

Issue 45 | Fall 2019

BY DESIGN



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Further education

I am looking forward to two exciting 'firsts' in the early part of next year. ASCGA will be hosting the first-ever ASCGA Winter Meeting at GIS in the lead up to Golf Industry Show 2020 in Orlando, Florida. We'll be sharing information on golfing trends and data and consider examples of why, how and when it makes sense for industry members to work with one another.

GIS 2020 itself will also be particularly special for the ASCGA—it will be our first as a Presenting Partner, alongside the Golf Course Builders Association working with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Our increased presence is a great opportunity for members to share their expertise and learn more from others in the industry.

You can read more about both these 'firsts' in this issue of *By Design*, and find out more about how ASCGA members will be collaborating with others in the golf industry. I consider a collaborative spirit to be crucial for success, and we saw plenty of evidence of this in the feature article—'working together'—in our previous issue.

For this issue's cover story (page 12) we focus the spotlight on university golf courses. We hear from ASCGA members who have worked on college courses, and discover what they consider important about these projects. It's a great read, and also very touching to hear the stories of members who have returned to their alma maters to complete golf design projects.



Jan Bel Jan, ASCGA
President
American Society of Golf Course Architects

BY DESIGN

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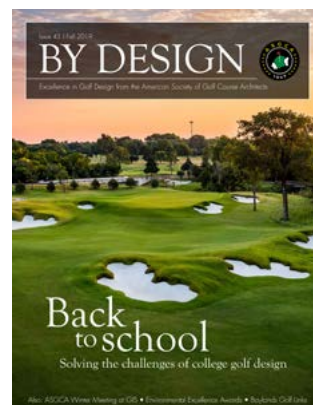
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COVER



Jimmie Austin Golf Club at
University of Oklahoma.
Photography by Brandon Hart

All in golf welcomed to 2020 ASGCA Winter Meeting at GLS



The inaugural ASGCA Winter Meeting at GLS will be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando on Jan. 28, 2020

Anyone in the golf industry considering attending the 2020 Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Florida, will have another reason to make reservations: the ASGCA will host its first Winter Meeting on 28 January at the Orange County Convention Center.

The one-day seminar, 'Traditions and Innovation—Where the Golf Industry IS and Where it is Going', is open to members of the ASGCA, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Golf Course Builders Association of America, United States Golf Association, golf course owners and managers, and industry vendors and suppliers.

"There is so much we can share with and learn from each other," says ASGCA President Jan Bel Jan. "ASGCA wants to bring together these many unique voices so we can exchange ideas and help all golf facilities grow."

Event speakers and education topics are being finalized and will include representatives of top courses, media outlets, golf course architecture firms and industry-leading companies. Topics are expected to include:

- **The 'Experience Economy'** – Tracking golfer trends and interests and the approach taken by companies large and small to meet the needs of today's player.
- **Leveraging Big Data** – Jon Last, the founder and president of the Sports & Leisure Research Group, will introduce the latest data from the third ASGCA Market Trend Watch Report.
- **Collaboration** – Examples of why, how and when it makes sense for industry members to join forces, including architects, superintendents, developers and shapers.
- **Alice Dye Retrospective** – The ASGCA Past President, who led the way for women in golf, will be remembered for the deep and long-lasting impact she has had on the golf industry by those she influenced along the way.

Registration for the 2020 ASGCA Winter Meeting will be available online, beginning in October. Visit <https://asgca.org/membership/events/2020-asgca-winter-meeting>.

Short course

New short course at The Concession to open in November

The Concession Golf Club in Bradenton, Florida, will open 'The Gimme'—a new short course by Nicklaus Design—to members in November.

The nine-hole par-three course takes inspiration from famous layouts. A deep sod-walled bunker and the green on the third hole are based on the Road hole on the Old Course at St Andrews. The ninth includes a bunker in the centre of the green, like Riviera's sixth, and there is a hole with an island green, like at the seventeenth at TPC Sawgrass.

As part of the \$2 million expansion of the golf facility, there will also be a new one-acre putting course called Snake Acre.

Construction started in March 2019 on a parcel of land located within the championship course's routing. Sprigging and sodding were completed in late June.

The course name 'The Gimme' is—like the club's name—a reference to the famous putt Nicklaus conceded to Tony Jacklin in 1969, resulting in the first-ever tied Ryder Cup. The course will have markings on each flagstick to signify the 'gimme' distance.

"We have created a par-three course equal in its quality and visual impact to The Concession's championship



The course is located within the championship course routing

course and complements its challenging nature with a family-friendly design that caters to beginners, juniors, seniors and die-hard golfers alike," said Chris Cochran, ASGCA, senior designer at Nicklaus Design.



"Golf course architecture is a beautiful mix of engineering and art"

BRIT STENSON, ASGCA

In the latest podcast from *Golf Course Industry's* Tartan Talks series, Brit Stenson, ASGCA, talks about his design approach and some of the sites he has come across.

"I consider myself a minimalist on golf course design if the site is worthwhile and natural," said Stenson. "But I'm not afraid to move a little dirt to make things work. My

approach is to let the site do the talking as much as possible, and me being receptive to it. I am a big fan of the importance of routing."

When asked about some of the sites he has encountered both in the US and in Asia, Stenson said:

"I've run into sites where they were dead flat and wet with awful soils, and sites where they were too

steep, and developers would say 'we want 36 holes on this property' and we'd suggest having 18 or 27. We were successful in talking them down a bit, but in this day and age, you can build a site on pretty much anything."

[Listen to the full Tartan Talk at golfcourseindustry.com.](https://golfcourseindustry.com)

HERE ARE LINKS TO OTHER RECENT "TARTAN TALKS," NOW FEATURING OVER 25 EPISODES:

- ASGCA President Jan Bel Jan, [discusses her fascinating career.](#)
- Drew Rogers, ASGCA, [talks about the value of listening and willingness to work on courses built in all eras.](#)

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Environmental Excellence Awards

ASGCA debuts environmental awards

ASGCA has announced seven recipients of its first-ever Environmental Excellence Awards. The program, presented by Ewing Irrigation & Landscape Supply, recognizes the innovative work being done at golf facilities to address the needs of the environment, where golf course architects work with course owners and operators to make a positive impact on the game and the host community.

“The response to this program in its first year has been tremendous,” said ASGCA President Jan Bel Jan. “Congratulations to each of these facilities and the golf

course architects for their work in improving the environmental landscape and helping facilities be more sustainable and profitable.”

The recognized courses are:

- City Park Golf Course, Denver—Todd Schoeder, ASGCA
- Crandon Golf at Key Biscayne, Key Biscayne, Florida—ASGCA Past President John Sanford
- Los Robles Greens Golf Course, Thousand Oaks, California—Dana Fry, ASGCA/Jason Straka, ASGCA
- Roosevelt Golf Course, Los Angeles—Forrest Richardson, ASGCA
- The Preserve at Oak Meadows, Addison, Illinois—ASGCA Past

President Greg Martin

- The Refuge Golf Course, Flowood, Mississippi—Nathan Crace, ASGCA
- Willow Oaks Country Club, Richmond, Virginia—Lester George, ASGCA.

2019 submissions were reviewed by golf and environmental leaders, including representatives of Audubon International, GEO Foundation, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and National Golf Course Owners Association.

More information on each of these projects will be provided in a future issue of By Design.

Renovation

LaFoy completes East course renovation at CC Birmingham

Photo: Sigmon Taylor Photography



Work finished up in spring 2019 and the course has been growing-in since

ASGCA Past President John LaFoy has completed a renovation of the East course and the practice facilities at the Country Club of Birmingham in Mountain Brook, Alabama.

“It was important to re-frame this venue to accommodate every group that played the course, utilising one scorecard with every hole the same par for both men and women,” said LaFoy. “This included paying attention to forced carries and ensuring that the shots required from each set of tees did not exceed the capabilities of the players.”

A six-tee system was put into place using most of the existing tees and adding 28 more. Most were forward tees, although several were back tees, stretching the course out for the better players.

All bunkers have been rebuilt using Better Billy Bunker. Completed in spring 2019, the course has been growing-in over the summer.

Renovation

Rosewood CordeValle reopens following greens renovation

The golf course at the Rosewood CordeValle resort in San Martin, California, has reopened following a renovation project overseen by ASGCA Past President Bruce Charlton of Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Architects.

The project included the resurfacing of all green complexes, re-leveling the driving range and tees, and the use of a higher quality turf.

“We are thrilled to unveil the updated course, which includes careful landscaping and the installation of premium quality turf that has restored the course to its original glory from its inauguration in 1999,” said Charlton.



Photo: Rosewood CordeValle

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Stephen Rabideau, CGCS | Director of Golf Courses, Winged Foot Golf Club

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Renovation

Irving opens after redesign

Irving Golf Club in Dallas, Texas, has reopened following Colligan Golf Design's comprehensive renovation of the former Twin Wells golf course.

Twin Wells opened over 30 years ago and was built on landfill, flanked on the south and east sides by the Trinity River and by a highway on the west. The north boundary runs alongside a four-lane road and the course is crisscrossed by several high-power electric lines. "Not exactly what you might consider your ideal golf course site," said John Colligan, ASGCA.

The renovation has included the rerouting of eight holes and installing a new irrigation system. TifEagle greens and surrounds have been reshaped and

built to USGA recommendations; the 419 bermuda tees were reconstructed and levelled; and the 419 bermuda fairways have been recontoured.

"In order to reinforce the links appearance, over 20 acres of Blackland Prairie, native blend was planted," said Colligan. "These grasses will help to provide definition and beauty to the course while reducing the amount of acreage to be maintained."

"The end result is a course that is unlike any other in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, incorporating an appearance, style and play values reminiscent of many of the great links courses in Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland."

Photo: Trey Kemp



"The end result is a course which is unlike any other in the Dallas-Fort Worth area," says John Colligan

Renovation

Delhi set for 2019 reopening

Delhi Golf Club in New Delhi, India, is set to reopen its Lodhi course following a renovation by Gary Player Design.

"The redesign at Delhi Golf Club was mainly focused on the green complexes," said Jeff Lawrence, ASGCA, vice president and senior designer of Gary Player Design.

"We also redesigned all the fairway bunkers, installed a new irrigation system and provided added contouring to some of the fairways."



Photo: Gary Player Design

Clyde Johnston completes Hollow Creek course



Photo: Clyde Johnston

Clyde Johnston, ASGCA, has added six new holes to the Hollow Creek course at The Reserve Club in Aiken, South Carolina—taking it to 18.

"Some of the new holes are in completely new locations from the original routing," said Johnston. "The moderately rolling topography of the site makes for some interesting holes with scenic views."

Wadsworth Golf Construction began work in March 2019 and finished in late July.

Chenequa CC hires Fry/Straka to develop master plan



Photo: Chenequa Country Club

Chenequa Country Club in Hartland, Wisconsin, has hired Fry/Straka to design a master plan for golf course improvements.

"We will be studying the classic elements from the original Tom Bendelow design to see which pieces should and could be restored," said Jason Straka, ASGCA.

Renovation

Eckenrode completes back nine work at Barona

Photo: Todd Eckenrode

Todd Eckenrode, ASGCA, of Origins Golf Design, has completed renovation work on the back nine at Barona Creek Golf Club in Lakeside, California.

The project has seen Eckenrode return to the course he helped design at the turn of the century. Greens are

being rebuilt to their original sizes and contours, and greenside bunkers are also being renovated.

“During construction it was discovered that most of the bunkers exhibited a lot of sand build-up on the edges due to 20 plus years of sand splash from bunker shots and

the top-dressing program,” said Eckenrode. “The greens renovation was more directed to the age, functionality and maintainability of the greens with minimal work done to change contours or original sizes.”

Work on the front nine is due to start in January 2020.

Renovation

Final phase of Duxbury renovation begins

Renovation work has started at Duxbury Yacht Club in Massachusetts, the final phase of a master plan that Sanford Golf Design first created in 2008.

Following the recommendations that ASGCA Past President John Sanford put forward in 2008, the club began work to improve drainage, expand greens and remove trees. Work continued over the next decade with renovations made to tees and bunkers.

In 2018, Sanford Golf Design was retained to update the master plan.

“Our scope of work for this project is to restore all bunkers, add new tees to accommodate all levels of play, redesign of some fairways, replace 25 acres of maintained turf with unirrigated native fescues, design new carts paths where needed, expanded the practice areas, and create a new short game area,” said David Ferris of Sanford Golf Design.

“Nine holes were originally designed by [ASGCA Founding Member] Wayne Stiles, the old plans indicating strategy were studied, and bunker and tee placements

adjusted accordingly. The nine holes added by, Geoffrey Cornish, ASGCA, have different character and part of the plan is to unify the bunker styles so that the Cornish holes complement the Stiles holes,” he continued.

The course is expected to reopen in summer 2020.



Photo: Sanford Golf Design

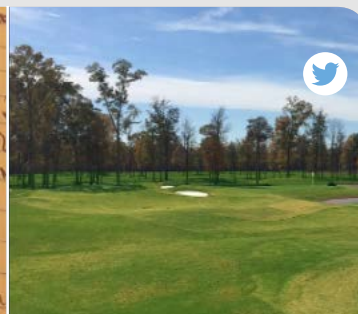
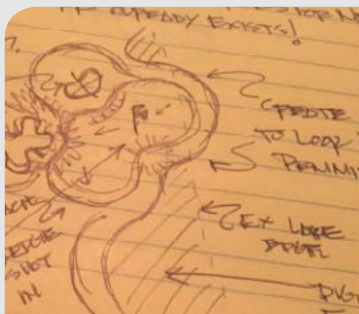
Social update



The 18th at McLemore is truly "above the clouds!"



Bill Bergin, ASGCA
@bergingolf



#TBT I found this legal pad in my old computer bag. It's full of original notes from early 2017 when we first began discussing improvements at @refugegolf. Here's my first sketch for the new peninsula green on the par-4 2nd hole (and a photo from late last year). Close...



Nathan Crace, ASGCA
@lipouts



Representing ASGCA at the Multi-Course Owners meeting are Past President Rick Phelps and President Jan Bel Jan. Always great to hear from course owners and share with them the positive work being done by golf course architects. @asgca1947 @ngcoa #MCOR19 #ASGCA



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The evening before the official opening of the Drumlin putting course @ErinHillsGolf. Great job by superintendent @ZReineking getting it built and ready. Fantastic shaping by Derek Dirksen @thecourseshaper. Proud to be a small part of a great team!



Fry Straka Golf
@FryStrakaGolf



The excellent Plainfield Country Club, one of the very best designs of Donald Ross, brought back to life by a Gil Hanse restoration. How good is this place? Put it this way: New Jersey is a top 5 state for great golf courses, and PCC is one of the five best courses in this golf-rich state.



Linksgems
Plainfield Country Club



"Ocean Dunes plays along the natural terrain, tying into the surrounds." Brian Curley of Schmidt-Curley Design on the second new course at FLC Quang Binh Beach & Golf Resort, which is open for play.



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An aerial photograph of a golf course during the 'golden hour' of sunset. The sky is a warm, orange-pink color. The golf course features a prominent, winding path that curves through lush green grass. Several water hazards, or ponds, are scattered across the landscape, reflecting the soft light of the setting sun. In the background, a dense line of trees marks the edge of the course. A small, yellow bench is visible on the path, adding a touch of human presence to the natural scene.

College courses take architects back to school

Many academic institutions across America have their own golf courses, where university teams practice and play matches, and alumni and the golfing public can enjoy a round. Richard Humphreys finds out what is required for success in collegiate golf course design.



Tripp Davis, ASGCA, renovated the Jimmie Austin course
"to produce championship golf" for the University of Oklahoma

Photo: Branden Hart

The 'Golden Age' of golf course design in the early decades of the twentieth century saw the creation of many of America's finest courses. It also saw the birth of university golf courses, with leading institutions like Princeton, Yale and Stanford investing in their own facilities for their golf teams and

students, and as an attractive amenity for staff and alumni.

Springdale Golf Club in Princeton, New Jersey, may lay claim to being America's first university course. Formed in 1895 by a group of alumni, faculty and undergraduates, nine holes opened in 1902 and another nine followed in 1915, before

a William Flynn redesign in 1927.

College golf courses soon began to emerge across the country. In 1921, Bob Rutherford and R.D. Pryde, professors at Penn State, laid out nine holes on campus, with Willie Park, Jr. arriving the following year to extend their work to a full eighteen. The renowned nine-hole Culver Academies



Photo: Love Golf Design



Scot Sherman, ASGCA, is currently working on a renovation of the Birdwood course at Boar's Head Resort, home of the University of Virginia golf teams

layout in Indiana was created by William Langford and Theodore Moreau in 1924. The Course at Yale in New Haven, Connecticut, a celebrated C.B. Macdonald creation with many of his famed template holes, opened in 1926. Wayne Stiles' Taconic Golf Club in Williamstown, Massachusetts, was originally built for Williams College students in 1928.

By the early 1930s—with George Thomas and Billy Bell completing their design at Stanford University in California and the opening of the University of Michigan's course in Ann Arbor, a collaboration between Perry Maxwell and Alister Mackenzie—golf was firmly on the college agenda.

Later, Robert Trent Jones, ASGCA, helped shape college golf, too. Jones will always be closely associated with Cornell, where as a student he designed a study program for his chosen profession as a golf course designer. He returned in the 1940s and 50s to create Cornell's golf course, but also designed courses for

the University of Georgia, Colgate University and Duke University, the latter renovated by his son, ASGCA Past President Rees Jones, himself a former NCAA golfer at Yale.

“We are trying hard to make golfers think. After all, isn't that the point of the college experience?”

Many more of America's academic institutions have chosen to build courses on their campus, helping to attract students and generate revenue. The foundations for university design work can often be very sound. “Universities have lots of open land available to them, usually a fair amount of money to invest and see a golf course as an attractive amenity for alumni and students,” says ASGCA Past President Michael Hurdzan.

But the bureaucratic nature of such institutions and often large number of decision-makers can make it

difficult to understand and meet everyone's needs.

So, what makes a great college golf design? What do academic institutions want from their golf

courses and what are the primary challenges that golf course architects face when designing a college course?

A stern test

One of the most frequently cited requirements for university golf courses is for them to be a stern test, to challenge and improve every aspect of a college golfer's skills. Some of the most successful NCAA golf teams have notoriously difficult home courses—the 2018 NCAA golf champions Oklahoma State play at Karsten Creek in Stillwater, designed



Photo: University Club of Kentucky

The brief for Drew Rogers, ASGCA, at The University Club of Kentucky was to provide "stronger strategic presence and length"

by Tom Fazio, ASGCA, and the 2012 champions University of Texas, whose team included Jordan Spieth, play on a 7,400-yard hill country course in Austin designed by Roy Bechtol and Randy Russell, ASGCA.

"When it comes to building a golf course played by today's college team members, their athletic and mental abilities cannot be ignored," says Scot Sherman, ASGCA, project architect for Love Golf Design. "Both men and women at college level are more capable than ever in all areas of the game."

Sherman is overseeing a comprehensive renovation of the Birdwood course at the Boar's Head Resort near Charlottesville, which is home to the University of Virginia's golf teams and is expected to reopen in spring 2020.

"On the new golf course, we have certainly considered all players, but have paid closer attention to how the course might be set up for high level play when needed. We are trying hard to make golfers think. After all, isn't that the point of the college experience?"

ASGCA Past President Steve Smyers is working on a new course at Indiana University (see box), which has already been given a USGA course rating of 80. "It is, very much so, a strong test of golf," says Smyers, who studied data of how elite golfers plot their way around a course to inform his design. "To further test the golfer's ability to create and identify the ideal shot for the occasion, several different situations were created around putting surfaces," he says.

Tripp Davis, ASGCA, approached work on the at the

CASE STUDY

Indiana University



Photo: Steve Smyers Golf Course Architects

Construction of Indiana University's new golf course, designed by ASGCA Past President Steve Smyers, is complete and growing in ahead of a spring 2020 opening.

Smyers' brief was to design a course that could host high-caliber championships, require golfers to execute a variety of shots, would preserve and enhance the environment, and would be economically sustainable.

"From a golf architect's perspective, I was very fortunate," says Smyers. "I was given almost total freedom to create whatever I thought best for the property and project."

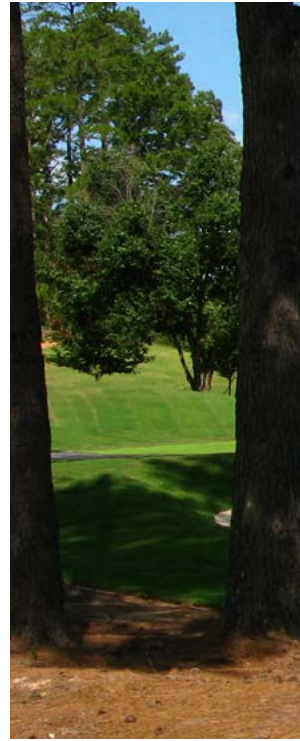
"The course was routed to take advantage of the topography and diverse landscape settings. The strategy and shotmaking of the course emanate from the movement of the land and the journey around the property from landscape room to landscape room provides variety in the settings of the golf holes."

"The bunkering throughout the course has varying depths and shapes, while slopes within the bunkers vary. All of this requires different skills and creativity in shotmaking."

"There is tremendous variety built into the length of the course demanding use of all 14 clubs even for the longest of hitters. The course is planned with multiple landing areas on each hole so that the golf holes can be set up with greatly varying length from one day to the next. This will require not only high-level execution but proper planning before each hole is played."



Photo: Mike Gogel



Mike Gogel, ASGCA, recently completed The Jayhawk Club (above), where University of Kansas golf teams are based. The course at Ole Miss Golf Club (right), which is home to the University of Mississippi golf teams, was renovated by Nathan Crace, ASGCA

Jimmie Austin Golf Club at the University of Oklahoma with a tournament mindset. “Our approach was like when we are asked to produce championship golf, rather than being focused on playability for the average to higher handicap player. Ultimately, the objective became, and still is, to do whatever is necessary to make OU the best university golf facility in the country.”

Drew Rogers, ASGCA, oversaw a renovation of the Big Blue course at the University Club of Kentucky, home to both the men’s and women’s golf teams. And while he says that his approach was not all that different from any other renovation endeavors, part of the brief was to “enhance the design to have a stronger strategic presence and length to challenge collegiate players.”

Best practice

In addition to a challenging golf course, universities are increasingly recognising that outstanding practice facilities are a way to give their teams a competitive advantage.

At the University of Virginia, Sherman and the Love Golf Design team have made use of some unused land adjacent to the old layout for the creation of a new putting

course, short course and practice areas. “A university the size of UVA attracts many people throughout the year who vacation, study, explore, collaborate and compete,” says Sherman. “Therefore, those involved in the golf planning process recognized it was valuable to provide golf venues for all.”

A year after he renovated their Jimmie Austin Golf Club, Davis returned to the University of Oklahoma to create the four-hole

golf course (see box). The course will reopen soon with extensive new practice facilities. “For the golf teams and its supporters, we have created a 12-hole par-three course that is designed so that it can be played in a multiple of ways,” says Chris Cochran, ASGCA, of Nicklaus Design. “Not only is it fun to play, but it has so much variety that it will be fantastic short game practice for everyone, including golf summer camp for juniors.”

“The everyday golfer had to be able to maneuver around the course and have an enjoyable time doing so

‘Ransom’ course. Davis says that one of the objectives for his work was to create the most well-rounded practice facilities for the golf teams. “The golf teams have their own indoor building, range tee hitting north, short game area and four-hole practice course.”

Another institution that has made a considerable effort to improve its practice offerings is Florida State University, where Nicklaus Design has comprehensively redesigned and renovated the Don Veller Seminole

Mike Gogel, ASGCA, has just completed a renovation which has become The Jayhawk Club, used by the University of Kansas golf teams. “A new team building was constructed, which houses both teams’ locker rooms, both coach’s offices, lounge rooms, indoor putting and chipping green, indoor trackman simulator, club repair and seven bays,” says Gogel. There is also a short game practice area with three greens and fairways, greenside and



Photo: Nathan Grace

fairway bunkers, and a 10,000 square foot putting green.

The University of Kentucky returned to Rogers to work with golf coaches and players to redesign practice facilities. “That encounter led us to look for ways to enhance and further develop the practice area utilized specifically by the golf teams,” says Rogers. The plans include the creation of more recovery options around the pitching greens, more diverse grass choices from which the teams can prepare for, and the visual enhancement of fairway targets.

Public play

Most college golf courses must also be appealing to the general public. While his work at Indiana University has focused on testing the high-level collegiate player, Smyers also designed the course with playability for all golfers in mind. “The major contributors to the project comprised many of the university’s alumni,” says Smyers. “It was emphasized that they and their guests—the everyday golfer—had to be able to maneuver around the course and have an enjoyable time doing so.”

Similarly, at the University of Oklahoma, Davis has made the course at Jimmie Austin Golf Club

CASE STUDY

Florida State University



Photo: Courtesy of Florida State University

Florida State University’s Don Veller Seminole course will reopen in late 2019 following an \$8 million renovation overseen by Nicklaus Design. The course is essentially brand new, with the former layout rerouted to generate land for the university, with only the eighteenth left from the original routing.

“Our brief was to create a world-class golf facility that would attract the best junior players in the world to attend FSU and a course capable of hosting any major tournament,” says Nicklaus Design’s senior design associate Chris Cochran, ASGCA (pictured above right with the Nicklaus and FSU team). “The course is aimed at being fun to play for the alumni and students, and it has been designed to be easily maintainable while reducing the overall footprint of the golf course by 40 acres in order to create space for a future highway expansion and commercial development.

“The golf course has over 50 feet of elevation change on it – which is a lot in Florida. The property is lined with 100-year-old live oaks and giant, stately pine trees. We were able to keep over 99 percent of these.

“The course is turning out great. There is over 3,000 yards difference between forward and back tees.”



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OCT. 15

more playable for golfers. “We did add a good bit of width to enhance the strategic options and all but three greens allow for a running approach,” says Davis.

At Ole Miss Golf Club, the home course for the University of Mississippi teams, Nathan Crace, ASGCA, took a similar approach: “The task was to modernize the course to current standards and make the course more playable for a wider range of clientele,” he says. “The course serves students, but also an increasingly larger number of non-students including a growing number of retirees in the area.”

Collaboration challenge

While every golf course project requires architects to work in tandem with their clients, university projects can involve more stakeholders, each bringing their own agenda and opinion to the table.

“What can be different versus a course with a single owner or a member renovation committee is meetings where a dozen decision-makers are sitting around a conference

who studied at the University of Kentucky. “I’m proud to give back and to remain involved at a school which has also given so much to me. My returns to Lexington always feel welcoming and familiar and hopefully always will. It is also especially pleasing to see the golf teams do well, knowing that we’ve had this interaction and that they utilize facilities that we’ve very purposely developed together.”

“Designing a course that carries the Jayhawk name was very exciting for me personally,” says Gogel. “We grew up Jayhawks, even living in Lawrence as young kids. Most of my immediate and extended family graduated from KU so to design a course and practice facilities that will be used to help build a college program and develop potential future professional golfers and top tier amateurs and know I have a very small part in that... I am not certain I’ll ever have a more personal attachment to a project.”

“I have loved working at my alma mater, and I am actually enjoying it more and more,” says Davis,

/// I’m not certain I’ll ever have a more personal attachment to a project

table and making sure everyone is on the same page and is being heard,” says Crace. “That can be time-consuming, but it’s worth the effort when you see the finished product.”

“As it comes to the budget on this project we have worked closely with many representatives of the university, the general contractor we technically work for, and the golf course contractor, which is more people than what we typically work with,” says Cochran, of his experiences at FSU. “But the relationship with everyone on this project has been great.”

Alma mater honor

For some ASGCA members, one of the most gratifying aspects of university golf design has been the opportunity to return to their alma mater.

“It is an honor to have one’s alma mater reach out,” says Rogers,

a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, member of the 1989 National Championship golf team and NCAA-All American selection. “I was a little hesitant at first to be as strong-willed as I might be normally, when necessary. While we are still doing things to make it better, I am at a point I can enjoy it now.”

And for some architects, the tables have been turned. “I did take a lot of ribbing from friends because I graduated from Mississippi State,” says Crace, of his work at in-state rival Ole Miss (he has done work at MSU’s course too). “My friends from Mississippi State would kid me about working for ‘the other school’ and my friends who were Ole Miss fans would kid me about ‘finally seeing the light’ and helping them recruit for the golf teams with a new course. It’s all good-natured fun!” ●

Design graduates

Other ASGCA members to successfully complete design projects for universities include:

ASGCA Past President

Jeffrey Blume redesigned the Campus course at Texas A&M University, as well as designed the Goodman Family Aggie Golf Complex practice facility.



Photo: Jeffrey D. Blume Ltd

Thomas E. Clark, ASGCA, returned to his alma mater Penn State University in 1992 for a project that saw 14 holes added for their 36-hole golf complex. He later improved practice facilities for the golf teams.

As part of his work with Fazio Design, **ASGCA Past President Tom Marzolf** has helped to create golf facilities at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Oklahoma State University and The University of North Carolina.

Kevin Ramsey, ASGCA, of Golfplan designed the John and Diane Watson Short Game Training Center at El Macero Country Club, which is used by the golf teams at UC Davis.



Photo: Golfplan

Andy Staples, ASGCA, has recently finished working with Marquette University and The University Club of Milwaukee on an innovative short game range and four-hole short course.

Meeting grow-in challenges

The reinvention of Palo Alto Golf Course was featured in the 2018 ASGCA Design Excellence Recognition Awards. Jeff Langner of Profile Products provides an insight into their organizations' role in the project.

Built in the 1950s, the Palo Alto Golf Course was a relatively flat open-space course that, by the early 2000s, had seen better days. Located within the Baylands Natural Preserve in Northern California and along the San Francisco Bay, the course had fallen victim to salty soils, which hampered efforts to grow quality turf.

There were other problems, too. Due to Silicon Valley and Palo Alto's population growth and real estate development through the years, the nearby San Francisquito Creek, which at one time flowed naturally into the San Francisco Bay, became a drainage canal prone to flooding during rainy winters. This ecosystem shift resulted in unplayable course conditions and course closures.

By 2010, the federal government, state officials, Palo Alto and adjoining Silicon Valley communities combined to create a joint venture authority called the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Committee to develop an action plan for the site. The considerations early on were to use portions of the golf course

to widen the creek, change its radius and improve the levees. But in addition to solving the flooding problem, it soon became apparent that the course, with its non-native plants and large turf footprint, was a disruption to natural landscapes and wildlife of the Baylands Preserve. Those elements would need to change, too.

"We knew that we wanted to make the golf course harmonious with the Baylands because that only made sense," said course architect Forrest Richardson, ASGCA, of Forrest Richardson & Assoc.

Richardson's team eventually settled on a full course redesign and renovation, ultimately renaming the course Baylands Golf Links. The new plan would solve the flooding problem, improve course play and imbed the course beautifully into its natural environments.

The \$12 million renovation proposal would require trucking in about 400,000 cubic yards of soil from nearby Stanford University to create more dune-like features. The original course was largely flat and

the new design would incorporate undulations and elevations ranging from five to 30 feet above sea level, enhancing topography and adding appealing vistas not seen in the past. The new course would feature USGA greens and tees, reconstructed bunkers and a complete system of concrete cart paths.

More importantly, the new course would also reduce maintained turf from 143 to only 87 acres. Of the 56 turf acres removed, 11 would be set aside for public recreation while the remaining 45 acres would be a nearly even split between wetland and lowland areas along the bay with salt tolerant plants and hillocks, or large swaths made up predominantly of native grasses.

Those 45 acres were critical to restoring indigenous turf and wildlife to the course, replacing previous invasive species in place in the past. The new course would encourage long-term sustainability of the property's ecosystem.

However, growing-in seeds for native plants and grasses in that 45-acre region would prove challenging. And





it would be done at a dry time of year when there was considerable wind, which was not helped by activity from the adjacent Palo Alto Airport. Dust mitigation protocols from local, state and federal agencies would be in place, and the team ran the risk of getting poor seed germination as a result of the natural restrictions from the environment.

“We needed some stabilization to not only grow-in the native grasses and native plants, but we also needed a tackifier. We needed something to keep the seeds in place and guard against erosion. This was extremely important,” said Richardson.

The team turned to Profile’s Thermally Refined Wood Mulch with Tackifier, a non-toxic, biodegradable product made from 100 percent recycled thermally-refined wood fiber. The product is completely environmentally sound and highly effective for preventing soil erosion while also offering the tackifier effects Richardson and his team were looking for, all while promoting quick germination.

“We knew this project was on a lot

of people’s radars for environmental reasons,” said Randy Hamilton, market manager for Profile. “Once we heard the team’s concerns about dust control, wind and other challenges on site, we were confident Profile’s Thermally Refined Wood Mulch with Tackifier would provide the performance and value they were looking for.”

The project contractor, Wadsworth Golf Construction Company, mixed Profile’s Thermally Refined Wood Mulch with Tackifier with sprigs in a 2,000-gallon hydro-seeding truck and applied the mix to the 45 acres. The application was completed in October 2016, and the benefits of Terra-Wood were immediately noticeable.

“It basically seals in the moisture and helps the sprigs germinate very quickly,” said Wadsworth president Patrick Karnick. “We were very pleased with the application and the results.”

The use of Profile’s Wood Mulch with Tack accelerated plant growth, with the team seeing germination within about five days, said Karnick. The ultimate test came six months

after hydro-sprigging was completed when biologists from city and federal agencies conducted a site visit to assess and certify that the course grow-in was complying with minimal growth standards of at least 50 percent germination. Grow-in was nearly 75 percent during the inspection, with the wetlands and hillock areas were more than 90 percent grown-in by the nine-month period, according Richardson.

“The biologist on the project was extremely impressed with the progress. He couldn’t have been happier. He was particularly concerned about the wetlands during his assessment,” said Richardson.

Profile’s Thermally Refined Wood Mulch also brought cost benefits. It was less expensive than alternative solutions such as rolled erosion control products or blankets. ●

*Find out more about Profile Products at www.profileproducts.com. Read more about Baylands Golf Links—and other projects featured in the Design Excellence Recognition Program—in the February 2019 issue of *By Design*.*

New role for ASGCA at GIS

With less than six months to go to Golf Industry Show 2020, ASGCA President Jan Bel Jan and her counterparts at GCSAA and GCBA, Rafael Barajas and Pat Karnick, participated in a Twitter Q&A about their organizations' role at the event

Photo: Courtesy of GCSAA/Traci Edwards

TWITTER Q&A

Golf leaders



From left, GCBA President Pat Karnick, ASGCA President Jan Bel Jan and GCSAA President Rafael Barajas

What do the increased roles of ASGCA and GCBA mean for Golf Industry Show (GIS) attendees?

Jan Bel Jan: The ASGCA has been a proud supporter of GIS since its formation. We are committed to helping golf courses of all types to be more successful. As the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) looks for new ways to grow GIS, an increased presence at the event seems the perfect way to display ASGCA's commitment.

This increased role provides greater opportunity for our members to both give and receive education, including greater interaction with course superintendents, builders, suppliers and others.

Pat Karnick: Being a presenting partner alongside the GCSAA and ASGCA unites three of the largest and most comprehensive enterprises in the golf industry. It justifiably made sense to join forces with these two entities and provide GIS attendees the opportunity to learn about all aspects of developing or enhancing a

golf course. We look forward to being a major aspect of GIS for a long time.

What do the additions of GCBA and ASGCA as GIS Presenting Partners mean for GCSAA members?

Rafael Barajas: Enhanced involvement by the GCBA and ASGCA adds expanded education opportunities and solutions for supers. GIS is strengthened by their contributions and provides members and other attendees with a premiere event to experience golf course and facility management solutions under one roof. GCSAA's GIS relationship with GCBA and ASGCA mirrors the real-world working relationship between architects, builders and supers; all key components in the development and sustainability of a golf facility.

What does ASGCA's increased role mean for GIS attendees?

JBj: The golf industry is growing in new ways, so more education for golf course decision makers is a must.



From the 2020 event, ASGCA, GCSAA and GCBAAs will be Presenting Partners of the Golf Industry Show

Attendees will have the chance to learn more from golf course architects in both formal and informal settings.

What does GCBAAs increased role mean for GIS attendees?

PK: GCBAAs brings strength in not only numbers but experience. Our members average 20-plus years of experience in the global golf business, while our staffs dedication to education is unparalleled in the industry. GCBAAs works tirelessly to improve the golf industry as a whole and those efforts will carry through to GIS and its attendees.

What collaborative GIS events can members expect to see between GCSAA, GCBAAs, and ASGCA?

RB: While GCBAAs and GCSAA will continue their partnership for 2020s 'Inside the Shop', ASGCA will join 'Design and Construction' on the show floor. The combined area will offer support for members of all three associations and showcase member exhibitors.

What additional opportunities will the GIS presenting partnership provide for GCBAAs members?

PK: Our hope is that our members

realize the great education opportunities that this partnering will offer. Individually as associations, there has always been internal education opportunities for members to enhance themselves. Now with the three Presenting Partners, more significant cross-education will be presented to our members, such as the day-long ASGCA seminars that are open to everyone.

How have you seen GIS evolve in your time with GCSAA? Where do you see it heading?

RB: With GIS exhibitors, sponsors, and allied association support, GIS has fostered a more collaborative spirit and will continue embracing all golf course management aspects while recognizing contributions each stakeholder makes to golf. ●

GCSAA's GIS relationship with GCBAAs and ASGCA mirrors the real-world working relationship between architects, builders and supers

GIS 2020 will be held Jan. 25-30, 2020 at Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Keep updated on Twitter with @ASGCA, @GCBAAs, @GCSAA and @GCSAA_GIS.



Scot Sherman, ASGCA

“ I believe we are bound together by the courses we all can play for a lifetime

Scot Sherman, ASGCA, was educated at Furman University and Georgia Tech before beginning his golf course design career at Dye Designs. He later joined ASGCA Past President Bobby Weed and served as senior associate. In 2014 he connected with Mark Love, and his brother, the PGA Tour golfer Davis Love III. Sherman now balances a role as lead golf architect for Love Golf Design with work on his own designs for selected clients.

How is your game?

It is ironic that you should ask: Recently I had some vision issues that really affected my game for weeks and ingrained some bad swing habits. As I was healing, I got a very quick lesson while traveling with Mark Love inside a clubhouse, without ever swinging a club. When I returned home to practice, I could not believe how much that small tweak improved my ball striking. As Harvey Penick used to say, ‘in the golf swing, a tiny change can make a huge difference.’ This was exactly my experience with Mark’s help.

Which three people would make up your dream fourball?

My favorite fourball would always include my dad, son and brother. But in the realm of dreams, I would first include Bobby Jones. Needless to say, a few hours watching his swing would be wonderful. But also, the way he approached life and golf—both in their proper perspectives—would be an instructive topic of discussion. Ben Crenshaw would also be invited—for many of the same reasons. And, just being able to hear his conversation with Mr. Jones would be priceless. Finally, I would include ASGCA Fellow Pete Dye. Given his recent health challenges, I would enjoy seeing him once again, all the while being on the receiving end of his needling.

What is your favorite hole in golf?

My favorite is the seventeenth at National Golf Links of America. It is one that embodies all of the strategic, interest and aesthetic factors I learned to incorporate into design. Also, the fact that a hole built over 100 years

ago still fairly and sternly challenges golfers today is a testament to its design strength.

If you could change or add one rule, what would it be?

I am in favor of some bifurcation of the rules of golf—especially on equipment issues. I do not agree that the same set of rules is what binds all levels of golf together. I believe we are bound together by the courses we all can play for a lifetime—such as Pinehurst No. 2 or The Ocean course at Kiawah.

What project are you currently working on?

At Love Golf Design, we are working on the complete redesign of the Plantation course at Sea Island Resort. This project includes reintroducing timeless features which once existed on the property, while also upgrading everything else. We are also working on a multi-year project at the University of Virginia. The project includes completely redesigning their existing course, while also building a six-hole short course, a putting course, new practice range, and practice facilities for the golf teams [read more from page 12]. This summer, I have been assisting Kiawah Golf Resort with upgrades on the Ocean course in preparation for the 2021 PGA Championship. ●



Sherman’s work at the Sea Pines Resort in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, included the reinvention of the former Ocean course, which reopened as Atlantic Dunes in 2016

Photo: Love Golf Design

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