



Horse Power

By Art McCafferty

**Photos by Carter Sherline /
Frog Prince Studios**

In 1894, some pioneering Michigan golfers teed it up at Roaring Brook Course in Harbor Springs. Roaring Brook Course is gone now, but area courses Wequetonsing Golf Club and Harbor Point Golf Course still remain. According to Nancy Duray of Harbor

Point and “Red” Wilson of Wequetonsing, both of these Harbor Springs courses came on board in 1896. Thus began the saga of golf course construction in Michigan.

At that time a golf course was built using horses and the tools of the day, scrappers, discs and plows. These were the tools of Tom Bendelow. Dave Foulis, Donald Ross, Willie Park Jr. and other architects during the pre-automotive years.

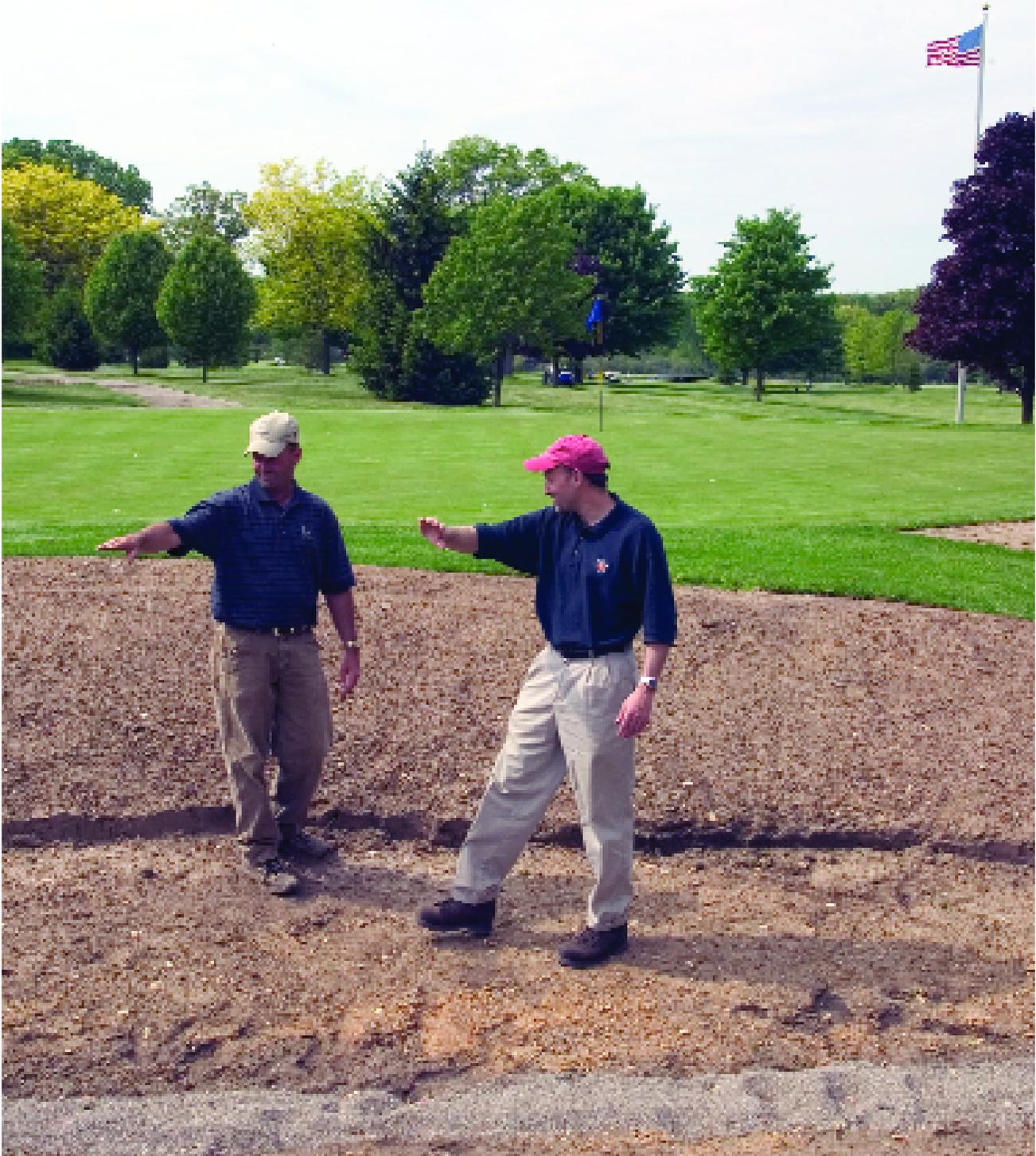
We had the opportunity to revisit those construction times, when we were invited to Elkhart, Indiana’s Christiana Creek CC. The golf course was in the process of bunker restoration on this William Langford 1917 course. Golf course architect, Paul Albanese, of Albanese & Lutzke, was overseeing the bunker restoration. Albanese was intrigued by an idea that construction boss, Daniel Grassi, proposed. Grassi thought it would be interesting to bring in a couple of Belgian horses to scrape out

the old bunkers and reshape the new ones.

Albanese, a Harvard educated golf architect, had always wondered how the older golf courses were built, and now he had the opportunity to find out first hand.

Throughout the course of the morning he worked with the horses scrapping out the old bunkers and then reforming them. The day went surprising well, and all, including members of the club, enjoyed the show.

The Michigan Golfer Television Show was on hand to tape the event, and we can show you what we saw. Just click on to <http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/christiana/>. *MG*



Golf course architect Paul Albanese (right) works with the crew to reshape the Christiana Creek CC bunkers.