

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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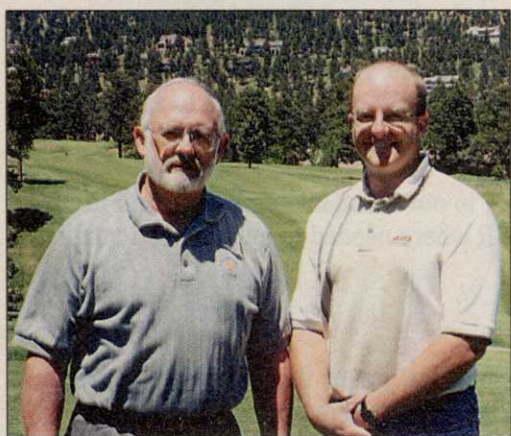
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Bermudagrass Report

Existing varieties improved, new types are on the developmental horizon.. 17-19



MOUNTAIN MEN

Dick Phelps, left, and son Rick have earned much of their reputation designing golf courses in the mountains. But they have also left their mark on the lowlands, and continue to do so. See Q&A with Dick Phelps, page 21.

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Of ants, flies and other friendly pests

By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Ants that devour the eggs and larvae of cutworms, grubs and other pest insects. Parasitic flies that kill mole crickets. The risks, or lack thereof, associated with golfer exposure to pesticides.

The U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section will reveal the results of investigations into these and many other matters in a soon-to-be-released report on the latest USGA-funded research projects. The research covers a gamut of topics from course construction practices and integrated turfgrass management to turfgrass germplasm enhancement, the environmental impact of golf and the Wildlife Links Program.

But key to the entire program are naturally occurring biological controls, which are becoming more

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Sports & Fitness expanding its portfolio

By PETER BLAIS

MANCHESTER, Mo. — It's going to be a busy summer for Sports & Fitness Management, the Missouri-based golf and health club management firm.

Sports & Fitness will open Fred Couples/Gene Bates-designed Stone-Bridge Golf Club in Bossier City, La., later this summer and recently agreed to purchase Garden Valley Golf Resort in Tyler, Texas. The firm is also about to break ground on a Gary Kern-designed course near St. Louis called Aberdeen and is negotiating a three-course purchase with a management firm operating facilities in Louisiana and Texas, according to Vice President

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Ocean Trails Golf Course suffers landslide between the 12th and 18th fairways, losing a bulldozer into the chasm.

Oceanside course trying to stay out of the water

By ANDREW OVERBECK

RANCH PALOS VERDES, Calif. — Southern California's answer to Pebble Beach suffered a massive setback June 2 when a 200-by 400-foot section of the 18th hole shifted out 50 feet from the rest of the course, leaving behind a 60-to 90-foot-deep ravine between the 18th and 12th holes.

The section of the course that shifted sat on an ancient landslide, which was bisected by an aging Los Angeles County sewer line. It is widely speculated that a leak in that sewer line touched off the land movement.

The Ocean Trails Golf Course, designed by Pete Dye, was only weeks away from opening and develop-

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Tests reveal good & bad of ultradwarfs

By A. OVERBECK

BELTSVILLE, Md. — As ultradwarf Bermudagrass continues to find its way onto golf course greens across the United States, independent research and on-site testing suggest that best management practices for these "super dwarfs" are radically different than for standard Bermudas.

In cooperation with the United States Golf Association and the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is currently in the second year of a five year ultradwarf test at eight courses across the

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WEISKOPF BUSY IN MICHIGAN

Cedar River Golf Club at Shanty Creek joins The Legend, Schuss Mountain Golf Club and Summit Golf Club at the four-season golf and ski resort. See story, page 26.

Pebble Beach megasale being worked out

MONTEREY, Calif. — Pebble Beach has changed hands for the fourth time this decade. A group of investors that includes Arnold Palmer, former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, actor Clint Eastwood, former United Airlines CEO Richard Ferris and General Electric Pensions agreed June 17 to purchase

the Pebble Beach golf resort for \$820 million.

Pebble Beach was bought for \$841 million in 1990 by Japanese businessman Minoru Isutani, who turned around two years later and sold it to Taiheiyo Club, Inc., a Tokyo-based resort company, for

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First ClubCorp/Golden Bear project begins

ATLANTA — Habersham Investment & Development Corp., the developer of BirchRiver, has finalized negotiations with ClubCorp/Golden Bear, paving the way for development of the Nicklaus Golf Club at BirchRiver. Construction has begun on the championship links at the mixed-use development located in Dahlonega.

The Nicklaus Golf Club at BirchRiver represents the first course to be developed under the partnership formed in late 1998 between Dallas-based ClubCorp of America and Golden Bear International, Inc. of North Palm Beach, Fla., which will develop, own and operate BirchRiver's signature Jack Nicklaus golf course and related facilities.

"We are thrilled about the naming of the course. We know Jack Nicklaus will design a great golf course at BirchRiver," said Pete Calabro, president of Habersham Investment & Development Corp., which is developing the north Georgia mountain community in partnership with Owens Valley Farm, L.P.

"The golf course will run through the beautiful Chestatee River valley, winding through some spectacular mature trees," said Nicklaus, whose company, Nicklaus Design, has been retained to design the 18-hole course. "This is just one of those rare and exciting pieces of property, and it is our challenge to enhance and complement what nature gave us. The end result should be a golf course that is both fun and challenging, and hopefully a course golfers will walk away from with some special memories."

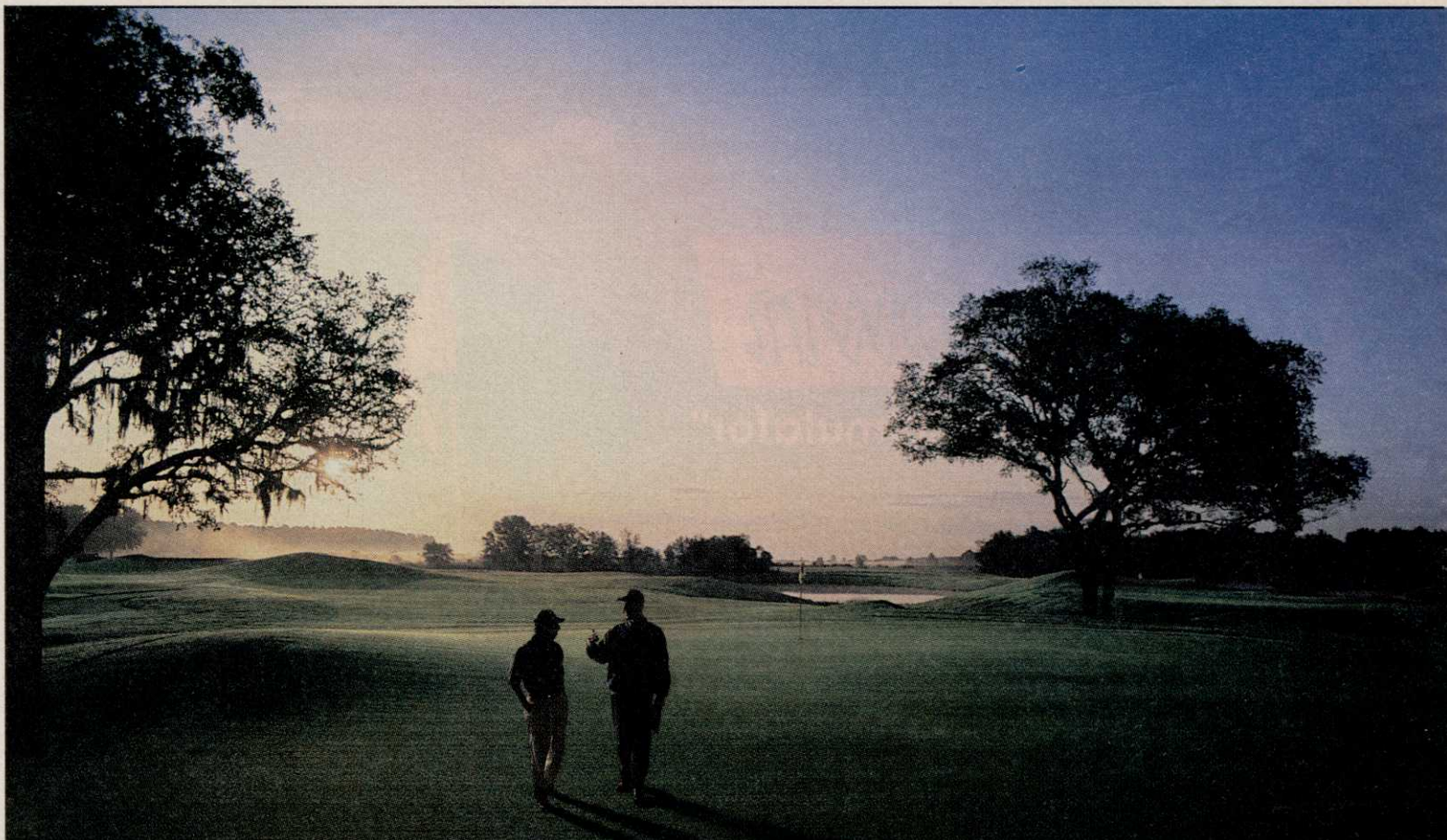
Development of the Nicklaus Golf Club at BirchRiver is slated to coincide with the residential development. The course is scheduled to be completed in late summer of 2000, according to Dave Richey, senior vice presi-

dent of ClubCorp.

"The golf course itself provides enormous potential," Nicklaus added. "BirchRiver will be a core golf course, which is a bit of a rarity in today's modern design. The routing of the golf course will afford us the potential for numerous and unique hole strategies. Yet, when homes

are built adjacent to the golf course, they should enjoy some spectacular views of the course and valley."

Jack Nicklaus, center, discusses design plans for the Nicklaus Golf Club at BirchRiver with, left to right, the Habersham development team of Kris Krebs, Garry Osley, Pete Calabro and Bob Button.



IRRIGATION RENOVATION IS HIS SPECIALTY BUT LISTENING IS HIS STRONG POINT

Pebble Beach sold

Continued from page 1

\$501 million — a \$340 million loss. Under the Lone Cypress Co., Taiheiyo Club holds a 75-percent stake in the company and Sumitomo Credit Services holds the other 25 percent.

The property includes the Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill, Spanish Bay and Old Del Monte golf courses and two luxury hotels. Another 18-hole course is planned. The group has no plans to significantly alter the operations philosophy of Pebble Beach but is pushing forward plans to develop an additional 300 home sites on the property.

The sale is being financed by Bank of America and is expected to be finalized by July 31.

Toro distributors are experienced renovation specialists. And with experience comes the knowledge that listening is the most important part of a system renovation. After all, you know your course better than anyone. Once you've shared your plans, goals and concerns, your Toro distributor will work closely with you during every step of the renovation process. Then, you can count on them to be there throughout the life of your irrigation system. The world's number one irrigation renovation experts are ready to listen when you're ready to talk. Call your Toro distributor today.

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