

Off The Fringe

ArborLinks – A Tree of Environmental Knowledge

The ArborLinks Home Course, set to open next summer, is taking shape. Many holes of the championship golf course, located at the Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Neb., have been shaped by builder Landscapes Unlimited, which is operating the course in conjunction with the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The course, billed as a national model of environmental quality, is under design by the Palmer Course Design Co. The project's goal is "to enhance and expand responsible and sustainable environmental stewardship in the golf community."

"It's critical that the design, construction, conservation and research methods utilized during the course's creation are well documented and used as a model for future golf design and construction," according to the National Arbor Day Foundation.

John Rosenow, president of the organization, says a properly constructed and maintained golf course can improve water quality and enhance biodiversity, as well as prevent soil erosion. "This environmentally friendly course will combine model demonstrations of conservation practices and other environmental themes," he adds.

Putting the pieces together

It takes more than just grass, sand and holes to make a golf masterpiece. Only a fairway- and green-minded Frank Lloyd Wright can make all the pieces fit together perfectly. Who is **your** favorite course architect?

Donald Ross	21%	Jack Nicklaus	6%
Arnold Palmer	13%	Michael Hurdzan	5%
Tom Fazio	12%	Robert Trent Jones Jr.	3%
Robert Trent Jones Sr.	11%	Rees Jones	2%
Alister MacKenzie	9%	Don't know/	
Pete Dye	8%	No answer	8%

SOURCE: GCSAA; ILLUSTRATION: DAN BEEDY



Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews putting-greens.com

(All sites are preceded by <http://> unless otherwise noted)

www.putting-greens.com — It's amazing how easy taking care of putting greens sounds when you visit this site, which hawks a manual written by Leo Maleson called *Beginner's Guide to Backyard Golf Putting Greens* for \$20. Since Maleson wants you to buy the book, he doesn't reveal any tips on the site.

Maleson does reveal a sense of humor with his response to a question about how much time it takes to tend a green. He shows two charts detailing the number of minutes it takes to tend to a backyard green (the second chart is done tongue-in-cheek). I'd love to hear superintendents evaluate his time predictions.

Industry companies in the business like

Maleson's idea because the site is full of links to companies such as Jacklin Seed and mower companies. It appears that they have sponsored Maleson's site in order to reach consumers. The site also contains discussion groups for people who have already built greens in their backyards.

One former superintendent has already parlayed his knowledge into a successful business (which you can examine at www.backyardputtinggreens.com). Tom Herrick created this business after a career in golf course maintenance. Although he installs synthetic putting greens, he says his customers are more comfortable when they deal with someone who knows the real turf business.



Editor's Note: The Florida GCSA launched a new Web site in August. To find news about what's going on in course maintenance in Florida, visit www.floridagcsa.com or contact *Golfdom's* own Joel Jackson at flgm@aol.com.

Managing editor Frank H. Andorka Jr. compiles *Scanning the Web* and will leave the tending of putting greens to the experts. You can reach him at fan-dorka@advanstar.com with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.