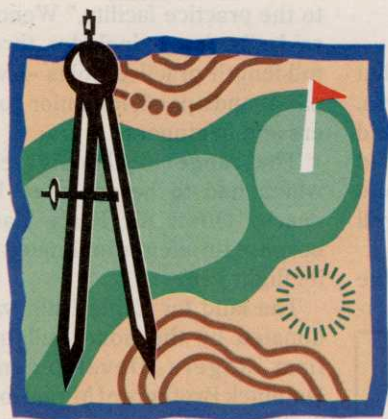


BRIEFS



THE ROCK GETS A \$3-MILLION FACELIFT

GREENVILLE, S.C. — The partners of Waterhead LLC recently unveiled plans for a major renovation and construction of the former Table Rock Golf Community. Under the new name, The Rock at Jocassee, the community is undergoing a \$43-million development over the next eight years to upgrade and build new roads, expand recreational amenities, develop homes, and improve the cornerstone of the property, a championship style golf course called The Rock. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains on highway 11 in Pickens County, S.C., The Rock at Jocassee is a complete, year-round family retreat. The developers are investing more than \$3 million to reshape and improve hole design, build new tee boxes and make the course entertaining for players of all ages and skill levels.

DAVIS LOVE III OPENS WINDERMERE

ATLANTA — The South Forsyth community officially opened its Davis Love III signature golf course at Windermere this summer. The 18-hole, daily-fee golf course, designed by 1997 PGA champion and Georgia resident Davis Love III, and his brother, Mark, embraces the natural terrain and scenic woodlands of the Windermere Valley. The course includes many challenging hills and ridges. Several of the picturesque holes are lined by forested areas. The Windermere Golf Club will feature a full-service pro shop, a practice range and greens, the Plateau Bar & Grill, and a veranda overlooking holes 10 and 18.

ORANGE BROOK SPIFFS UP BACK NINE

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Quality Grassing & Services Inc. is working with Sanford Golf Designs, Golf Hollywood, and the city of Hollywood on the Back Nine West renovation project at Orange Brook Golf Course, a 36-hole municipal facility opened in 1936. Rough shaping has been completed on holes 10, 11 and 12. The renovation includes new designs of all green complexes, including all contours and slopes, new bunkers with drainage, and the installation of USGA "spec" greens. Quality's Tifdwarf will be installed on all greens and collars. The course should be ready for play by early October.

Old Brockway first 9-hole western course to be certified by Audubon

By DOUG SAUNDERS

TAHOE CITY, Calif. — Since 1992, when Audubon International's Sanctuary Program was launched, more than 2,500 courses nationwide have been certified as members. The concept of designing and maintaining courses in an environmentally friendly way continues to gain strength, but so far only three courses in the Sanctuary registry are 9-hole facilities.

These smaller layouts, usually family-owned, are typically run with tighter budgets. While many of them are ecologically superb, they haven't seen great value in investing the time, money and toil required to obtain Audubon International's stamp of approval.

Old Brockway Golf Course, located along the shores of Lake Tahoe in the High Sierra of California, is one small course that saw value in making the effort. When it obtained full Audubon certification recently, it became the first 9-hole course west of the Mississippi to do so.

Why did Old Brockway's high command decide to shoot for

GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT

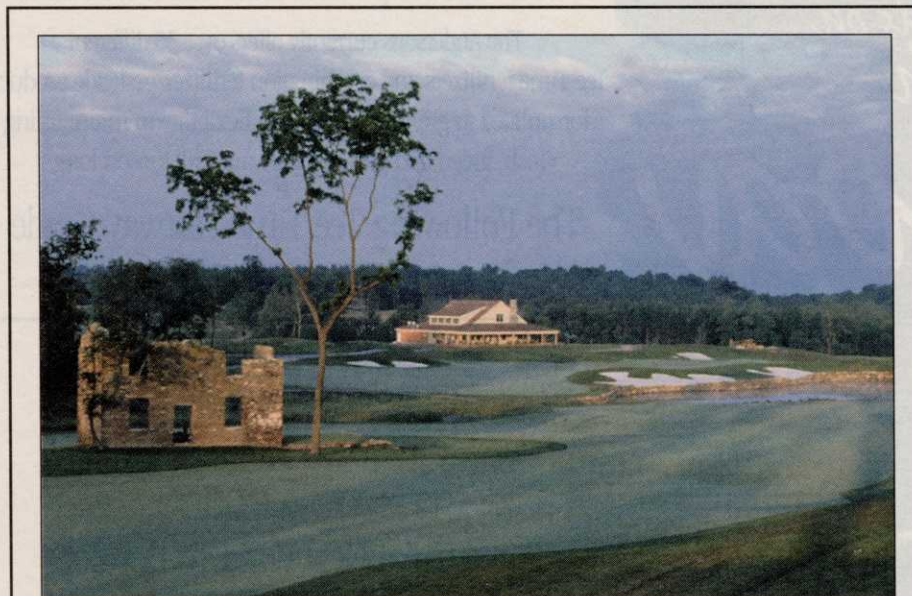


The 8th hole at Old Brockway Golf Club, located on the shores of Lake Tahoe

certification? What sort of benefits did they envision? The answers became clear once operations began to upgrade the 76-year-old course in an area with some of the most stringent environmental controls in the country.

Silver magnate Harry Comstock — of the legendary Comstock

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ERNIE ELS UNVEILS FIRST DESIGN

IJAMSVILLE, Md. — Whiskey Creek Golf Club, the first golf course designed by two-time U.S. Open champion Ernie Els, opened here outside of Washington, DC June 17. Els collaborated with course architect J. Michael Poellot on the layout, which features springs, streams, stone walls, wetlands, rock outcroppings, broad meadows, pine forests and dramatic views of the Catoctin Mountains. Pictured above is the strategic 18th hole, a par-5 that forks around the stone ruins of an old farmhouse.

Tobago Plantations opening in December

By TREVOR LEDGER

TOBAGO, West Indies — December 15 has been inked for the unveiling of Tobago Plantations Golf Club, designed and managed by PGA Golf Management of Bristol, United Kingdom.

"This is such a beautiful site," said PGA technical director Bob Hunt, who continued, "there is no decorative planting, everything about the design is wild and natural, very similar to a British links course in that respect."

Situated on an old sugar and coconut plantation, Tobago Plantations required a fair bit of "muck shifting" — 350,000 cubic meters to be exact — a lot of this being involved in the construction of several huge freshwater lakes.

"This site is extremely sensitive environmentally," explained Hunt. "We had to be very careful not to contaminate the mangrove swamps with any run off. The wonderful side effect of this extreme care



The 14th green at Tobago Plantations

is the incredible flora and fauna of the course — orchids through to 'Naked Indian' trees, and lizards through to these birds that are constantly flapping around and chattering."

Design of the course was undertaken

Continued on page 16

Cal Olson on fast design pace out West

By MEGHAN FOLEY

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. — With three new courses already opened and four more scheduled to debut in the near future, Cal Olson Golf Architecture, based here, is on a hot streak in California, New Mexico and Nevada.

The newest construction project, which broke ground recently, is Diamond Hill Golf Course, an 18-hole, upscale public course nestled between two hills in Fullerton, Calif. The course measures 6,890 yards from the tips, but has five tees per hole, making it friendly to both big hitters and beginners.



Cal Olson

"At Diamond Hill, we're planning on using bentgrass on the greens and Bermudagrass in the roughs," said Olson. "I think all this will work best within the constraints of the natural environment."

According to Olson, the well-drained soil should provide an excellent turf growing media, which should keep the surface as dry as possible. Diamond Hill GC will also feature seven lakes, as well as four to five acres of waste bunkers created for overall drainage needs.

"When all is said and done, the project will probably end up costing \$8.5 million, excluding the clubhouse and the maintenance building," Olson said. The course is expected to be complete spring of 2001.

INTRAWEST RUNNING SIERRA STAR

Sierra Star, an 18-hole, par-70 golf course layout in Mammoth Lakes,

Continued on page 15



## Old Brockway

Continued from page 11

Lode – built the course in 1924 as an amenity for the Old Brockway Hotel. Comstock hired Scottish golf architect John Duncan Dunn to handle the design work. Dunn was a respected teacher and designer who worked with Walter Travis around the Northeast before moving to California in the 1920s. The course still maintains the subtle features of the old courses with smallish push-up greens, deep, high-faced bunkers, and a layout through the tall pine forest that is easily walked.

### COURSE NEEDED A FACELIFT

While the golf course holds much history and charm, it was also showing its age. “We had to do major upgrading of tees, greens, and fairways to take the course to the higher level,” said Lane Lewis, owner and general manager. Given the Tahoe area’s restrictive environmental code, he added, “We had to show the various regulatory agencies that we were doing things here that would enhance our unique environment.”

Head superintendent David Laurie began to map out a renovation program incorporating the ideals of the Audubon program – the creation of natural rough, protection of natural wetlands, and the encouragement of wildlife habitat. He worked on a new approach to pest management, which greatly reduced the need for pesticide spraying. He also lowered fertilizer usage.

These moves worked to his advantage when it came time for permitting.

### THE SAFEWAY STRATEGY

Plans for a new clubhouse and a new finishing hole had been in the works for over five years, but securing the necessary clearances took some luck and ingenuity. The neighboring Safeway supermarket had been eyeing an expansion for several years, but it had run into regulatory problems. The land it wanted to build on was in a stream zone and a scenic corridor. To expand they needed to find some solution to the runoff problems that construction would bring.

“We obtained land from them for our ninth green and clubhouse site in exchange for allowing our drainage plan to control runoff for both the golf course and the Safeway site,” Laurie said.

Nutrient runoff around the lake has been implicated in the loss of its renowned clarity. The once gin-clear lake has over 100 miles of shoreline and depths that plunge more than 1,000 feet. Thirty years ago one could see nearly 100 feet down in the pure water. Since then, visibility has dropped to 70 feet due to construction, roads, and landscaping.

A bi-state agency, the Tahoe

Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), was created 25 years ago to deal with the issue. It has absolute authority over all types of construction in the basin.

“Our paperwork has helped to show the regulators how our programs are also beneficial to the goal of controlling runoff and protecting the lake’s clarity,” Lewis said. As a result, the course got the land for a new ninth green

and a larger clubhouse, Safeway was able to build a larger store and TRPA had a solution to control runoff.

### WATER USAGE DOWN 20%

One of the main goals of the Audubon program involves decreasing “maintained” fairway acreage in favor of natural rough and wetlands. At Old Brockway, superintendent Laurie let the rough areas grow to encourage the natural vegetation. These are

now being harvested for seeds for use around new tee boxes and for creating roughs around some of the new greens.

“Our proactive approach to maintenance has already begun to pay off,” Laurie said. “We’ve reduced our water usage by 20 percent. We’ve also cut our fertilization in half, and we’re now a completely non-spray course for insecticides.”

Other programs associated

with the certification drive include the setting of 25 bird boxes, which are now 90 percent occupied, and a tree harvest to eliminate dead wood, stimulate air circulation around greens and create a healthier forest.

“We’ve found that bringing back some of the wildness to the rough areas and wetlands has been an excellent way to let the course show its age,” Laurie said. ▽

# How

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