

Golf accessibility forum crystallizes industry goals

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CLEMSON, S.C. — Preliminary steps towards making golf more accessible to individuals with disabilities were established during the sixth National Forum on Accessible Golf, held here in April.

"The meeting was the best one we've had," said organizer Larry Allen, who oversees the National Project for Accessible Golf. "It was the most action-oriented of all of them and people are now excited and interested in moving forward."

Fifty of the nation's golf experts, members of the medical and rehabilitation professions and accessibility leaders attended the four-day forum. They identified seven areas that need further educational programs, strategies and services.

SEVEN POINTS OF LIGHT

Forum participants aim to:

- develop a management "tool kit" for golf course owners and operators to better serve disabled golfers;
- expand the informational services of

the United States Golf Association's Golf Resource Center for golfers with disabilities;

- develop an educational model for teaching golf to individuals with disabilities;
- develop educational materials to clarify the rehabilitative value of golf;
- develop educational materials to promote golf as a means of inclusion and lifestyle development for those with disabilities;
- develop a comprehensive research program to support educational efforts; and

- promote the financial advantages associated with a greater inclusion of disabled golfers.

To implement these plans, organizers are now working with forum participants to develop an oversight committee. "We are developing a consortium that will spearhead these activities," said Allen. "We don't want to perpetuate bureaucratic nonsense, but we want to create an entity that represents all points of view within the golf industry."

Allen expects to form the group over the summer and implement the action plan over the next two years.

Rustic Tobacco Road clubhouse ranks tops in country

SANFORD, N.C. — Named "best new clubhouse in America" by *GOLFInc* magazine, the Tobacco Road facility located here also was number one in the daily-fee, under-10,000-square-foot category of the publication's annual clubhouse rankings.

The rustic-looking stone porches, cedar siding and red tin roof emphasize the simplicity of this farmhouse-style design. Pine-plank floors, extracted from the old tobacco barn that once occupied the site, now provide space for golf clubs and accessories displayed amongst old farming equipment.

The structure was built following an electrical fire that quickly torched the original facility six months after it was constructed. "It isn't often you get a second chance, so when you do you had better take advantage of it," said Joe Gay, director of golf. Not including interior design, the new 4,128-square-foot clubhouse cost roughly \$400,000.

PEANUTS ON THE PORCH

The clubhouse design was a first for architectural company Amy Stevens Designs, of Broadway, N.C. "It's the kind of place where people love to sit on the porch, drink beer and eat peanuts after a round," Gay said.

Interior work was handled by local designer Cindy Gay and Associates. "From the outset we wanted the clubhouse to be natural and not forced or contrived," said Tony Woodell, course president and part owner, "and to be as unique and enjoyable as the golf course itself."

The clubhouse is decorated with local nostalgia and provides space for a pro shop, snack bar and dining area as well as conference rooms and offices located upstairs. "This is a victory for developers working on a limited budget," said a contest judge. "This really shows that the little guy can come in and do something creative."

NGCOA's girls week

Continued from previous page

assistance in promoting the week to its members and the golf industry.

Last year's special week for girls was held in connection with the national Take Your Daughter to Work Day, which occurred in April. Cool weather held down turnout at some northern courses. A switch to summer is expected to boost participation.

Junior girls represent an underserved segment of the market. Only 13 percent of junior golfers are girls. ■

Available in Limited Quantities in the Summer of 2001
Only From These Authorized Certified
SeaIsle1 Seashore Paspalum Growers

SeaIsle1
Certified Seashore Paspalum



- US Sales**
Bladerunner Farms
Poteet TX
830 276-4455
830 276-8618(Fax)
Diamond Turf LLC
Cordele GA
478 741-6000
478 742-0750(Fax)
Modern Turf
Rembert SC
803 713-8873
803 713-8882(Fax)
Phillip Jennings Turf Farms
Norristown GA
478 668-3729
478 668-3597(Fax)
Pike Creek Turf, Inc.
Adel GA
800 232-7453
229 896-7584(Fax)
Rapid Turf, Inc.
Rincon GA
912 826-2454
912 826-2882(Fax)
SMR Turf and Trees
Bradenton FL
941 746-8873
941 708-3391(Fax)

- US Sales**
South FL Grassing
Hobe Sound FL
800 483-4279
561 546-3482(Fax)
South FL Sod, Inc.
Punta Gorda FL
941 637-4770
941 637-0196(Fax)
Southern Turf International
Kahuku HI
808 232-2277
808 293-5748(Fax)
Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc.
Punta Gorda FL
Brookfield GA
800 841-6413
334 987-5951(Fax)
The Turfgrass Group
Marshallville GA
678 642-0915
770 382-8210(Fax)
Thomas Family
Wharton TX
979 532-2593
979 282-9773(Fax)

- US Sales**
Tifton Turf
Ashburn GA
800 841-6645
229 386-1207(Fax)
Turfgrass America
Parker AZ
Tampa FL
Camilla GA
Bay City TX
Poteet TX
800 445-2602
979 245-1508(Fax)
West Coast Turf
Palm Desert CA
Stevinson CA
800 447-1840
760 360-5616(Fax)
International Sales
Phillip Jennings Turf Farms
Norristown GA
912 668-3729
912 668-3597(Fax)
Southern Turf International
Kahuku HI
808 232-2277
808 293-5748(Fax)

- International Sales**
Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc.
Brookfield GA
334 987-5950
334 987-5951(Fax)
Turfgrass America
Bay City TX
979 245-2655
979 245-1508(Fax)
West Coast Turf
Palm Desert CA
760 360-5464
760 360-5616(Fax)
Argentina Sales
Asociacion Argentina de Golf
Buenos Aires, Argentina
+54(114) 325-1113
+54(114) 325-8660(Fax)
International Licensing
Manderley Turfgrass International, Inc.
Nepean, Ontario, Canada
877 441-8746
613 225-7725(Fax)

www.seaisle1.com