

FRONTIERGOLF

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VOL. IX, ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2008

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Classic

Bedford renovation shows why no one does it better

More than a century after its first christening, The Old Course at Bedford Springs (Pa.) Resort has reopened for play following a complicated, comprehensive, environmentally sensitive “retro rebuild” authored by Forse Design and implemented by Frontier Golf.

Frontier was tasked with preserving and integrating disparate aspects of three vintage design styles; rebuilding every green, tee and fairway; and undergirding it all with state-of-the-art drainage, irrigation and soil-profiles.

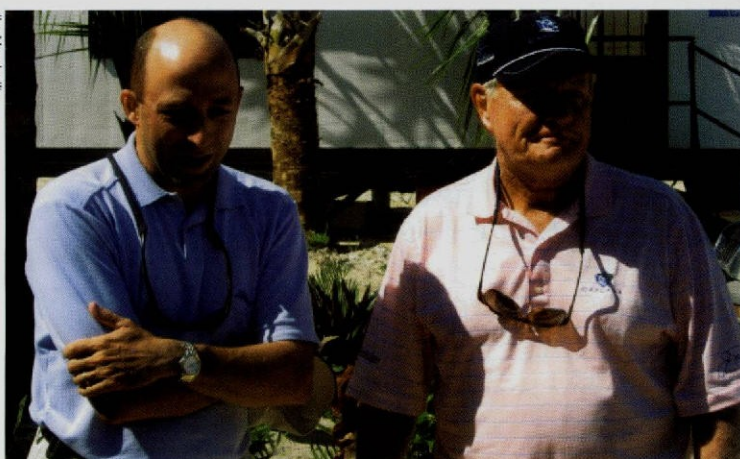
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The new 8th at Bedford Spring's Old Course

Mike Klemme/mikeklemme.com

Jim Martenille



Frontier President Nick Scigliano (left) is personally overseeing construction of the Las Iguanas course, designed by Jack Nicklaus.

Nick & Jack in the D.R.

Frontier Golf is on track to finish the second of three planned Jack Nicklaus Signature courses by next October here at Cap Cana, the US\$1.5 billion residential golf project billed as “The World’s Next Great Destination”.

Cap Cana is surely the most ambitious residential project ever undertaken in the Caribbean. Located in the southeast corner of the Dominican Republic, just 10 minutes from the Punta

Nicklaus-designed Cap Cana takes shape

Cana International Airport, The Las Iguanas Course at Cap Cana is a key component in the development’s 6,200-acre first phase. Cap Cana’s projected build-out covers 30,000 acres, including more than three miles of virgin beaches and coral reefs.

In executing the Nicklaus Design plans for Las Iguanas,

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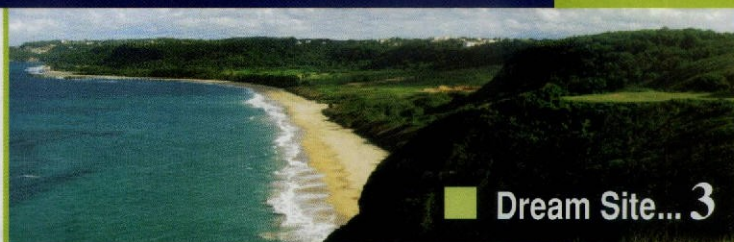
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1 Up, 1 Down

BY NICK SCIGLIANO
PRESIDENT, FRONTIER GOLF

Two recent projects of ours confirmed, for me, our growing reputation in the course reconstruction field — along with the random fortunes of this business.

This fall, in Jamaica, we wrapped up reconstruction of the 18th fairway at The White Witch, enabling a Jan. 1, 2008 reopening of the Ritz Carlton resort's 18th hole.

A 20-inch rain event there two years ago had destabilized the mountainside fairway and sent it sliding toward the ocean. The putting surface survived, allowing operators to barely continue using the hole, as a par-4, with just the remnants of the original fairway.

Frontier Golf spent the year, beginning in 2006, recovering fairway material and stabilizing the area. It was a very technical engineering job requiring new earthen keyways and cut/fills averaging 20 feet. We returned this past July and installed several large catch basins with 36-inch pipe, along with additional herring-bone drainage that diverted water off the hillside into the basins, so the fairway will stand up to future storms.

The owners invested close to \$1 million in reconstruction, and it was money well spent. Heavy rains this fall (almost 30 days straight)

didn't affect the hole, which is again the 440-yard, par-4 it was intended to be.

In contrast, our efforts to control nature's will weren't so successful at Wild Dunes near Charleston, S.C., where

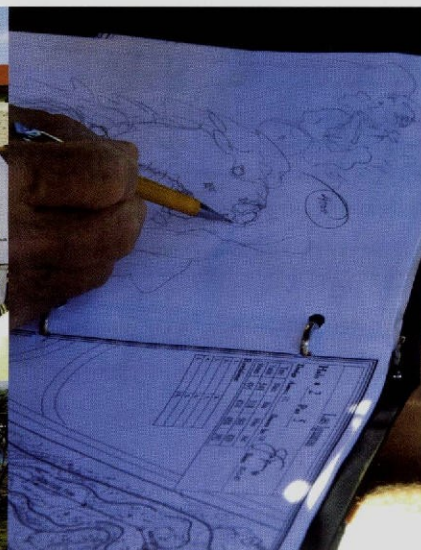
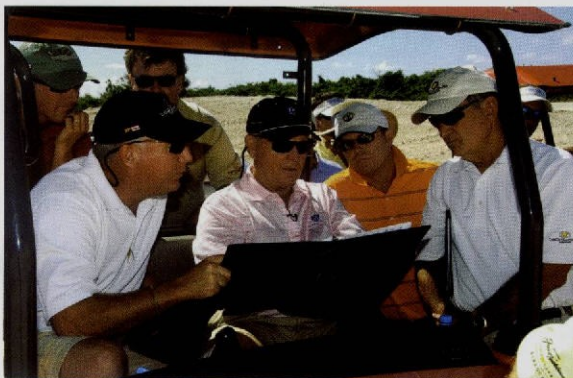


Nick Scigliano

we spent two sequential months renovating 60 bunkers on the Harbor Course, a Tom Fazio design, before attempting to protect the 18th on the Links Course from the encroaching surf.

Under the eye of the S.C. Coastal Council and Army Corps of Engineers, we utilized 5-gallon sand bags, then 1-ton bags in a last-gasp attempt to hold back the beach erosion. However, continued high surf, named storms and coastal flooding finally claimed the hole. It was abandoned; Fazio will redesign the Links to include a new 18th.

It was gratifying to be invited onto both of these jobs. It was an affirmation of our technical expertise and engineering skills. But I gotta tell ya', we are very goal-oriented at Frontier Golf. And it was hard to lose the 18th at Wild Dunes.



Top left: Jack Nicklaus sketches designs in the field during his November visit to Cap Cana. At left, an example of the Dominican terrain that has Nicklaus and Frontier Golf personnel so excited.

Cap Cana/Nicklaus

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Frontier joins an elite team of international professionals on the development including club operator Troon Golf. Construction of Las Iguanas began in June 2007 and is about 25 percent complete, according to Frontier Business Manager Nick Mazzella. Jack Nicklaus made his first site visit Nov. 6. He inspected all 18 holes, set forth the design strategy and provided detailed sketches of 6 putting surfaces and surrounds.

Mazzella said developers anticipate opening Las Iguanas sometime in early 2009. For its part, Frontier expects to complete the course-construction portion of this estimated \$40 million project by November 2008.

Working day to day with Nicklaus Senior Project Architect John Cope and Design Coordinator Mike MacInnes, Frontier Golf will move nearly 1 million cubic meters of rock at Las Iguanas. Some 35 percent of that total has been unearthed since June 2007.

"To say the rock has been a challenge would be an understatement," Mazzella said. "Of the 400,000 or so cubic meters we've already moved, we had to blast more than three-quarters of it. Although it is a painstaking process the end result will produce a striking golf course. Las Iguanas will be highlighted by four holes with features along the ocean, though the entire back nine will afford

expansive views of the sea."

"Working in the Dominican Republic," noted Nicklaus Design's John Cope, "where the modern golf industry is just beginning to emerge, sometimes creates challenges that will test even the most seasoned golf course builders. Although we still have a long way to go at Las Iguanas, so far Frontier has shown great professionalism and enthusiasm for this project, and I could not be happier with the work that they have completed to date. They respect the design and know where everyone fits into the process."

Frontier has as much experience working in the Caribbean as any course contractor in golf. "We've been active in this market for 10 years now" said Frontier President/CEO Nick Scigliano, who has personally overseen Las Iguanas construction. "We feel as if Las Iguanas solidifies our position as the top course builder in the region. We understand the Caribbean market, have taken our time in developing our presence here and feel as though that played a large part in our involvement here at Cap Cana."

Frontier started irrigation and drainage work shortly after the New Year. The company recently planted a 25-acre nursery with sprigs of Sea Isle Supreme Seashore Paspalum, imported from Georgia. The grass should be ready for a May harvest and will supply sprigs for the entire course on a staggered planting schedule.

Edgewater to open in 2008

Frontier Golf has finished construction at Edgewater, a new 18-hole, 7,000-yard layout in central South Carolina now set to open in fall 2008.

The area's general topography is fairly flat. But architect Bruce Brodsky of PBS&J Engineering was able to route the course through rolling terrain and natural wetlands while taking optimum advantage of the property's occasional dramatic elevation change. "There is a 70-foot drop on the par-3, 15th from tee to green, which is almost unheard of in central South Carolina," said Frontier Golf Southeast President Rich Abbott, noting that less than 200,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved during the entire course construction. "We did not build up the tees, but simply cut into the terrain."

Builders wrestled with the drought that has plagued the Southeast in recent months by supplementing (with on-site wells) what little irrigation water was available. Edgewater Course Superintendent Matthew Bunch, with Frontier's support, grew in the lush Tifway 419 bermuda fairways and the A-1/A-4 bent greens despite this lack of moisture, which reached severe levels on several occasions.

Craft Development of Monroe, N.C., is the developer of the par-72 layout, eventually to be surrounded by 3,500 home sites. It's all part of an 1,800-acre, master-planned community on Fishing Creek Lake in Lancaster County, some 50 miles south of Charlotte. The lake is a reservoir created by a dam on the Catawba River. The routing affords superb views of the lake and incorporates a pine forest.



Frontier's Nick Mazzella at Costa Isabela's dazzling par-3 8th hole.

Frontier's latest Puerto Rican project a stunner

Construction is underway at the private Costa Isabela Golf Club on Puerto Rico's northwest coast, near the village of Aguadilla. Perched at the edge of vertiginous cliffs overlooking the Caribbean, the routing at Costa Isabela

also ventures inland over an extraordinarily diverse property.

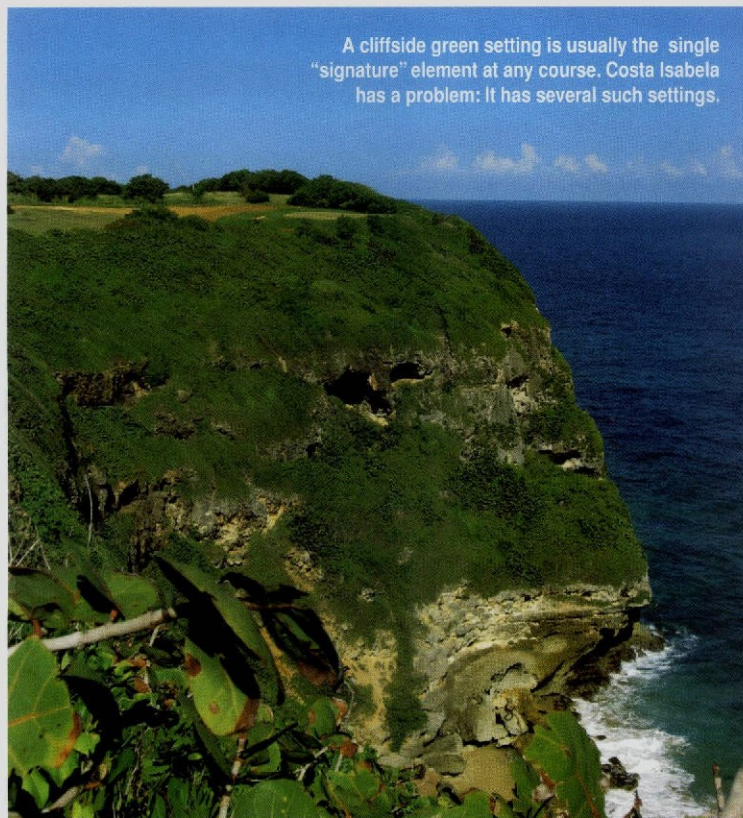
Located just 90 miles from the Dominican Republic, across the Mona Passage (considered the most dangerous waters in the Caribbean Sea due to its strong currents), Costa Isabela's

topography differs from that of Cap Cana (see page 1). It is, however, equally spectacular.

"The development at Costa Isabela is more unassuming, but it will be every bit the player's club as Cap Cana," predicted Frontier Golf Business Manager Nick Mazzella. The development group, consisting of American and Puerto Rican investors, controls approximately 3,000 acres and four miles of coastline in an area known as *El Nuevo Jardín del Atlántico* — "The new garden of the Atlantic".

This will be the first of several courses planned for the property. California architect David Pfaff, a former associate of Pete Dye's, is overseeing this first one. "We are delighted to be working with David on this special project," said Frontier President/CEO Nick Scigliano. "We greatly appreciate his experience, expertise and commitment to the success of the Isabela project."

Residential estates will quietly grace the property, with cottages available for members and their guests. Most will fly into Rafael Hernandez Airport, the former Ramey Air Force Base, just 15 minutes from Costa Isabela.



A cliffside green setting is usually the single "signature" element at any course. Costa Isabela has a problem: It has several such settings.

Major campaign undertaken at Army/Navy CC

Frontier Golf has completed the first phase and expects to start the second this summer on what will eventually be a renovation of all 54 holes here at the Army Navy Country Club (ANCC), a sprawling facility that occupies property in both Fairfax and Arlington, Va.

ANCC is a private, member-owned recreation facility founded in 1924. The Club draws its membership primarily from active-duty and retired commissioned U.S. military officers. ANCC is also home to a number of civilian members, many of whom have served or continue to serve in the U.S. government.

Working with Pinehurst-based course architect Richard Mandell, Frontier Golf completed the first phase last summer, rebuilding the fairways, bunkers and tees on nine holes at the Arlington facility, which



A before (left) and after (below) sequence of the 8th hole on the White Course at Army/Navy CC. Note how Judicious tree-clearing and random bunkering make the hole more playable, but also more strategic.



graces a small portion of the 500 rolling, wooded acres here. The greens were redone several years ago and left untouched this time around. The new nine required significant earthmoving and was planted with Patriot bermudagrass on the fairways and bentgrass on the tees.

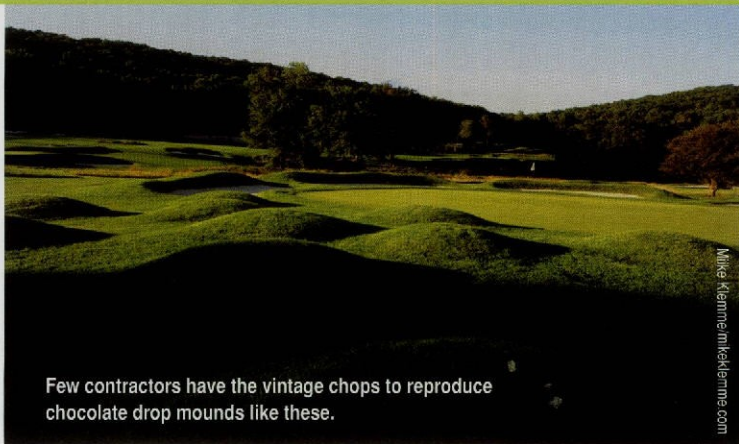
Mandell has already drafted plans for the project's next phase, which is scheduled to begin in June 2008. Plans are to renovate nine holes at both the Arlington and Fairfax facilities beginning next summer. The third phase should include the remaining 27 holes.

Bedford Springs

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"It was an enormous job but also an extremely nuanced job," explained Frontier President/CEO Nick Scigliano, who pointed to the unique proposition of restoring Spencer Oldham's antique Serpentine and Donut bunkers (complete with chocolate-drop mounding), the not-insignificant matter of restoring more than 80 Donald Ross bunkers, and the reconstruction of Shober's Run, where a native trout stream (6,000 feet of it, affecting 12 separate holes) was carefully restored to its original location and depth along with a newly constructed flood plain and wetlands to guard against erosion while providing flood-retention capability.

Course Superintendent Dave Swartzel, a veteran of three



Few contractors have the vintage chops to reproduce chocolate drop mounds like these.

new-course development projects, still marvels at the overall construction feat.

"The only thing we didn't have on this job was the initial clearing and grubbing process. In every other way it was basically new construction," said Swartzel, who arrived at Bedford after building, growing-in, then maintaining

the new course at Philadelphia Cricket Club. "Frontier did an outstanding job on a very tight time line. Considering the scope of the work, they went above and beyond to get it done on time."

For long stretches of the Bedford project, Frontier Golf employed more than 110 men on its Bedford Springs crew. The

Frontier has completed the majority of scheduled upgrades at the historic **BALD PEAK COLONY CLUB** with architect Ron Forse.

Located in Melvin Village, N.H., the Bald Peak property has been a prominent, highly exclusive golfing destination on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee since the early 1900s, when founder Thomas Gustave Plant created this unique residential community.

"We touched all 18 holes," explained Frontier's Nick Mazzella. "It was mostly bunker work. We also recontoured a few putting surfaces and added some features. Under Ron Forse's direction, we removed sod from the greens, built some mounds and swales, and then re-laid the sod. It was unusual to add rather than take away features on a project like this."

Frontier Golf arrived onsite in September 2007 and finished the bulk of the project ahead of schedule. All that remains is minor sodding — those finishing touches are scheduled for early spring of 2008.

huge scope of construction at Bedford is contrasted with the fine detail work for which Frontier is renowned. Frontier does not build classic bunkers with bulldozers. It would be faster, but would not allow Frontier to create the look and feel vital to the restoration of Donald Ross's features.

"All of our bunkers are built with an excavator so we can change the angles, create the small valleys, cut in the saddles that give a bunker that classic feel," said Doug Show, Frontier Golf's project superintendent at Bedford Springs.

"Their ability to capture exactly what Ron [Forse] and I want in terms of vintage features is pretty amazing," said Forse design associate Jim Nagle. "The internal slopes and contours of the greens were done perfectly."