

# Scorecard

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*von Hagge*

**von HAGGE, SMELEK AND BARIL**  
A CORPORATION



Emporda Golf Club, Spain

# Emporda

The first 27 holes at Emporda Golf Club were designed and opened 15 years ago, and the final nine are long-awaited.

Emporda has continuously been ranked in the top 50 courses in Europe by Golf World.

From a design perspective, Emporda represents a study of contrast, partially residing in a sandy forest of umbrella pines and partially in a former swamp. Sun, shadows and wind combine to form a comprehensive and ever-changing golf experience.

The new nine holes constructed by Cañellas and supervised by Sr. Xavier Millet, is growing nicely. Built on the open portion of the property, it marries well to the original 27 holes. It has been a rewarding experience to visit Emporda and enjoy the success of the existing course, while working on the new addition.



It has been particularly satisfying to work closely again with our client and friend, Bruno Figueras. Rekindling friendships is always a bonus in our professional life.

# Coldstream



Robert and Mike to bring back “Dick Wilson look” at Coldstream Golf Club

In the very late fifties and early sixties, when Robert was affiliated with legendary golf course architect, Dick Wilson, he was servicing several projects in various stages of development in central and southern Ohio, western Pennsylvania and western Virginia.

Recently we have been involved in discussions with the Greens Committee at the Coldstream Golf Club near Cincinnati about renovating one of these grand, old designs. When Dick Wilson and Robert were designing Coldstream, it was just one of many golf courses they had under construction in the same geographical area, along with the Scioto Country Club and the Columbus Country Club in Ohio, the Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, Pennsylvania and the Fincastle Country Club in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Since Robert is the last living associate from the original Dick Wilson organization, he has been asked to cosmetically restore the design so that it will once again reflect the quintessential elements of the Dick Wilson visual character that distinguished it so many decades ago. There will be hundreds of opportunities in the coming years, to retouch these memorable designs of his.

As an apprentice, student and associate of Mr. Wilson, Robert knew he was learning from a grand master about the subtleties inherent in world-class designs; features that would stand the test of time; the subtleties of beauty and challenging tactical examinations that touch the soul as only a golfer knows. Robert and Mike will be working on this project together, and after a 23-year affiliation, look forward to restoring this classic together.

The construction effort at Coldstream began on September 7th.



*Rattan Chadha,  
new owner of  
Royal Mougins*

# Royal Mougins *Golf Club*

**O**n January 15, Mr. Rattan Chadha became the sole owner of Royal Mougins Golf Club, ending 10 years of joint ownership between 12 partners. Mr. Chadha has exciting and ambitious plans for the future of this world-class golf course.

He immediately started a restoration project and intense maintenance program in the hope of generating renewed interest in this noteworthy golf course. He plainly states his intentions to make Royal Mougins Golf Club the finest golfing and social venue in Europe. It already boasts a Who's Who list of members, and serves as the social center of elegant living, minutes from Cannes and Nice.

We look forward to this new relationship and have given our pledge to help Mr. Chadha achieve all of his objectives and realize his dreams for this golfer's haven.



# Atchafalaya



*Robert explaining the finer  
points of bunker construction*

**C**onstruction is progressing at a rapid pace on our project in Patterson, Louisiana. Good soil conditions (much better than expected) and very little rain provide nearly ideal earthmoving conditions. Irrigation installation and greens construction are in progress and planting should be completed soon. Heritage Construction Company is pushing hard to deliver the project ahead of schedule.

Atchafalaya is slated to become a deserving member of the increasingly popular and impressive Louisiana Audubon Golf Trail. Located between New Orleans and Lafayette on I-90, it resides in "deep South" Louisiana. This trail has been established with the purpose of increasing play, enhancing tourism and attracting new residents to the state.

This new course will stand as an integral part of the Atchafalaya Basin Development program, an innovative program sponsored by the government in the largest river-swamp in the country.

The continuous and palpable enthusiasm of the Parish-appointed golf community have made this project a rewarding venture.

# Grand Opening

## “Grey Hawk goes from flat farmland

**G**rey Hawk Golf Club in LaGrange, Ohio, opened for play in August to rave reviews. Particularly challenging was the goal of designing 18 truly unique and memorable holes of golf in an old bean field, devoid of any distinguishing features. We literally had to create topography, lakes and a meandering stream. Apparently, our goal was achieved inasmuch as both the accolades and lot sales have been outstanding.

*Grey Hawk Owners*



## “Grey Hawk layout has a unique look”

*Georgé Sweda, Cleveland Plain Dealer*

# to golf masterpiece” Jason Stahl, TravelGolf Magazine



**Grey Hawk Golf Club, LLC**  
665 US Grant Street  
LaGrange, OH 44050  
Phone: (440) 355-4844

September 18, 2004

Michael J. Smelek  
Von Hage, Smelek and Baril  
17823 Theiss Mail Route  
Spring, TX 77389

Dear Mike:

I wanted to take the time to formally thank you for the outstanding job you did designing our Grey Hawk golf course.

The course hasn't even been open for six weeks and we are enjoying tremendous success. An unprecedented number of rounds (6,400) have been played in this short amount of time. The press we have received has been copious and glowing, and the accolades are still pouring in. Local residents can't wait to get their tee times so they can be a part of this exciting golf buzz.

Additionally, we are thrilled to report that the real estate sales are way ahead of schedule. The way you integrated the housing and the golf course creating 88% amenity frontage for the lots, is aesthetically gorgeous and word of mouth has spread the news quickly.

Your professionalism and attention to detail during all phases of construction made this experience a dream project for the owners. In spite of the challenges brought on by several stretches of inclement weather, under your tutelage, every individual involved in the process gave this endeavor their personal best and the results reflect it. Grey Hawk exhibits a uniqueness and stunning beauty characteristic of von Hage, Smelek and Baril designs.

Looks like you created a masterpiece!

Thanks again,

Sincerely,

DJ Keehan  
Managing Member



*Mike with local press people*

“...the accolades are still pouring in.”

# Superintendent Profile

Greg and his assistant, Jesse

*“ Greg’s superior management talents really showed in all stages of this project from the underground improvements to the final grow-in. The end product makes all of us immensely proud.*

*Greg’s knowledge of course construction showcased his expertise as he made one difficult judgment call after another when faced with severe weather setbacks and the challenges they presented to the construction timeline.”*

– DJ Keehan|Managing Member



## Greg Mostardi

I started my career in golf management as an employee at my uncle’s course, Windmill Lakes Golf Course, in my hometown of Ravenna, Ohio in 1988. He taught me every aspect of the business and I wore many hats in those days. I did irrigation repairs, sprayed greens, mowed fairways, tees and greens, etc. My apprenticeship with him determined the direction my life would take. I worked there for four years before enrolling in Ohio State University. I graduated with an Associates Degree in Applied Sciences in Turf Grass Management.

My first job out of school was in North Myrtle Beach, SC where I went to work at the Surf Golf & Beach Club. I was involved in a project that included a complete renovation of the greens, tees, fairways and traps. This was invaluable experience for me and enabled me to qualify for a Superintendent’s position at my next job, which was in Winston-Salem,

NC at the Salem Glen Country Club.

After two years, I moved to Richmond, Virginia to work at the Independence Golf Club to oversee a complete construction and grow-in of 27 holes designed by Tom Fazio.

Following the completion of that project, I was fortunate enough to come aboard at Grey Hawk Golf Club as Golf Course Superintendent of the construction and grow-in project, which started in 2002. I have a fabulous assistant superintendent in Eric Kasper – also an alumnus of Ohio State. His tireless efforts were key to the success of the entire project. My other assistant, Jessie, (a 4-year-old border collie) provides an invaluable service to the club. She helps keep the course free of geese!

I recently got engaged to my wonderful fiancée, Cynthia Artabazon. She is a landscape designer and horticulturist from Richmond, and we met when I was working on the Fazio job.

# Nostalgia

BY ROBERT VON HAGGE

Crown Colony Country Club celebrated its 25th anniversary in grand style earlier this year with an extravagant affair for its members.

They have a lot to be proud of. Crown Colony is consistently rated the number one private course in the state of Texas (Dallas Morning News).

My personal experience in the design and construction of the Crown Colony golf course was a true labor of love in every sense. I especially enjoyed my relationship with the two principal people involved, namely, Arthur Temple and Horace Stubblefield. Their collective enthusiasm and the wonderful quality of the property made for a sensational experience.



Arthur Temple

Many memories are jarred as I reflect on this 25th anniversary. For instance, prior to the actual construction of the golf course, "Stubby" organized a small real estate promotion in order to attract certain builders and developers to the Crown Colony pre-development effort. Prior to the event, I was asked by Arthur to put on my sales hat and see if I could generate some substantive interest with one particular individual who I sensed Arthur didn't really like. Since that came as a direct request to me from "Sir Arthur Temple," I really "hyped" up my sales pitch to a near frantic level and poured on the enthusiasm. When I finished I was still high and flushed with adrenaline and I was looking for some statement of approval from Arthur, which was not immediately forthcoming. I finally asked Arthur "How did I do?" Arthur gave me a dispassionate look over his cigar and said "Well, I wanted you to attract his interest. I didn't want you to grovel all night!" After that feedback from Arthur, my drive back to Houston was a very long one.

Stubby was something else again. Stubby projected a modest, disarming East Texas manner, but he could quickly become a red-faced, hot, determined, immovable object, especially if there was any hint of spending \$5 more than the preliminary construction

budget originally allowed. Stubby was both tough and tight!

I recall that I once informed him that we had better consult with the Texas Water Resource Board before we finished building the dam on hole #4. He pondered my statement for a while and said "I know we can build the dam as good as or better than they call for and for a hell of a lot less money without getting involved with some lame-brained government official. Every time you inform me of those department rules and groups, it slows us down and it costs us more money." However, he sensibly relented and we contacted the Water Resource Board. In the final analysis, Stubby was somewhat right. It took us three months longer to build the dam by conforming exactly to special government specs and it cost \$35,000 more to accomplish it. I don't think Stubby ever completely forgave me.

Some years later Stubby still had that dam incident stuck in his craw and he finally said to me "Bob, you had better learn soon that it is sometimes better to go ahead with your original plans and apologize profusely after the fact, then to request any official permission beforehand."

I have and I always will continue to serve the Crown Colony Country Club with the utmost professional attention to the ongoing updating of both the tactical and cosmetic quality of the golf course. I also have the solemn word of my younger partners that this attention will continue after me ad infinitum.



# In the News

## White Witch Awards

The White Witch Golf Course at the Ritz-Carlton Golf and Spa Resort at Rose Hall, Jamaica recently won some noteworthy awards. In the June issue of Conde Nast Traveler in an article entitled "Top 100 Golf Resorts," The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort



was voted #1 (tied with Four Seasons Resort, Nevis) in the Caribbean/Atlantic Region. The White Witch was voted #1 golf course design in the Caribbean/Atlantic Region. Additionally, the golf staff/golf services employees were voted the #1 golf staff in the entire Western Hemisphere. Laudable accomplishments, and kudos to the golf staff.

## Astros Gala

15th Annual Black Ties & Baseball Caps Gala –  
An evening at the "Ball-agio?"

This year's Chairs, Lindsay Lidge and Jennifer Everett, led their team and raised a record amount of money for the Houston Area Women's Center - \$215,000. 450 guests attended. The event was generously underwritten by Everyone's Internet, Continental Airlines, Beverly Wren and Greg Miller, and AIM Investments.

We are always happy to donate auction items to this worthy cause. Again this year, three of our most successful courses in Acapulco, Nuevo Vallarta and Isla Navidad, Mexico donated golf packages for the event.

On another note, congratulations, Astros! You've made all Houstonians proud!



Left: Astros General Manager Gerry Hunsicker, Judy Nichols of Judy Nichols Public Relations and Robert at the pre-gala.

Above: Roger and Debbie Clemens with Brad and Lindsay Lidge.

*Von Hagge*  
VON HAGGE, SMELEK AND EARIL  
& CORPORATION