

Issue 13 | Winter 2012

# BY DESIGN



Excellence in Golf Design from the American Society of Golf Course Architects

## Highlighting the best

The first winners of ASGCA's new  
Design Excellence Recognition Program

Also: St Andrews • Conditioning • Robin Nelson, ASGCA • Growing the game • Shorter courses



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## Concerning The Old Course and Competition

**S**ac•ro•sanct |'səkrō,səNG(k)t|, an adjective (of a principle, place, or routine): “too important or valuable to be interfered with,” or, “the individual’s right to work has been upheld as sacrosanct.”

This definition struck me in the face, for it contains both aspects of this vehement disagreement:

- The Old Course is *too important or valuable* (historic) *to be interfered with* (altered) and should remain indefinitely for future generations.
- Competition must be contended on quality venues and *the individual’s right to work* (to be tested) is necessary to the game at its highest levels.

A part of me says, “No! No! Keep the Old Course.” But until the mid nineteenth century, the Old Course was a single fairway out and back. But then Scottish Parliament banned the game in 1457, more than five hundred years ago—and how long had they been playing before that?

Another part of me says that Rory should have to play to that section of the eleventh green. Otherwise that hole location no longer exists for the ultimate competitors and is also lost to history.

What’s the difference between that and golf pilgrims of the world seeing authenticity?

Therein lies the disagreement. The fundamental elements of our game have come into juxtaposition.

The conversation continues among ASGCA members. Visit [www.asgca.org](http://www.asgca.org) to read more of their thoughtful comments.



Yours sincerely,

Bob Cupp  
President  
American Society of Golf Course Architects

## BY DESIGN

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Bill Amick describes a fantasy course that he believes could help grow the game.

## COVER



Eagle Course at TwinEagles designed by ASGCA Secretary Steve Smyers.

Photo courtesy of TwinEagles.

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**Count on it.**

St Andrews

## Mixed response to Old Course changes

Major redesign work underway on the Old Course at St Andrews, Scotland, has provoked a wide range of heartfelt responses and passionate discussion among golfers and industry leaders.

The St Andrews Links Trust commissioned architect Dr Martin Hawtree—who recently completed work on Donald Trump’s new links course in Aberdeen, Scotland—to carry out extensive changes to prepare the course for the 2015 Open Championship. This includes alterations to the eleventh green and famous seventeenth ‘Road’ hole bunker, as well as the addition of bunkers on numerous other holes.

“The Old Course holds a special place for all golfers, whether they have played there before or continue to have it on their personal ‘bucket list,’” said ASGCA President Bob Cupp. “The level of discussion in recent days is remarkable, and ASGCA is glad to help provide a forum for these opinions.”

“Pitting current competition against history cannot have an answer, only controversy,” added Cupp. “In essence, are those who play the game today more relevant than those who played it? Golf’s incredible appeal has spurred technology to the point that the size of the game has outgrown its most treasured venues. The question becomes: ‘Do we preserve the truly historic nature of our most ‘sacred’

venues at all costs, or make adjustments allowing for the entertainment aspect of identifying the best player?”

“Those who recommend the changes have a mission to preserve the integrity of The Open. These individuals are not only insightful; they also have a passion for the Old Course,” explained ASGCA Secretary Steve Smyers. “It is my firm belief that as designers of the playing fields of the great game of golf, we must design to the modern players, conditions and standards if we are to have relevant championships on our courses.”

ASGCA Vice President Rick Robbins said: “The hope we have is that people who love the game work together to balance the varied interests of everyone involved. That is the same relationship ASGCA members strive for with course owners—and the goal they set for the projects they work on—around the world every day.”



Image courtesy of St Andrews Links Trust

Conditioning

## Golfers demand firm and fast

Golfers who have been exposed to firm and fast conditions not only embrace them, but demand them in future, according to one leading US club manager. Speaking to the recent European Golf Course Owners’ Association conference, Michael Leemhuis, the chief operating officer of Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. said his members now complained if the club’s two courses were too soft.

“We are constantly being pressed by our memberships to ensure the courses are fast and firm. Because we host tournaments regularly, the members have become used to firm and fast conditions, and they really like it,” he said. “Some of our older members like the fact that their shots get more roll. And when the courses aren’t so firm, they complain. They might not necessarily believe that brown is the new green, but they don’t mind if there’s a little bit of brown out there.”

### Scottish venue for KPMG anniversary

KPMG’s tenth Golf Business Forum will be held in St Andrews next June. The Fairmont St Andrews resort, just outside the historic town, will play host to the conference, which has become one of the leading gathering points for the golf industry in Europe and surrounding regions. The event will take place from June 3-5.

### Hillside work supports junior golf

Andy Staples, ASGCA Associate, is upgrading the Hillside course in the small town of Sidney, Neb. The course runs a junior program for 170 children, and Staples’ plan calls for improving the course’s strategy, creating a new practice facility including short game area and chipping green, and adding forward tees at around 4,500 yards for juniors and seniors.

### Architects tour East Coast classics

ASGCA members, along with architects from Europe and Australia, made a study tour of several classic courses on the East Coast of the US in October. The tour covered Bethpage’s Black course, the National Golf Links of America, Maidstone and Baltusrol. It followed the success of a similar tour to Australia three years ago.

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## Obituary

# Architects mourn Robin Nelson, ASGCA

**A**SGCA member Robin Nelson, senior partner of design firm Nelson & Haworth, died on 19 November at the age of 61.

Nelson worked with fellow ASGCA member Neil Haworth, and Brett Mogg at Nelson & Haworth. The company operates from offices in Singapore, Shanghai and San Francisco.

Nelson was the lead architect on newly designed and remodeled courses around the world, including more than three dozen in Hawaii. His name

also appears on projects in Australia, Canada, China, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Nelson's layouts included Mauna Lani in Hawaii; Bali Golf & Country Club; Shenzhen Golf Club in China; Ravenwood Golf Club in New York; and The Dragon at Gold Mountain, Calif.

An environmental design graduate from the University of California-Berkeley, Nelson began his career as a golf course architect in 1973. He worked with ASGCA Past President Robert Muir



Graves and then Ronald Fream. Nelson became an ASGCA Associate Member in 1984 and a Regular Member in 1987.

Nelson described his design philosophy in a 2000 interview. "My main idea is to let the site speak for itself, to take whatever the site has and transform it into a golf course, if at all possible," he said. "I hope to achieve the combination of variety, fairness, presentation and a challenge to the player."

## First Links

## First Links grant for Battenkill

**B**attenkill Country Club in New York has been awarded a grant from the First Links programme, which is run jointly by the American Society of Golf Course Architects and the PGA of America.

As a result of the grant, Battenkill's board of directors has asked Lester George, ASGCA, to assess its nine hole course, originally built in 1925, to see whether alterations could improve the playing experience for beginner and experienced golfers alike.

According to the club, Battenkill selected George because of his experience working on practice facilities across the USA, notably with the First Tee program, and with clubs with limited space. George has led the club through a process of prioritising possible improvements, including looking for ways to offer more strategy and challenge to local players, while increasing the impact of the club's learning programmes.

With the aim of significantly adding to the club's learning facility, George has combed

the Battenkill property for ideas to incorporate a full-swing practice area, short course, a short-game practice area and assess the addition of forward tees for younger players.

"It means a lot for our club to be chosen as one of the facilities to be awarded the First Links grant," said Bill Wigand, the club's professional. "We have enjoyed working with Lester George and exploring the changes we could make to our course."

*For more information on the First Links program, contact ASGCA's Aileen Smith, [aileen@asgca.org](mailto:aileen@asgca.org).*



### Renovation upswing reported

ASGCA members are reporting an increase in the number of renovation projects underway across the US and elsewhere. Recent projects include reduction of green grass, decreased water usage and lower-maintenance bunkers at the Newport News club in Virginia by Tim Liddy, ASGCA, and the completion of Ian Andrew, ASGCA Associate's restoration at ASGCA founder member Stanley Thompson's Highlands Links course in Canada.

### US camp partnership

Snag Golf, a modified form of the game designed for beginners, has signed an agreement to partner with the American Camp Association.

Snag equipment will be offered at all ACA facilities across the United States, and five per cent of all sales of Snag equipment on the ACA website will support 'Send a Child to Camp' and 'Explore 30' programs.

"We admire the ACA's commitment to bringing the game of golf to thousands of young people who attend camps every summer and we look forward to a long term partnership, tapping an audience of future golfers," said Terry Anton, CEO and owner of Snag Golf.

### Texas A&M remodel

Texas A&M University's golf course has closed for a major remodel aimed at making it one of the best campus courses in the US. The project is being overseen by Texas A&M graduate Jeff Blume, ASGCA.



# Highlighting the best

Design Excellence | Adam Lawrence

*By Design* reports on the first winners of ASGCA's new Design Excellence Recognition Program

**A**SGCA's new Design Excellence Recognition Program is a little bit different type of awards program. Most awards or rankings tables are holistic—they address golf courses or projects as a whole. Course conditioning, service in the restaurant and pro shop, even incidentals like bag drop facilities, can have an impact on how a course scores on some magazine rankings.

The quality of the course design, of course, is an important consideration in most of these awards. But the work of the golf architect goes way beyond the player's perception of design—the positioning and styling of

bunkers, the contours of the greens and so on. Much of the architect's work is way below the surface, solving complex problems to make the golf course, and any surrounding development, the best they can be.

Take one of the courses honored in the inaugural Design Excellence program, the Granite Links project in Boston, by architect John Sanford, ASGCA. Granite Links, as is well known in the industry, was the fruit of Boston's huge 'Big Dig' traffic project. Sanford's design helped close two substantial landfill sites in the area at no cost to local taxpayers, as well as halving the estimated \$200 million

cost of disposing of the soil from the tunneling works. But capping landfills is far from straightforward. You can't just put material on top of years of garbage disposal and be done with it. The site has to be able to 'breathe'—to emit gases that are produced from the waste. There are complex regulations governing what can and what cannot be done in such circumstances. At the same time, though, golf is an excellent solution for former landfill sites, transforming eyesores into beautiful landscapes, and an area of waste into a generator of revenue for private businesses and tax raising authorities alike. Sanford, fresh from his successes



At Mira Vista in California, Forrest Richardson restored Robert Hunter's only solo design

at Granite Links, is now hard at work on another complex landfill project, at Ferry Point in New York City.

ASGCA members have long felt that the ‘under the hood’ skills of golf architects go undervalued. It is understandable—when a golfer turns up to play a round, he knows little about the complex engineering, hydrological or land planning work that was needed to make the golf course happen. But, of course, without this work, his round might not be happening at all, or could be much less enjoyable.

Sometimes a project is not about engineering, but requires a different

## HOW THE RECIPIENTS WERE CHOSEN

ASGCA's new Design Excellence Recognition Program aims to shine a light on the innovation and problem-solving skills required of today's golf course designs, whether the project is a small bunker renovation or a full-scale 18-hole layout.

All nominations were reviewed by a panel of golf industry leaders, including representatives of the Club Managers Association of America, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Golf Course Builders Association of America, National Golf Course Owners

Association and *Golf Digest* architecture writer Ron Whitten. From submissions made by the architects themselves, the panel chose the six recipients.

“Individually these are impressive projects,” says ASGCA President Bob Cupp. “Collectively, they illustrate the breadth and depth of the work ASGCA members do on behalf of their clients in North America and around the world. Each project shows the considerable value a golf course can bring, positively impacting the environment, the economy and the social makeup of its community.”

MIRA VISTA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

El Cerrito, CA  
Forrest Richardson



BOWES CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

Elgin, IL  
Rick Jacobson



PHILLIPS PARK GOLF COURSE

Aurora, IL  
Greg Martin



THE EAGLE COURSE

Naples, FL  
Steve Smyers



set of skills. Today's golf architects need to be skilled researchers, as golf clubs around the world rediscover the importance of their heritage, and seek to embrace it. Unfortunately for those who seek to find out who did what and when at historic courses, it seems that few clubs were especially conscientious about keeping records in their early days.

For example, at another Program honoree, Mira Vista CC in California, architect Forrest Richardson only discovered during the project that the course was the only solo design by noted golf design writer Robert Hunter. Protecting Hunter's legacy was obviously a worthwhile goal, but the course had, as most do, changed dramatically over time, and there was a shortage of documentation to explain how.

Richardson and his team undertook a large range of research activities—ranging from finding newspaper

articles about the club's early days, through on-site work looking for lost features, to interviewing the son of the club's first head professional and reconstructing his father's original scrapbook. This enabled members to make an informed decision to put the course back as close as possible to its original design, though naturally, the 'under the hood' elements needed to be upgraded to the highest modern standards.

Environmental considerations are central to pretty much every golf project today. With restrictions on chemical use getting tighter in virtually every area of the world and water an increasingly precious—and thus expensive—resource, managing more with less is becoming a priority for golf clubs everywhere.

Growing the game is a concern for everyone in the golf business. Finding

opportunities to expose new players to the joys of golf is a win for everyone, but though hard-pressed golf operators recognize the importance of attracting more golfers, they can't afford to spend vast sums on facilities for them to do so. So the work of another Program recipient, Mark Mungeam, ASGCA, at the Lyman Golf Center in Connecticut, is a fine example to the rest of the industry. Mungeam was able to take a dormant plan for a new nine hole short course, plus training features, put on the back burner by the developer for lack of funds, and reduce the cost sufficiently to get it built. No doubt the golfers who will learn the game on those holes will be grateful for many years to come.

## GRANITE LINKS GOLF CLUB

Boston, MA  
John Sanford



## LYMAN GOLF CENTER

Middlefield, CT  
Mark Mungeam



It's this kind of work that the Design Excellence Recognition Program seeks to highlight. Anyone can turn off irrigation heads, but it takes a skilled architect to identify opportunities to reduce the area of maintained turf substantially, without having a negative effect on the way the golf course plays, especially for higher handicappers who need width if they are going to have fun. And in this case, as in so many others, the purpose of the Program is to recognize the work that others will miss. After all, the best golf architecture is often that which simply keeps out of the way and lets golfers play their game! ●

## THE ARCHITECTS



**Rick Jacobson**, ASGCA, began his design career working for ASGCA Past President Larry Packard. After a spell in the design office of Jack Nicklaus, ASGCA, where his first project was the Renegade course at Desert Mountain in Arizona, he founded his own firm in 1991. He has designed courses all over the US, as well as several in Japan, and has recently become one of the most successful golf architects in the rapidly-growing Chinese market.



**Greg Martin**, ASGCA, has more than 25 years experience as a golf architect, twenty of which have been spent running his own Chicago-based firm. Among his courses is Rich Harvest Links in Sugar Grove, Ill. voted in the top 50 in the US by *Golf Digest*, which played host to the 2009 Solheim Cup. He is currently collaborating with fellow ASGCA members Art Schaupeter and Forrest Richardson on a large public environmental-renovation project in suburban Chicago.



**Mark Mungeam**, ASGCA, has spent much of his career as the business and design partner of the late ASGCA Past President Geoffrey Cornish. He oversaw the renovation of Olympia Fields CC in Chicago in advance of the 2003 US Open. He served on the ASGCA Board of Governors, and was a member of the association's Environmental Committee, producing the publication *An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development*.



**Forrest Richardson**, ASGCA, studied the nuances of golf architecture across Scotland, spending time in the Fife Region exploring St. Andrews and its many cousins. His mentor, Arthur Jack Snyder, ASGCA Past President, served as Grounds Superintendent at Oakmont CC in Pittsburgh, passing down timeless and classic design values. Beyond renovation and restoration work, Richardson has created new projects including the Links at Las Palomas in Mexico and Olivas Links in California. In addition he has written several books on golf course design.



**John Sanford**, ASGCA, designed his first golf course in 1985. With Jack Nicklaus, ASGCA, he is currently working on the huge Ferry Point project in New York City, which will be operated by the Trump Organisation. He has become the most popular golf architect in the emerging Egyptian market, with several courses already open and others in development.



**Steve Smyers**, ASGCA Secretary, played golf at the University of Florida, and was a member of the 1973 NCAA Championship team. His first solo design, Wolf Run in Indiana, opened in 1989 and is still regarded as one of the state's top courses. Until recently a member of the USGA's Executive Committee, he is currently supervising the recreation of the Evian course in France, soon to be the permanent host of the LPGA Tour's fifth Major championship.

Design excellence | Granite Links

# Digging for victory



## GRANITE LINKS GOLF CLUB BOSTON, MA

### Architect

John Sanford, ASGCA

### Challenge

Close two landfills, each of which could potentially cost \$8-12 million, and reduce the estimated \$200 million of disposing spoil from Boston's 'Big Dig'.

### Solution

The spoil was used to create a 27-hole public golf course on the two landfills, with vents allowing methane gas to be used as an energy source.

### URL

[www.granitelinksgolfclub.com](http://www.granitelinksgolfclub.com)



Granite Links helped close two landfills

Boston's 'Big Dig' project's key aim was to solve the city's chronic traffic problems. But as a result of some clever planning and construction, the region also acquired other benefits from the work.

Costs of disposing the 10 million cubic yards of spoil from the project were estimated at \$200 million. At the same time, though, the towns of Quincy and Milton wanted to close two adjacent landfill sites, at an estimated cost of \$8-12 million each.

By using the construction spoil to close the landfill—four years of 800 trucks per day hauling material—the disposal costs were halved, and the landfills closed at zero cost to taxpayers. And, as a bonus, the city gained a 27 hole public golf course!

Architect John Sanford, ASGCA, built Granite Links Golf Club on the two landfill sites, seven miles from the central business district of Boston. Both landfills had been

constructed as domed landforms with 1:3 sideslopes. Sanford used the Big Dig material to create terraces for fairway corridors on the sides of the domes.

The course got its name from the multiple granite quarries within the 450 acre site. Prehistoric workshop areas were found during the planning process. Sanford incorporated several of the quarries into the design of the course, and was able to preserve them.

Landfill caps could not be breached, so Sanford added a three foot layer of fill above the cap, in which all the drainage and irrigation was installed. This meant that the 'sacrificial layer' had to be separately graded, before finally placing the sandy topsoil. Methane gas vents were located in out of play areas, and the gas that emerges is used as an alternative energy source.

# Sensitive growth



## BOWES CREEK COUNTRY CLUB ELGIN, IL

### Architect

Rick Jacobson, ASGCA

### Challenge

Plan and develop a new golf course community in the most sustainable way.

### Solution

A golf architect-led process involving professionals from many disciplines focused on creating a buffer between built environment and environmentally sensitive areas.

### URL

[www.bowescreekcc.com](http://www.bowescreekcc.com)

Golf courses and real estate developments have gone hand-in-hand for a century and more. In the modern age, though, when greenfield sites are developed for golf and housing, the pressure to retain as much of the natural environment as possible within the new development is greater than ever. At Bowes Creek in Illinois, the city of Elgin had created a comprehensive plan and design guidelines to direct all future growth in harmony with the environment, to ensure a high quality of life for future generations.

The 609 acre site of the Bowes Creek development was part of the city's 'immediate growth area' designation. Led by architect Rick Jacobson, ASGCA, the golf course design concept introduced active and passive recreation areas as a transitional buffer between the built environment and the

environmentally sensitive natural resources in the open space system. The final design solution aimed to promote synergy between all components of the masterplan.

"Land stewardship is at the heart of our profession," says Jacobson. "Those who have the ability to take action have a responsibility to do

so. Sustainability was the guiding principle throughout the golf design and implementation processes. Site sensitive design resulted in over 40 acres of jurisdictional wetlands being preserved as the anchor of the green open space system. Only 89 acres of the 248 acre golf course corridor is maintained as manicured turf."



Only one-third of Bowes Creek's site is maintained turf

Design excellence | Lyman Golf Center

# Economy drive



## LYMAN GOLF CENTER MIDDLEFIELD, CT

### Architect

Mark Mungeam, ASGCA

### Challenge

Revive the development of a new golf center that had been put on hold due to the economic situation, with planning permits on the verge of expiry.

### Solution

Value engineering led to a modified design proposal that reduced cost, allowing construction to proceed.

### URL

[www.lymangolf.com](http://www.lymangolf.com)

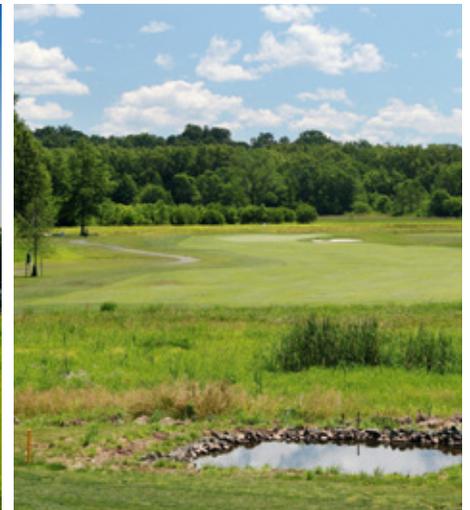
The development of the Lyman Golf Center in Connecticut has been a protracted affair. Originally conceived during the boom periods in golf construction, by the time the extended permitting process had been successfully concluded, the golf market was in a very different place. Hence the owners put construction on hold. Some years later, the permits for the construction of the nine hole executive length course, driving range, short game facility and indoor teaching area, were on the way to expiring, so golf architect Mark Mungeam, ASGCA, feeling that Lyman's proposals were in tune with the times and the need to grow the game, urged the owners to move ahead, if the cost of construction could be reduced.

Mungeam and his team went through an extensive process of value engineering, and also reordered the location of the center's facilities to

improve the circulation of customers and streamline operations.

The layout of the course was essentially retained, while revising the grading, drainage and feature work, aimed at further cutting costs. Two tees that demanded bridges for access

were eliminated, while a return to the wetlands commission enabled the construction of less expensive bridges in other locations. These changes saw the construction approved by the board of Lyman Farms, and the Apple nine opened in 2012.



Mungeam's cost cutting enabled Lyman Farms to go ahead with the new nine

# Moving forward



## PHILLIPS PARK GOLF COURSE AURORA, IL

### Architect

Greg Martin, ASGCA

### Challenge

Regenerate a worn-out municipal golf course that was losing market share and had no room to expand.

### Solution

A long term masterplan for the course's redevelopment was created and executed over several years. It included the relocation of the clubhouse and the addition of practice facilities and a three hole junior course.

### URL

[www.phillipsparkaurora.com](http://www.phillipsparkaurora.com)

Golf, especially in major metropolitan areas, is a cut-throat business. Stand still, failing to improve your facilities, even for a short time, and you will be overtaken by your competitors. That was what had happened at the Phillips Park municipal course in Aurora, Ill., which was built as part of a WPA project in the 1930s.

By the end of the 20th century, the course was struggling. Newer and more interesting courses in the vicinity gave local golfers more choice, and this, combined with Phillips Park's lack of practice facilities and shortage of space to expand, meant its market share was falling.

Architect Greg Martin, ASGCA, formulated a long-term masterplan for the course. Martin's plan, executed over several years, saw the course entirely reconstructed, including moving the clubhouse and parking lots. It enabled the creation

of practice areas and a three hole junior course, which serves the city's chapter of the First Tee.

The changes enabled the course—though still relatively short at 6,250 yards—to be more challenging for better golfers, while the wide

fairways and large greens make it playable for those of any ability. New turf selections mean less intensive maintenance is needed, and, several years on, the course continues to operate successfully, a far cry from the failing facility of the 1990s.



Phillips Park is now more challenging for better golfers

Design excellence | Mira Vista

# Hunting for Hunter



**MIRA VISTA GOLF  
& COUNTRY CLUB**  
EL CERRITO, CA

**Architect**

Forrest Richardson, ASGCA

**Challenge**

Restore the original design of a course that had been eroded as a result of deferred maintenance and tinkering by committees.

**Solution**

Extensive research and site work enabled this historic California club to restore its original course design, while also implementing tree management and drainage improvement plans.

**URL**

[www.miravista.org](http://www.miravista.org)

**M**ira Vista Golf Club in California is unique. It remains the only solo design by Robert Hunter, author of *The Links*, and Alister MacKenzie's collaborator on projects such as Cypress Point and Pasatiempo.

Over many years, the course had suffered as a result of tree growth, important maintenance being deferred and ongoing tinkering by well-meaning committees. Finally in 2007, the club commissioned a full

masterplan from architect Forrest Richardson, ASGCA, and began the process of returning the course to its historic roots.

Parallel to this process was a need to reduce water consumption by around a quarter to remain sustainable in an era of rising water costs, and to attract new members. Richardson's \$2.2 million project involved the reconstruction of Hunter's original 1919 plan, also detailed in several early *San Francisco Chronicle* articles

detailing the course's construction and grow-in. Richardson and his team conducted extensive on site work to find lost features, and reconstructed the 1920s era scrapbook of Joe Novak, the club's first professional.

The project saw all the course's greens and surrounds reconstructed according to the original plans. Forty-four bunkers were restored, and 22 acres of maintained turf was converted to native areas, that will receive no artificial irrigation.



Richardson conducted extensive research to uncover Hunter's original design

# Fitting the landscape



## THE EAGLE COURSE NAPLES, FL

### Architects

Steve Smyers, ASGCA and  
Patrick Andrews.

### Challenge

Recreate an abandoned course to align with the natural features of the land and provide home owners with good views.

### Solution

Holes were redesigned to fit natural features of the land and offer 'holes within holes' and 'greens within greens'. The new course will host the LPGA Tour for its season-ending CME Group Titleholders Championship.

### URL

[www.twineagles.com](http://www.twineagles.com)

Architect Steve Smyers, ASGCA, along with his associate Patrick Andrews, recently completed the rebuild of the Eagle course at the TwinEagles club in Naples, Fla., the annual host of the LPGA Tour's CME Group Titleholders Championship, an elite season-ending event that will serve as the ladies' equivalent to the PGA Tour's Tour Championship.

Smyers says he has three central pillars to his philosophy of design:

- Classic golf courses are fitted to, not forced upon, the land they occupy
- Classic course design provides strategic options that allow for a variety of shots
- Classic design rewards or penalizes the player not only on their physical ability to hit well-executed shots, but their mental discipline and their ability to select the proper shot for the situation.

“Classic architecture—the architecture that we associate with the Golden Age—wasn't simply plopping down features in random fashion. It was all about fitting a golf course, a golf hole, even each specific golf shot to the existing landscape,” he says. “That is the very definition of classic architecture—fitting golf to its environment.”

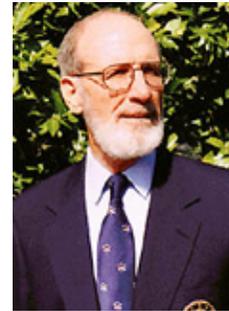
“Our primary objective throughout this entire project was to relate the golf course to the landscape, to make it tie into the landscape so that any features we developed would allow you to read the golf course,” Smyers explains. “All of the shapes out here are derived from the landscape. We studied the landscape first and figured out how the strategy of each hole would emanate from that,” he said.



TwinEagles is to become a regular host of the LPGA Tour

Shorter courses | Bill Amick, ASGCA Fellow

# A dream of the future



**Bill Amick**

ASGCA Fellow Bill Amick has run his own golf design practice in Florida since 1959. Visit Bill's website at [www.amickgca.com](http://www.amickgca.com)

The following is mostly fiction! I have an idea for a theoretical golf course. Only the location and the yardages used are meant to be real.

I'll put my imaginary course in Lewis Center, Ohio, an unincorporated crossroads with quite a few residential developments north of Columbus. Being close to a sufficiently large population of active residents who have the means to play is critical to many courses' success.

The purpose of the Lewis Center Golf Course would be purely for the playing pleasure of those attracted by the golfing experience it offers; generally not low handicappers.

This course requires only about 75 acres. Being much smaller means a lower total initial land purchase. Its real estate taxes would then also be significantly less.

A smaller course would also have much reduced annual maintenance budgets, due to less water for irrigation, lower power bills, less to mow and other tinier quantities of necessary materials including chemicals from non-renewable resources.

As with most golf courses, this course should have a style that fits not just its players, but also its location. Eye candy is not wanted, including ragged-edged bunkers, which require too much maintenance to retain their look.

Presently in that cropland, there are very few trees. Let the sun shine

in and allow the breezes to blow for growing healthy grass. Golfers should be able to find a wayward drive, have a whack at it without having to peer through branches and move on.

Some years ago the National Golf Foundation found that the drives of male golfers averaged less than 200 yards and the average for women was in the neighborhood of 140

yards. The lengths of our holes are based on drives of 200, 170 and 140 yards. There would be no hazards or forced carries that could easily overwhelm and discourage the majority of normal-hitting golfers. Teeing It Forward should still be practiced on a course like this, always according to each golfer's individual hitting length. Now...if only we could get this built. ●

## SCORECARD FOR THE LEWIS CENTER GOLF COURSE

Hole	Par	Tees (average length of drives fitting these tees)			Typical clubs hit
		Back (200)	Middle (170)	Forward (140)	
1	4	300	245	190	Driver & 9 iron
2	3	110	90	70	8 iron
3	4	340	285	230	Driver & 5 iron
4	3	150	130	110	4 hybrid
5	4	380	325	270	Driver & 3 fairway wood
6	3	70	50	30	Sand wedge
7	4	280	225	170	Driver & gap wedge
8	3	130	110	90	6 iron
9	4	360	305	250	Driver & 3 hybrid
10	3	90	70	50	Pitching wedge
11	4	320	265	210	Driver & 7 iron
12	3	170	150	130	5 Fairway wood
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>13 or 14 Clubs in bag</b>

The golf clubs listed are examples of what might be hit from the tees of the par threes and to the greens after average drives on its par fours.

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