

## MacCurrach lassos Big Builder title

By ANDREW OVERBECK

DALLAS, Texas — Consistency is king. MacCurrach Golf Construction has followed up its successful 1999 campaign by winning the 2000 *Golf Course News* Large Builder of the Year award. Allan MacCurrach accepted the honor here at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual dinner Feb. 15.

MacCurrach Golf scored a 79.63 out of 80 points for his five projects in 2000.

Other participants in this year's contest were: Shapemasters, Quality Grassing and Services, Landscapes Unlimited, SAJO Construction, Barbaron, Frontier Construction, SEMA Golf, Niebur Golf, and RyanGolf.

### AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME

Jacksonville-based MacCurrach Golf Construction has been at or close to the top for the last five years. MacCurrach won the Small Builder award in 1996, placed second in 1997, and placed second in the Large Builder in 1998, before taking over the top spot for the last two years.

What's the secret to his success?

"Luck and great clients," said MacCurrach. "We also have the same staff that we had last year. The core of the company really takes a lot of pride in the work they do. There are 185 guys out there that are going to be excited about the fact that beyond their paychecks they truly have satisfied clients in their wake."

With the 1999 Large Builder title under his belt, MacCurrach noticed his clients' expectations ratchet up in 2000. "The demands they placed on us were awfully high," he said. "They were expecting the best in price, quality and



MacCurrach Golf's team at work at the Tim Liddy-designed Hickory Stick Golf Club in Greenwood, Ind.

schedule when they brought us on board. To know that we met or exceeded those expectations for another year is really gratifying."

MacCurrach Golf completed five projects in 2000: The First Tee at Brentwood in Jacksonville, Fla.; St. John's Golf and Country Club in St. Johns County, Fla.; Camp Creek Golf Club in Panama City, Fla.; Hickory Stick Golf Club in Greenwood, Ind.; and Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, S.C.

### RETOOLING DYE'S HARBOUR TOWN

Among his favorite projects of 2000 was working with Pete Dye at Harbour Town Golf Links. "It was an honor," said MacCurrach of the opportunity to do the renovation work on the 1969 Dye layout. "It was like working on a

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Team Glase: (left to right) Neil McMannus, Darwin Sharp, Jim Glase, Mick Martin, (kneeling) Alberto Barba and Jody Mosley

## Glase grabs Small Builder award

By ANDREW OVERBECK

DALLAS, Texas — While the 2000 Large Builder competition saw a repeat winner, the Small Builder title goes this year to a first-time winner. The 2000 *Golf Course News* Small Builder of the Year was awarded to Glase Golf Construction here at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual dinner Feb. 15.

Glase Golf took home the top prize this year with a score of 77.69 out of 80 on the two projects that the company completed in 2000.

Also placing high on this year's list were: Reed H. Berlinsky, Mid-America Golf and Landscape, Pennick Arrimour Golf, Golf Course Construction, C.E. Carter and Associates, Course Doctors, Golf Development Construction,

and Furness Golf Construction.

### A REGIONAL BUILDER

Jim Glase started Naples, Fla.-based Glase Golf Construction in 1997. Glase, a long-time veteran of the golf course industry, began building golf courses working with Wadsworth Golf Construction in Toledo, Ohio in the late 1960s. He also worked for architect John Bulla and builder Nick Seaman.

In 1997, Glase started the company for a simple reason: he needed money. "I couldn't make enough money working for somebody else, so I started my own business," he said. "I was also tired of traveling. I have three kids and I decided that it was time to stay in one spot."

In addition to other repair and minor renovation work at area courses,

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## Highlights of GCSAA Show & Conference

DALLAS, Texas — Exhibitors, superintendents and educators turned out in strength at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) 72nd International Golf Course Show and Conference. Here are a few items of note:

- A total of 727 exhibitors covered an all-time high of 275,000 sq. ft. of floor space.

- Educational seminar attendance was estimated at 7,616, just shy of the record 7,903 established last year in New Orleans.

- The unofficial show attendance was 20,584, marking the sixth year in a row that the 20,000 figure has been eclipsed.

- A GCSAA bylaw amendment requiring additional qualifications for Class A members passed with a 75 percent of the vote at the association's annual meeting.

- Elected officers: Tommy Witt, president, The Kiawah Island Club, S.C.; Michael Wallace, vice president, Hop Meadow Country Club, Simsbury, Conn.; Jon Madden, secretary/treasurer, Elk Ridge Country Club, Atlanta, Mich.

- Elected directors: Robert Maibusch,

MG Hinsdale Golf Club, Clarendon Hills, Ill.; Tim O'Neill, Country Club of Darien, Darien, Conn.; Mark Woodward, Dobson Ranch/Review Golf Courses, Mesa, Ariz. Sean Hoolehan at the Wildhorse Golf Club in Mission, Ore. was appointed to serve a one year term on the board.

- The "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" endowment campaign has reached \$4.5 million with a goal of \$5 million (increased from the original \$3.5 million target).

- Penn State University claimed the title at the seventh annual Collegiate Turf Bowl competition, beating out Iowa State (A), Iowa State (B) and Rhode Island. The winning team included

Dan Brickley, Bob Raley, Sean Jordan and Joe Maloney.

- Patricia Cobb, a retired turfgrass insect specialist, was awarded the 2001 USGA Green Section Award.

- GCSAA membership topped the 21,000 mark for the first time last fall. Membership growth from 1994 (13,000 members) has been 58 percent. The GCSAA's 73rd International Conference & Show is set for Feb. 4-10 in Orlando, Fla.



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## Glase Golf

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Glase Golf completed work at the Arthur Hills-designed Quail West Golf Course in Naples, and Jerry Pate-designed course at The Colony in Estero. Glase is also working to complete the GLS Golf Course Architects-designed Grande Oak Golf Club in Estero.

The company operates out of its Naples base and nearly all the

work it has done has been within a 10-mile radius. Glase said this is the reason for the company's success.

"My clients are happy because I only work in this area," Glase said. "If they need something right away, we can do it."

"For example, we built a green at the Colony and they didn't like it. We sent people over with the sod cutter, regraded the green and put the sod back down and

got it done in one day," he continued. "They were happy and half the members didn't even know that it had happened."

### QUALITY STAFF

Staying local also helps in terms of maintaining a high-quality staff. "My key guys – construction superintendents Darwin Sharp III and Mike Martin, shapers Jerry Clark Jr., Jody Mosley, and Neil McMannus, and irrigation foreman Alberto Barba – have all been

with me since nearly the beginning," said Glase. "They get a lot of credit for our high finish quality and they deserve a lot of credit for what they do. My job is to go out there and find the work."

Finding the work has certainly not been a problem of late, but Glase has noticed that the lead time on projects seems to be increasing. "With permitting and financial problems cropping up it seems like it takes twice as long as

it used to and that puts the pressure on us," he said. "If construction was supposed to start in January and doesn't start until March, the client still wants the course finished by December."

Looking ahead, Glase Golf will be wrapping up work at Grande Oak, adding nine holes at another Arthur Hills layout at Miramar Lakes and Golf Club in Estero and starting work at Robert Cupp's Mirasol Golf Club. ■

## MacCurrach

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Donald Ross course with Donald Ross there."

MacCurrach rebuilt all 18 greens complexes at Harbour Town, in addition to replacing retaining walls and cart paths.

"It is an active development, so we had to be organized," he said. "Since it was an old course, every bucket yielded a new surprise and there was more pressure from all the arm chair architects that came walking out of the men's grill."

In addition to working with Dye, MacCurrach also had the chance to work again with Tom Fazio and Tim Liddy and for the first time with Clyde Johnston and the PGA Tour. "Architects are pleased when they can recommend you with confidence," said MacCurrach. "The reason they bring you to another project is because the last one went well."

MacCurrach is also a repeat performer for Arvida Community Sales, who hired MacCurrach for the Camp Creek and St. John's projects and is using them again for the construction of the Ron Garl-designed Victoria Park in Deland, Fla.

Other key projects on the board for 2001 are the Arthur Hills-designed Marshall Creek in St. Augustine, Fla., Fazio's Squire Creek in Ruston, La. and the renovation of Dye's Long Cove Club in Hilton Head.

### COMPETING LOCALLY

Most of MacCurrach's work continues to take place close to home. "We have done most of our work east of the Mississippi River," he said. "You have to watch out for the families in addition to the employees. The guys on the traveling show take on a lot, so we have to do what we can to stay competitive regionally."

Looking ahead, MacCurrach doesn't see rapid expansion. "We will keep doing five or six projects a year," he said. "This year looks great and there is no reason that we shouldn't be able to exceed our performance. We are a better company today than we were a year ago, and I expect us to be a better company 12 months from now than we are today." ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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