

News

GCSAA Executive Director resigns

The Executive Board of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has accepted the resignation of Executive Director Conrad Sheetz and is actively searching for a replacement. Sheetz had held that position for the past seven years. Palmer Maples, Jr., Director of Education, is acting Executive Director until a replacement is chosen.

Fla. owner/ops. form association

The "Florida Golf Course Owners and Operators Association" was officially named and a committee appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws in a meeting in conjunction with a course management seminar sponsored by "Florida Golfweek", in late November. Among the decisions reached at the initial meeting were that dues would be \$25, all types of courses would be included, and only one member from a course would be allowed to join. Letters explaining the organization are to be sent to all courses with the first general meeting being held in the Spring.

The organizing committee elected Doug Erb, part owner and general manager of Forrest Lakes GC in Sarasota, as chairman.

Court rule for selective admissions

A federal court has once again held that private clubs, under federal law, can follow selective admissions policies, according to the National Club Association. On October 18th, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia dismissed a complaint that the Salisbury Club's selective admissions policies violated federal civil rights law.

The controversy began when the plaintiff, a black dentist, applied for and was denied admission to the Salisbury Club, a private country club in Chesterfield County, Va. Dr. Wright subsequently sued the club, alleging that the denial was racially motivated and prohibited by federal civil rights provisions. The court answered two questions in its decision: Whether the prohibitions contained in the Civil Rights Act of 1866 apply to private clubs, and are superceded by the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and whether the Salisbury Club was a bona fide private club. The court answered yes to both questions.

Curb EPA with less funds

Pennsylvania Congressional Representative Coughlin told the Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association at a recent meeting that industry should use the appropriations process to "get control" of the Environmental Protection Agency and other regulatory agencies. Coughlin, ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on HUD—Independent Agencies, House Committee on

Appropriations said that "Every year, every agency of the government has to ask for its money and justify what it is doing." He added that he thought industry's use of the appropriations processes to curb agencies activities was very poor.

Rep. Coughlin said that if Subcommittee members have the information in the form of examples of ridiculous regulations, something can be done. He emphasized that industry has to get information on problems it was having to members.

Rep. Coughlin stated that "agencies should do the research first and have facts before they regulate." He said that regulations are often made before the research is done.

Courses financed three ways

There are basically three different approaches to operating a real estate development golf course, according to Jack Kidwell, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

1. DAILY FEE—During the first few years especially, developers may elect to open the course to the general public on a daily fee basis. This helps promote interest in the course and the development, and

sustains the club until there are enough members to support it on a private basis.

2. NON-EQUITY SEMI-PRIVATE OR PRIVATE CLUB—If there are enough project residents, the course might be operated as a non-equity private club, with the members paying an initiation fee and annual membership dues. Many development courses are operated on this basis from their inception, Kidwell told GOLF BUSINESS, and there are sometimes open to non-resident members at higher fees. Under this arrangement, the developer still controls and operates the club for the membership, and hopefully realizes a profit from the operation.

3. MEMBERSHIP-OWNED EQUITY CLUB—Private equity golf clubs are organized so that each member of the community buys an equal share in the ownership of the club, represented by a stock certificate or bond. The membership may be automatic or optional with the land ownership, and the cost is built into the prices of the land or buildings.

Additional information is contained in a brochure, "Planning the Real Estate Development Golf Course", available from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60611.



From left to right, Drs. Paul Rieke, Ken Payne, Dale Harpstead, John Kautmann and Joe Vargis break ground for Michigan State University's new Hancock Turf Field Lab. The facility will centralize turf research at MSU. It is expected to be completed by Spring.

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