

# Off The Fringe

## Business briefs

### Golf Consumer Confidence Stabilizes

Golf consumer confidence tanked in 2008, but it has stabilized in 2009, according to the National Golf Foundation.

Golf consumer confidence was around 100 in March 2008 before dropping to about 87 in December 2008. It rose slightly in early 2009, before dropping slightly again in June. The number has stabilized at 87 for the past several months, and the NGF hopes confidence has bottomed out. The NGF says golf consumer confidence is a combination of sentiment for playing golf, buying equipment and going on golf trips.

### Big Three Join Virtual Trade Show

In October, the Toro Co. became the first major partner of the golf industry's first Virtual Trade Show (VTS) to be staged by the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) in March. In November, John Deere became the second partner. Later in November, Jacobsen became the third major partner.

"This commitment demonstrates The Toro Co.'s leadership and continued support of the IGCEMA and its initiatives," said Stephen Tucker, the association's founder and virtual trade show developer. "John Deere has been a partner of the IGCEMA since our inception and has supported us in many different ways. We've been working with Jacobsen and Ransomes Jacobsen in the UK for many years now and they have supported us every step of the way. Partnering with us on the Virtual Trade Show really shows [the companies'] commitment to embracing new ideas and innovations and their willingness to continue supporting our efforts and it is much appreciated." ■



## Currier Leaving Bethpage

Craig Currier is heading to the Glen Oaks Club.

### POPULAR SUPERINTENDENT TAKES JOB AT PRIVATE CLUB ON LONG ISLAND

By Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

**C**raig Currier is leaving Bethpage State Park, whose esteemed Black Course in Farmingdale, N.Y., was the site of this year's U.S. Open, for the Glen Oaks Club, a private course on Long Island. Currier told *Golfdom* on Nov. 13 that he accepted the job, which he's expected to begin this month.

Currier, one of the most recognized superintendents in the business, joined Bethpage in 1997 when he was 26. Currier made a name for himself and received much mainstream media attention when the restored Black Course hosted the 2002 U.S. Open. Currier and his crew

were also heralded for their work during the rain-soaked U.S. Open on Bethpage Black last June.

The 27-hole Glen Oaks Club, established in 2000, is located in Old Westbury, N.Y.

Currier was well-liked at Bethpage. Dave Catalano, director of Bethpage State Park, said Currier is one of a handful of prominent people who has contributed to "the involvement, success and reputation" of Bethpage during its history. "I feel that strongly about Craig," Catalano said.

At press time, Currier didn't want to comment at length about his new position until some loose ends had been tied up. ■