

BRIEFS



GEORGE GETS MASS. JOB

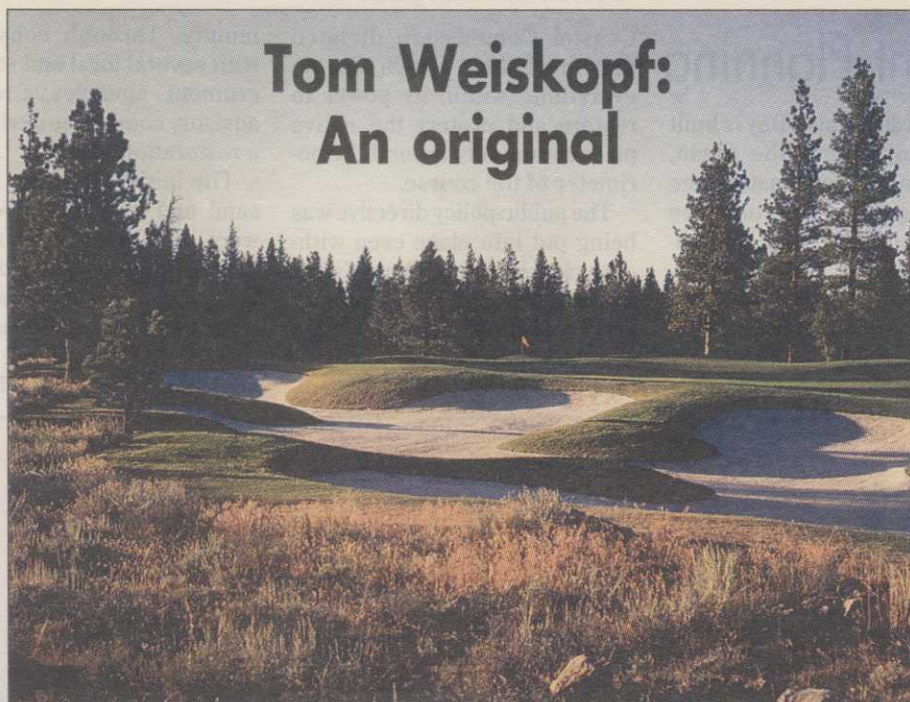
DANVERS, Mass. — WMSJ Co. Inc. has selected George Golf Design, Inc. to construct a three-hole practice facility and upgrade the existing driving range complex for Sun 'N Air golf facility. The facility will consist of three par-3 holes of 110, 200 and 170 yards, a combination of natural and artificial grass tees, and a short-game area which allows the practice of all shots within 50 yards of the hole. The third hole features a 6,000-square-foot green over water. This addition will provide an upscale golf practice and learning facility to the Boston area. Construction is under way by Quality Grassing & Services of Lithia, Fla. "This facility will provide the opportunity to teach every shot in the game," said course architect Lester George.

PLAYER INKS APPALACHIAN PROJECT

MOUNTHOPE, W.V. — Gary Player Design has been signed to design an 18-hole course as part of an extensive development near Beckley by Sun Mountain Enterprises, Inc. The project will include a hotel, outdoor amphitheater, conference center, driving range and residential components. The Sun Mountain property is situated in the Appalachian Mountains. The Player team was given the chance to study more than 2,000 available acres before it settled on the most dramatic 400 acres. The holes will be situated in and wind their way through valleys, featuring elevation changes of up to 100 feet. The design also will include numerous lakes and bunkering in Player's design characteristic. Construction of the lighted driving range is underway and the golf course is set to break ground in March. Sun Mountain Resort course opening is planned for July 2000.

ASGCA OFFERS DEVELOPMENT BROCHURE

CHICAGO — A free booklet, Golf Course Development Planning Guide, from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) is helpful to anyone taking the first steps to develop a new golf course. The 16-page brochure, with full-color illustrations and photography, covers all the key components involved in a new course project. To get a free copy, people should send a self-addressed, business-size envelope to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.



The greens complex of the Weiskopf-designed par-4, 435-yard 14th hole at Lahontan in Truckee, Calif.

When Tom Weiskopf quit the PGA Tour at 40, he was the fourth all-time money winner and sixth all-time tournament winner. In 1984 he joined Jay Morrish as a design team whose first creation, Troon Golf and Country Club in Arizona, was selected Best New Private Course in 1986 and whose Shadow Glen outside Kansas City and Forest Highlands in Arizona finished one-two in 1989. Morrish and Weiskopf went their separate ways in 1995, but Weiskopf has continued to design award-winning golf courses, most notably Loch Lomond in Scotland, already rated among the world's best. GCN Managing Editor Mark Leslie caught up with Weiskopf at his Scottsdale, Ariz., offices after the New Year.



Tom Weiskopf

Q & A

Golf Course News: Compare the satisfaction of seeing a finished course of yours to winning a Tour event.

Tom Weiskopf: The comparison would be the recognition for a lot of hard work. There is a lot of preparation that goes into tournament golf. There are a lot of determinations during four rounds of golf. And it's over a much shorter time frame than it is doing a golf course.

There is a tremendous difference. Playing tournament golf is a wisp-of-the-will existence. When you win a tournament, it is soon forgotten by the general public. Whereas when a golf course is finished and is being played, it is there for a long, long time and is in living memory for a long time.

GCN: How do you respond to grousing by golf course architects about Tour pros "jumping into the business"? Is it sour

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AMP: Examples from California

By DR. ROBERT ABBOTT

The theoretical concepts behind Adaptive Management Planning (AMP) are not difficult since it is essentially the same experimental method taught at all good universities.

The difference is that AMP is a management strategy based on information derived through experiments designed within the context of social/economic policy constraints. Putting AMP into practice is much more challenging than an experiment back in the nursery area for a new fertilizer on your favorite strain of turfgrass.

PART 2

AMP tends to involve people from a variety of disciplines, and a considerable expenditure of energy and money. The real virtue of the AMP approach is that it enables superintendents and developers to move beyond the gridlock, head-butting, red-in-the-face frustration stance with the regulatory community. AMP elevates the interactions and communications into a let's-talk-it-over mode, so that they all can come up with answers.

But AMP is also very exciting because of the rewards of solving a tough problem, and achieving real understanding through a community effort that tends to create long-term professional relationships.

Here in Northern California there are many examples of AMP at golf courses. Two striking examples are observed at Pebble

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Dyes designing 4th in Dominican

By PETER BLAIS

LA ROMANA, Dominican Republic — Architects Pete and Alice Dye are building their fourth course here at the Fanjul resort, home of Casa de Campo (Teeth of the Dog), one of the Dyes' best-known layouts.

Altos de Chevon, which means high above the (Chevon) river, began construction a year ago and is scheduled to open by fall 2000. It will be the third Dye-designed resort course here, joining Casa de Campo and The Links. Casa de Campo opened in 1971 and hosted the world amateur championship in 1974. La Romana Country Club, also a Dye project on the resort grounds, is a private layout.

Despite the devastating effects of last fall's Hurricane Mitch, course work quickly resumed. The green pads were under construction in early January, according to Alice Dye.

"We didn't have rain, like Puerto Rico," Dye remembered of Mitch. "We had much higher winds. They were clocked at 225 miles per hour. It denuded all the trees."

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Wild Horse Golf Club forecast to be one of state's best.

Nebraskan neighbors build together

By MARK LESLIE

GOTHENBURG, Neb. — In Nebraska, "community" takes on a whole new meaning. And "community-owned golf course" does not necessarily mean "municipal golf course." Such is the case at Wild Horse Golf Club here, where more than 200 people not only hold shares in the course but probably also got down and dirty building it.

"I tell you what: These [Nebraska] people work together to help each other out," said Dan Proctor, who co-designed Wild Horse with partner Dave Axland of Bunker Hill Golf Course Design and Construction. "If somebody needs something, they go and help them. Local people did most of the tilling. After their work, they'd bring a tractor over to the site. Some

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Adaptive Management Planning

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Beach and Squaw Creek golf courses. There are undoubtedly many other examples around the county. I would like to hear about them.

THE PEBBLE BEACH PLAN

Ted Horton, at Pebble Beach Co., has managed a classical example of an AMP program.

The Links at Spanish Bay is built directly adjacent to the ocean, with a thin strip of coastal dune sand along the oceanfront. The coastal dune native plant community is fragile and many species are listed as threatened or on the endangered species list.

The Spanish Bay Resource Management Plan and California

Coastal Commission dictated that the Pebble Beach Co. do everything within its power to restore and protect the native plant community around the perimeter of the course.

The public-policy directive was being put into place even without a clear understanding of what would need to be done in terms of agronomic practices to achieve the objective of a sustainable coastal dune plant com-

munity. Through consultation with several local and state government agencies, a technical advisory committee devised with a restoration plan.

The initial efforts to bring in sand and replant native plants were only marginally successful. Continuous monitoring revealed that the plants were not holding up well in the sand that was used. This is where the creativity came into play. They did

not just give up, but planted other native species of the coastal scrub community that were also considered species of special concern. The coastal scrub plants have done much better, but they are also fragile.

Monitoring revealed that even a few people walking on the dunes had very lasting impacts. So they adapted again and put in a wooden boardwalk along the dunes to contain and delimit the foot traffic on dune sands.

THE LAKE TAHOE PROBLEM

Michael Carlson, superintendent at the Resort at Squaw Creek near Lake Tahoe, Calif., is also actively involved in an adaptive management type of program. Lake Tahoe is often considered the crown jewel of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Water quality is a matter of tremendous concern to local residents, the tourism industry and the regional water quality control boards.

For decades, heroic efforts have been made to prevent nutrient loading and eutrophication. Squaw Creek runs right through the Resort at Squaw Creek Golf Course, which flows into the Truckee River. The original design work stipulated a very limited set of fertilizers and no pesticides. Weeds are controlled by burning and mechanical removal.

One of the results of a management regime with very limited fertilizer options, was the progressive increase in the amount of clover on the golf course. Clover flourished because it does not require nitrate-based fertilizer inputs. Now the resort is running experiments on test plots to determine if spot spraying with herbicides will result in any of the pesticide entering the ground water or surface-water runoff.

Ground-water quality is monitored regularly and a six-member Technical Review Committee evaluates the results. The programmatic emphasis is on monitoring, the experimental approach to problem solving, and working smoothly with a regulatory committee that reflects an articulate public's concerns for the environment.

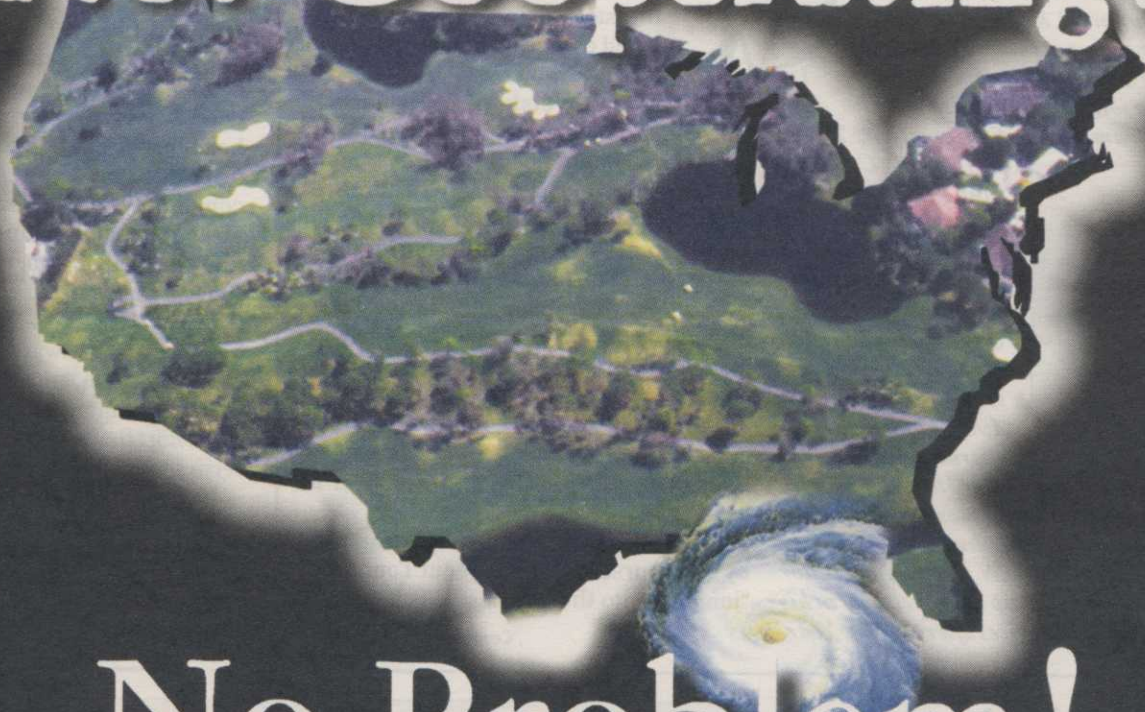
This is the second in a three-part series about Adaptive Management Planning (AMP). Readers with questions, comments or other examples of AMP are encouraged to communicate directly with Dr. Abbott, who will incorporate these into the final article of this series.



Dr. Robert Abbott

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