

## Builders association tops 200-membership mark

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAAs) grew by more than 25 percent in 1998, adding 46 construction companies and suppliers to bring its total membership to 212.

"And we added 12 more in January and February," said Phil Arnold, executive vice president

of the 27-year-old organization.

"I think it's a sign that the golf course construction industry is maturing," he added. "Naturally I'd like to think our association has had a lot to do with fostering that process, but we've also benefited from the explosive growth in the golf industry as a whole. There are some huge general

contracting companies that have been building golf courses for years, but as a small part of their overall business. Those companies are now coming to our association."

A typical such company is Ranger Golf, a division of Ranger Construction Industries, Inc. of West Palm Beach, Fla., which,

in turn, is a subsidiary of Vecellio & Grogan Inc., of Beckley, W.Va., a 40-year-old diversified general contracting firm.

Ranger Construction built its first course, PGA National GC in West Palm Beach, in 1979. By early 1998, the firm had completed 35 projects with many of the world's leading architects and decided to form a separate division devoted exclusively to

golf course construction.

"We are active in the major trade associations of our other businesses, so we looked for the central association in golf and that was the GCBAAs," said President Michael Slade. "Not only were we interested in exposure to potential customers through the [GCBAAs membership] Directory, but we were impressed by the group's education and certification programs. They really seem to have a clear view of the big picture."

Despite its credentials, Ranger joined as one of the association's 176 associate members late in 1998, while its application for Builder Member status is reviewed and verified by association officials.

"It means something to be a Builder Member," said Arnold, "and the board of directors wants to keep it that way."

As of March 1, 48 companies had achieved Builder Member status, of which 26 are Certified Golf Course Builders.

At the other end of the spectrum is Oliphant Golf Construction of Madison, Wis., founded by Mike Oliphant, who struck out on his own 2-1/2 years after working with Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., of Lincoln, Neb., one of the premier course builders in the nation. His mentor was LUI President Bill Kubly, current GCBAAs president.

"I'm a builder and that's the organization for my industry," Oliphant said. He noted the international exposure through his listing in the GCBAAs Membership Directory and pointed out the association's educational and networking opportunities.

Typical of the new Associate Members from the supplier ranks is Firestone Building Products Co. of Carmel, Ind., represented by Bill Jones.

"We manufacture pond liners and we recently decided to enter the golf market," Jones said. "Where else would we go to meet and work with potential customers, get to know the architects, and get continuing information about the industry from the perspective of our market?"

### ASGCA REVISES BOOKLET

CHICAGO — The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has produced a new edition of "An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development." The booklet is for those 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. To obtain a copy send a check for \$12 to: ASGCA, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

## We're making history (again).

After four seasons with FREEDOM II, you will hold these truths to be self evident: •FREEDOM II Kentucky Bluegrass is one of the quickest to emerge after planting. •FREEDOM II's vibrant green color in spring is a welcome addition to any mixture. •FREEDOM II holds up to heavy wear throughout the year—in parks and lawns, on athletic fields and golf courses. •FREEDOM II covers new ground in worry-free maintenance.



You first chose Freedom. Now choose the tried and true blue...

## FREEDOM II KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

ARKANSAS VALLEY SEED  
4625 Colorado Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80216  
303-320-7500

G.W. HILL OF INDIANA  
12071 North State Road 37  
Elwood, IN 46036  
765-557-4455

JACKLIN SEED  
5300 W. Riverbend Ave.  
Post Falls, ID 83854  
800-688-SEED

NATIONAL SEED CO.  
5300 Katrine Ave.  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
630-963-8787