	115	305	155
Grand Total	708	1,069	448

Source: National Golf Foundation

Four RTJ II staffers open own course architectural firm

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Once there was the "Four Horsemen," then there were three, and now there are none.

Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Design's lead project architects — Don Knott, Gary Linn and Bruce Charlton — left the firm to form their own company, effective Jan. 15.

Their departure followed about 18 months after Kyle Phillips left one of the world's most ballyhooed stables of architects, a group Robert Trent Jones Jr. called "The Four Horsemen." The four worked together for 16 years. Their departure follows on the heels of the dissolution of Jones's construction division, Greenscape Ltd., on Dec. 31.

Jones, known for his attention to environmental concerns in golf construction, said he will not replace the trio, but will instead downsize his company and concentrate on designing a limited number of quality courses per year. He will retain Ty Butler, a young architect with the company, and work with projects that have "high-quality people and high-quality golf aspirations," he said.

Vice President of Operations Steve Schroeder, also left RTJ II to work with the new Knott Linn Charlton Designs.

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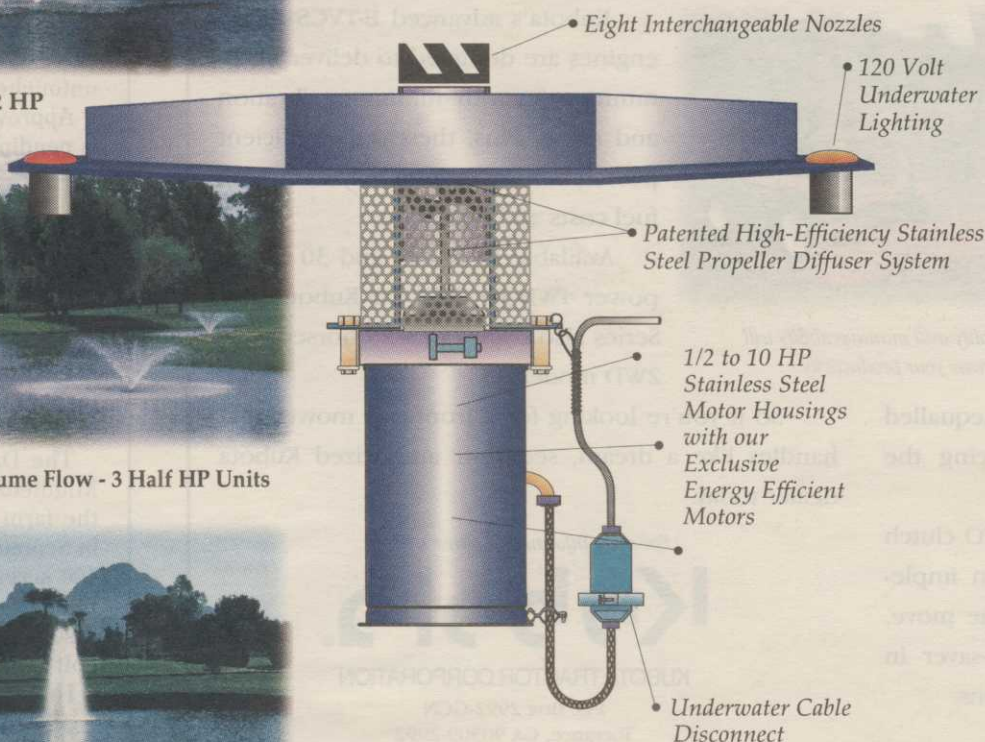
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