

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

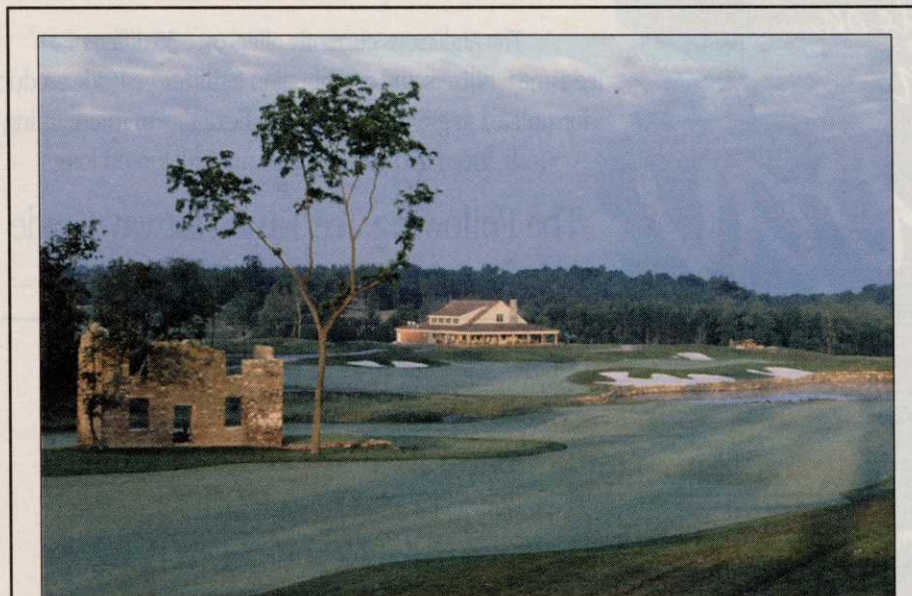


The 8th hole at Old Brockway Golf Club, located on the shores of Lake Tahoe

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

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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,



Cal Olson

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.

"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,

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Tobago Plantations

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in house for PGA with Hunt being joined by golf architect Marcus Blackburn. With ideal growing conditions for the Bermudagrass, around 1,000 acres available on the estate and the top specification for USGA greens, Hunt and Blackburn be-

lieve that they have delivered "the goods."

"The Bermudagrass course winds along beaches, around coral peninsulas, through mangroves and down to a hidden lagoon," said Hunt, clearly enthusiastic about the picturesque layout.

A 200-room Hilton Hotel is due for a July opening, with another hotel to start construction later this year. All 120 con-

dominiums and 85 villas of the first phase have been sold, and work on a third nine holes will start within the next few months, including at least 100 more villas.

Elsewhere in Tobago, the Mount Irvine Golf Club – formerly a 'Top 100' course in the world, according to Shell – is in the process of being refurbished, giving Tobago Plantations "good company," said Hunt. ▶

Dye's Lost Canyons to open in fall

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Under the supervision of PGA Tour star Fred Couples, both courses are scheduled to open this fall.

"It's the property that will make this course so special. I have never in my life seen a property like this one," Dye said. "Pebble Beach has the Pacific

Ocean, and you can't duplicate that kind of ambiance, but this place will have unmatched views of up to 20 and 30 miles from some points."

The two tracks will feature distinctive looks. The Shadow Course will follow the terrain of the rolling canyon floor, and the Sky Course will run along the ridgelines of the canyon. As Dye explained, "The golf courses are both totally connected. It's all self-contained. From a gallery point of view, you can put all of Los Angeles out here."

"There was no need to try to trick up anything at Lost Canyons," Dye added. "The ambiance and the challenge are already here. You just have to make it as playable as possible. If they held a Tour event here, you would have players shooting 64 or 65, but there's also going to be a few 82s thrown in there, too."

Both courses will measure about 7,000 yards from the back tees, and the daily fees will range from \$115 to \$135, with reduced rates for seniors. Included in the fee will be a forecaddie, who will greet players on arrival and provide them with information that includes strategy from any of the five tees, direction and club selection. The crowning jewel in the center of it all will be an 11,000-square-foot ranch-style clubhouse, including a pro shop, executive conference rooms and a bar.

Dye, who has designed eight of the top-20 ranked modern courses in the United States, believes that his new creation will move to the top of the list.

"Lost Canyons should be among the best courses I've designed because of the topography," he said. He believes that golf should be accepted more in its natural state, and that is the case here. "There are no fast greens in Ireland or Scotland. They all have different mixtures of grasses and the sand in the bunkers. I really don't agree with courses that are so artificial that if there is a blade of grass out of place, there's something wrong. Lost Canyons is such a great place to build a golf course because everything is so natural. You don't have to try to wiggle in a bunker; all we're trying to do is combine a golf course with what's already here."

"I think this is a great thing for people in L.A. who just see buildings and cars," he said. "We're so close to 20 million people here and you don't see a soul – nothing but hills and greens."

Lost Canyons represents Landmark National's debut in Los Angeles. The company currently has golf properties under development in Houston and Padre Island, Texas and in Maryland, Mississippi and Ireland. ▶

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