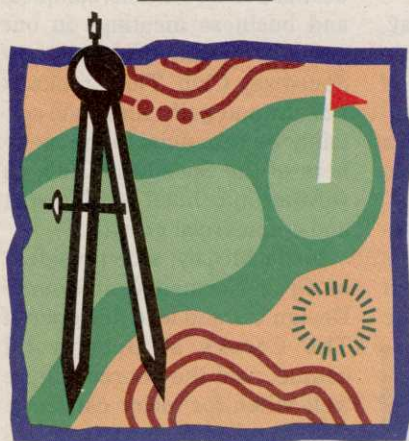


BRIEFS



BOOK ADDRESSES ENV'L ISSUES

CHICAGO — The Environmental Committee of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has produced a new edition of "An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development." The 48-page booklet was first introduced in 1992 as a reference tool for those involved in planning or remodeling golf courses. The fully illustrated book addresses ways golf course architects, superintendents, builders, developers, owners and others are working to create and maintain courses in concert with environment. The book also contains specific checklists for reference during the permitting and overall development process. To obtain a copy people may send a check for \$12 to: ASGCA, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

CAVERLY FIRM A CHARTER MEMBER

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Golf Course Construction, Inc. of Howell, Mich., has become the 27th Charter Member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA). Glenn Caverly founded Golf Course Construction in 1989. It joined the GCBA as a builder member in 1991 and has been a certified golf course builder since 1994. It is one of the host companies for the GCBA's Stick for Kids junior golf program, and most recently was a sponsor for the 1998 GCBA summer golf tournament. Caverly has been on the GCBA board of directors since 1996 and serves on the Builder Certification Committee.

ASGCA ELEVATES SIX ASSOCIATES

CHICAGO — Six associates were elected regular members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) at its recent annual meeting in Charleston. They are Chris Cochran of North Palm Beach, Fla.; Chris Commins of Jacksonville, Fla.; Perry Dye of Denver, Colo.; Les Furber of Alberta, Canada; Neil Haworth of Honolulu; and Ray Hearn of Plymouth, Mich. The new regular members have been associate members in good standing for three or more years, have completed the final requirements for full membership and have been approved by the ASGCA board of governors.



O'Meara, title notches on his belt, eyes design

Mark O'Meara, winner of 23 professional tournaments worldwide—including the 1998 Masters and British Open—has teamed up with IMG Design's Brit Stenson and the ClubLink Corp. to design his first golf course at the Grandview Inn in Huntsville, Ontario. While O'Meara has consulted on several golf course designs, this will be his first signature layout. Golf Course News recently caught up with Mark between the Masters and his departure to play in the Chunichi Crowns in Togo, Japan to talk about his first venture into golf course design.

GCN: Has design work been something that you've always wanted to do?

O'Meara: Actually it has. I remember in high school when I was playing on the golf team, I would sketch out different golf holes with bunkers and greens. I've always had a fascination with golf course design. And having played for 19 years as a professional, while I do not classify myself as an expert, I've learned a lot from playing all over the world and playing with all different types of players.

GCN: What made you decide to jump into the design business now?

O'Meara: I felt like at 42 years of age, my playing career, while still busy now, will be slowing down in the next couple years. There wasn't any reason why I shouldn't take a look at golf design to see if this is something that I wanted to do.

GCN: You won two majors last year, what impact did that have on your decision to design golf courses?

O'Meara: For the last ten years, people have been trying to get me to design courses. I have consulted on some, like the TPC in Los Angeles. But since I won the Masters and the British Open, people have been asking me a lot more, the exposure helps.



Mark O'Meara, left, and Bruce Simmonds, president and CEO of ClubLink, celebrate the announcement of O'Meara's first design at the Grandview Inn in Huntsville, Ontario.

GCN: Given your extensive international experience, do you plan on designing courses worldwide?

O'Meara: Winning the Open has been a stepping stone to international work and golf course design. I've also played a lot of golf around the world, more so than other American players. From that standpoint, having a name like O'Meara and having Irish background, there is the possibility of doing a course in Ireland and perhaps other places in Europe and Asia as well.

GCN: How have your experiences on the Tour influenced your design philosophy? How will you design a course for high handicappers?

O'Meara: Playing on the PGA Tour and internationally has given me the opportunity to play a lot of the world's great golf

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Forty miles west of Washington, D.C., Bull Run Country Club opens in late June.

Jacobson's Bull Run opens in June

HAYMARKET, Va. — The creator of the acclaimed Augustine Golf Club in suburban Washington, D.C., has designed another daily-fee course here at the foot of Bull Run Mountain 40 miles west of the nation's capital.

Rick Jacobson of Jacobson Golf Course Design used the heavily wooded and naturally rolling terrain of northern Virginia to give Bull Run Country Club the traditional look and feel of a course born decades ago. At the same time, he employed contemporary design principles to create a memorable course.

"The course can be set up to be challenging enough for tournament play, but it's user-friendly from the front and middle tees," Jacobson said. "The fairways have nice landing areas and there are bail-out areas around the greens."

The course had a "soft" opening on April 1. Nine holes opened last fall. A grand opening is planned for late June.

"Rick did a great job," said Director of Golf Larry Spielberg. "We've had people tell us it's the best golf course in the area. There's not a weak hole out there. From the time you tee off, the course just keeps getting better and better."

The par-72 course measures 6,961 yards from the back tees, with Bull Run Mountain providing a dramatic background. Water comes into play on nine holes, thanks to three lakes. There are 73 bunkers in addition to streams, environmentally sensitive wetlands and ravines.

The practice area includes driving range, putting green, chipping area and sand bunker.

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Camelback GC undergoes \$12M renovation

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Camelback Golf Club at Marriott's Camelback Inn has broken ground on a \$12.1 million enhancement project that will include a complete re-design of the Padre Course and practice range, along with an expanded clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant.

During the renovation period, through Dec. 31, the Indian Bend course will remain open and a temporary clubhouse will serve food and beverages on a limited basis.

The renovation of the Padre course will be designed and managed by course architect Arthur Hills.

According to Hills project manager Chris Wilczynski, "The golfing experience at the new Padre golf course will be very unique to the Southwest. The course is not within a desert setting like most golf courses in this area. It is a parkland setting with large mature trees and lush green turf."

The finished product will be a classic design with strategic bunkering, traditional square tees and very subtle land forms. Every hole will feature a new green, tees and bunkers. While some holes will maintain their current routing, others will be re-routed to increase the overall playability, competitiveness and appeal. In addition to lengthening the course from 6,500 yards to 6,800 yards, three new lakes will be added to create extra beauty and challenge.

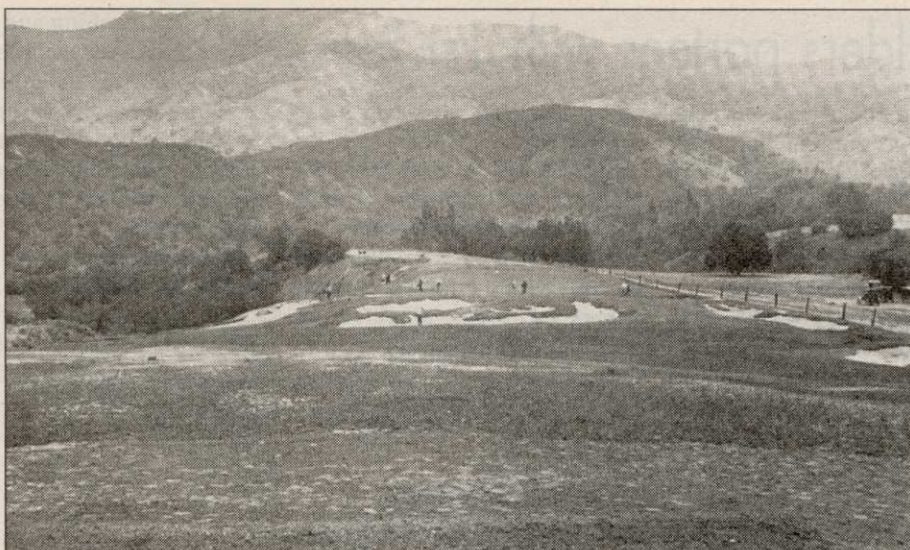
Ojai Valley reclaiming great Thomas par-3

Continued from page 1

Built in 1923 by the legendary Thomas, the Ojai course was immediately hailed as "the cream of Southern California golf courses." During World War II, the U.S. Army took over the resort as a training camp, stationing 1,000 troops here from 1942-44. The U.S. Navy occupied the resort as an "R&R" facility for officers from 1944-45.

Before returning the property to private ownership at the end of the war, the government sold off the last of the Quonset huts and platform tents that had occupied the front nine of the course, and attempted to restore the links.

Unfortunately, it did not rebuild it according to Thomas' original design. Today's holes No. 2 and 5 replaced two holes originally positioned along the edges of the property. One of these holes, the original 3rd, was known to be one of Thomas' favorite par-3s and was built to resemble the famous 3rd hole at Pine



Ojai Valley Golf Club's famous 190-yard 3rd hole is being reclaimed. The semi-punch-bowl green has a deep ravine at the left and out of bounds at the immediate right.

Valley Golf Club.

The Ojai hole was featured in three golf course architecture books: *Golf Architecture in America* by Thomas, *The Captain* by Geoff Shakelford, and *The Links* by Thomas Hunter.

Today, more than 50 years since these holes were lost and forgotten, careful research by Greenslit has brought them once again to light. Using old photographs in Thomas' book, he found the

precise location of the original 3rd and 4th holes.

Ben Crenshaw and Greenslit agree on the merits of re-introducing the "lost holes."

Reconstruction on the two lost holes (which will become Nos. 7 and 8) has begun, and an opening date is planned for late fall. Ultimately, the front and back nines will be switched, improving the overall balance of the course.

O'Meara excited, searching for personal style

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courses. Also, in golf tournaments and pro-ams I get to play with amateurs quite often, so I get to see what would work on a golf course for different players. That experience is invaluable to being able to design courses that everyone enjoys playing. If anything I will probably lean that way because the majority of the tourna-

In the modern era, Tom Fazio, Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer have all done wonderful courses and are the people that I have learned the most from.

ments that I've won have been pro-ams, like the Disney and AT&T. I enjoy the company of my amateur partners I would definitely want the golf course to be playable for all handicaps.

GCN: Which architects have provided you with inspiration?

O'Meara: When you look at the greats in the game when it comes to architectural work—Tillinghast, Mackenzie—the things that were great is that they got to work with really tremendous pieces of property. As we go along, land is more expensive and some of the sites today are not as dramatic and nice as they used to be.

Into the modern era, Tom Fazio, Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer have all done wonderful courses and are the people that I have learned the most from. At Augusta this year, I saw Tom Fazio and he told me that if I needed any help that I could feel free to call him. He is a class individual. If it wasn't me and I was doing a development, Tom Fazio would be the first on my list.

GCN: How do you respond to the animosity of other designers towards signature designs?

O'Meara: There is a lot of competition out there. For me, it is not my only form of making a living, it is more of a childhood dream. I'm a golf course architect, more so from the knowledge that I've got from playing courses. Let's face it, I don't have an architectural degree. But people that know me know that I'm an organized person. I know that it is a big business and that it isn't easy. That's why I'm taking it slowly and making sure that the Grandview course will be very special.

GCN: Will there be an "O'Meara" style?

O'Meara: That is something that will develop over time. As a new designer, I have to first look at the site and look at the character of the site. Then I have to make it fit by asking myself, what kind of course could this be? But I haven't gotten to the point where I have one fixed idea of a direction that I want to go in. I'd rather go and work with the land and see how to get the best 18 holes in. When I play golf, I like to play a course that has unique and distinct holes, and is yet still playable. So when I get done playing the holes, they stick in your mind. Golfers are going to spend 4-5 hours out there, so they should be able to take in the aesthetic beauty.

GCN: What are you working with at the Grandview site?

O'Meara: They gave us the option of building on some of the best places on the 850-acre site. You have a lot of foliage, a tremendous amount of rock, some water and dramatic elevation changes. There will be some great waterfalls and other water features.

GCN: What kind of challenges will the site present?

O'Meara: We will be doing some blast-

ing, but we are going to try and work around it. We will also have to work around marshland to keep all that environmentally intact. The site is good, there is no reason to disturb it.

GCN: What kind of design team have you put together?

O'Meara: I'll be working with Brit Stenson, who has been in the business for about 25 years. With his knowledge

'There is a lot of [course design] competition out there. For me, it is not my only form of making a living, it is more of a childhood dream.'

and my eye we are going to do something good together.

GCN: How will you fit design work in with your playing schedule?

O'Meara: Brit and I are going to talk as much as possible and I am going to try and visit the site as often as possible in each part of construction to make sure that we are going in the right direction. I go through Toronto a lot this year playing in different events. I will be up there five to eight times at least. If I am anywhere near the place I am going to stop in and see what's going on.

GCN: In ten years, how many O'Meara design courses will be out there?

O'Meara: In the next two years I will compete at a good clip and then I'll be 44 years old and my playing commitments will start to taper off. Then, I will get more into design, but right now I will take on two to three per year. I will balance it right now to make sure that this is something that I really want to do. Internationally, I'm looking at doing some courses in Ireland, and new designs may be materializing in California, Florida and Utah.

RYANGOLF BUSY ON PROJECTS

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — RyanGolf is renovating the greens for Bonita Bay Properties on its Marsh Course here. The renovation and original layout was designed by Arthur Hills. Plans call for construction to be completed in late summer. Meanwhile, RyanGolf has been awarded the construction and site development for US Home Golf Course Community's Cedar Hammock in Naples. Designed by Paul Azinger and Gordon Lewis, the 18-hole course will be the centerpiece of a new community. Construction started in April, with completion scheduled for November.

Photo courtesy of Sleeping Bear Press

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