

\$6M renews beach

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Senior Vice President of Project Developments George Blonsky said at the time. "We will continue to work with representatives from USFWA and SCDNR to monitor the progress of the osprey as well as other wildlife concerns like the tea turtles."

Great Lakes Dredge and Dock's restoration project, overseen by Applied Technology and Management Inc. of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., was an amazing process and a pretty satisfying accomplishment," said Blonsky. "First, you had to see Daufuskie Island without its beaches, the ocean eroding into the actual headlands, live oak trees falling into the ocean — even a couple of houses had fallen down on the beach."

The huge pipeline, hooked up in 30-foot links, sometimes ran 200 feet under the ocean. On the barge, three full-sized locomotive engines pushed the sand toward the beach. A mile from the beach, a booster pump kicked in.

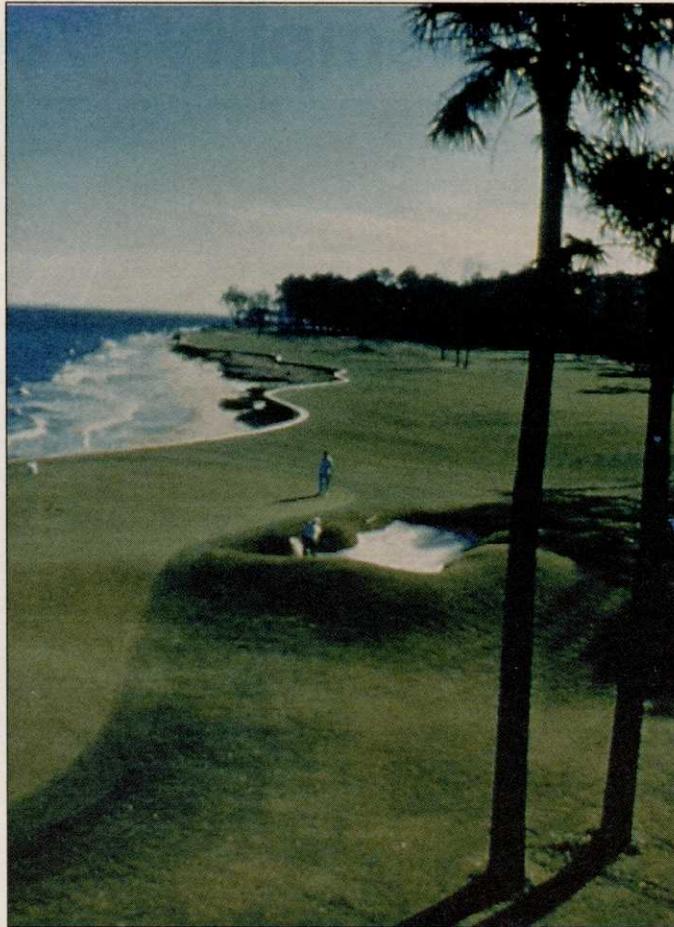
When the sand reached the beach, it literally flew out of the pipe, according to Vice President of Sales and Marketing Jack Bickart.

Three hundred-yard stretches of beach were renourished at a time until the entire 3-1/2 miles was restored in this project that took 60 days to complete, working 24 hours a day.

"To me, the most amazing fact was the commitment of \$6 million by ClubCorp to pay for this," said Blonsky. "If they had not paid for this private project, none of this would have happened."

The beach project was part of a \$22-million capital improvement campaign by owner Club Resorts that also included \$1 million in renovations at the Melrose course and the Tom Weiskopf/Jay Morrish-designed Bloody Point Course.

Bunkers were refurbished and a two-row irrigation



The par-5 18th hole on the Melrose Course at Daufuskie Island Club & Resort was threatened by beach erosion (right) before a "renourishment" project returned 1.4 million cubic yards of sand to the beach, which extends 3-1/2 miles.

system and cart paths were installed on the Melrose Course. New cart barns were built for both courses, and Bloody Point received a new maintenance building and clubhouse.

Bridges a major feat

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"You have to have rock at either end for this procedure," Cameron said. "If not, you could put a load in the middle and it might pop out of the ground. There is tremendous uplift force to support the bridge."

The new bridge allows 18,000 pounds per axle, and Cameron said his company drove a 3-ton backhoe and other equipment over the span.

Construction consumed eight months, including two months of pre-construction work and two months of finish work, like pouring a half-inch of polyester concrete with aggregate over the bridgewalk.

Landscapes Unlimited President Bill Kubly, whose firm built the course, was thankful for the bridges, because without them, he would not have been able to build several holes on the far side of the canyon.

"The only way to finish those holes was to get water there to irrigate them," Kubly said. "That is one of the most dramatic sites you'll see for a golf course. Wonderful bunkers and golf holes. It has an opportunity to be one of the best new courses of the year and one of the best for years to come."

The course had a soft opening Oct. 9. A gated community and private course, The Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe encompasses more than 550 acres of rolling hills, deep canyons, creeks and natural vegetation.

The project started a decade back, but came to a halt eight years ago. After two changes in ownership, construction began again under the eye of Lennar Communities, the second-largest home builder in the country.

Architects exceeding letter, spirit of regs

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in 1992, this booklet introduces town councils, permitting boards and other regulatory committees to the environmental issues and process inherent to golf course design and construction.

Education and communication are still the best methods to efficiently create and implement a development process that satisfies the needs and concerns of both developers and regulatory groups. Most ASGCA members would probably agree that progress toward this end should include developing dialogue to recognize important local and regional issues.

In an effort to initiate this dialogue, the ASGCA has teamed with officials at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In the last few months, they have collaborated to distribute more than 500 copies of "An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development" within the EPA organization. Activities such as these indicate a commitment to open communication.

Regulations, by definition, set the environmental parameters concerning the environmental issues and land development of a site. In order for regulations to be effective they should welcome input concerning their application and effectiveness.

First, more quantification on the environmental characteristics involved would contribute to better design solutions. For instance, a non-functioning, manmade wetland abandoned years ago may carry the exact same restrictions as a naturally occurring wetland. How can different levels of environmental settings be delineated in an appropriate manner?

Second, the regulatory process should involve more people familiar, if not well versed, in golf course development. This would create a situation in which innovative solutions are discussed with the hope of attaining a more environmentally beneficial goal.

Innovative design solutions may not always exactly match the rigidity of regulations. However, upon closer examination,

they may still exceed them in spirit, creating a better method of development.

The golf industry continues to keep the environment top of mind through research, communication and education. Golf course architects are striving to embrace the environmental issues involved in golf course development.

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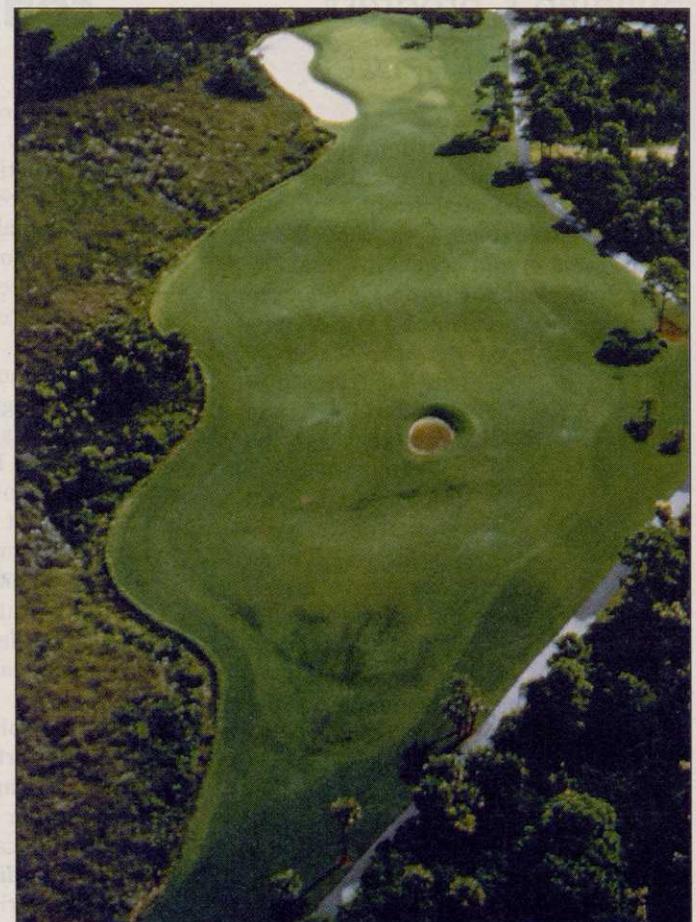
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NEW 'ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH' BOOKLET AVAILABLE

The 48-page "An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development" can be obtained by sending a check payable to the ASGCA for \$10 (per copy) to the following address: American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601. Valuable information is also available on line at the ASGCA Web site <http://www.golfdesign.org>.



SKILLFUL, ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE

The par-4 16th hole at Arthur Hills-designed Bonia Bay (Fla.) Golf Club is a prime example of skillfully laying out a golf course in an environmentally sensitive area.