ASGCA elects new members to association
Architects Weed, McCumber, Huntley, Commins, Harbottle and Fry join elite organization

By Mark Leslie

Despite a competitive marketplace for their services, golf course designers must work closely together to overcome obstacles to development, according to one of the six new associate members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Robert Weed, chief architect for the PGA Tour's Design Services Inc. in Ponte Vedra, Fla., and a certified golf course superintendent, said: "Everyone involved in golf needs to become more allied to form a stronger group... Someone's got to take the lead role and I think the ASGCA can do it."

"We've got tremendous roadblocks ahead from environmental, development and regulatory standpoints that affect all of us. The only way we can address them is to be a group. There are a lot of lobbyists out there being heard. The squeaky wheel gets the oil."

Weed was speaking after being informed that ASGCA members had elected new associate members that included him; PGA Tour professional Mark McCumber and J. Christopher Dye of Dye & Dye Partners, Orange Park, Fla.; Dana Fry of Hurdzan Design Group in Columbus, Ohio; John Harbottle III of Greenbrae, Calif.; and Brian Huntley of Toledo, Ohio.

Meanwhile, Jack Nicklaus, Jay Morrish and five other associate members were elected regular members. Others were Fred Bliss of Santa Rosa, Calif.; Bruce Charlton and Kyle Phillips of Robert Trent Jones II International in Palo Alto, Calif.; Ron Korn of Noblesville, Ind.; and Steve Perry of Toledo, Ohio.

ASGCA recognizes individual achievement

The title of ASGCA's highest honor, Fellow, was given to 10 members.

They are: Jack Nicklaus, Arnie Palmer, Jack Grout, Ben Crenshaw, Fuzzy Zoeller, Tom Weiskopf, Jack Burke Jr., William Perry, Tom Fazio and Tom Fazio II.

The 10 have earned recognition for "long term contributions to the golf architecture profession and advancement of the society," according to the ASGCA.

GCBAA to test and certify members

As many as 40 of the nation's leading contractors may become the world's first certified golf course builders this summer at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's summer meeting in St. Louis, Aug. 12-14.

Before a builder may use the designation "certified golf course builder," he must complete an application packet and pass an examination of 100 questions covering 14 topics related to course construction.

The examination will be the final event in the three-day meeting, which will feature two days of educational programs and social events in conjunction with the PGA Championship at Bellerive Country Club.

Examination topics will include history of golf course design and layout, clearing, earthmoving, finish grading, drainage, green construction, trap construction, irrigation, fertilization, seeding, soil structure, regulations, building structures, cart paths, and grow-in.

Before taking the examination, a builder must:

• establish that he has been in the golf course construction business for at least five years and has completed three golf course projects within the last five years;
• provide references from each of the following: course owner/developer, golf course architect, engineer, irrigation designer, golf course superintendent, municipality, certified golf course builder;
• provide references from each of the following: financial institution, creditors, insurance company, bonding company.

To retain certification, a builder will have to attend at least one GCBAA education session per year.

"Builders will have to re-certify periodically — at least every five years and maybe as often as every three years," said Phil Arnold, GCBAA executive vice president.

"The board hasn't set the term yet."

Education programs at the summer meeting will focus on the Allied Associations of Golf and technological developments in construction and golf course operations.

Among the speakers lined up is Jim Snow, director of the United States Golf Association Green Section.

"The point of the certification program is to identify competent, trustworthy golf course builders," Arnold said. The examination shouldn't be considered like a bar

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Second touring pro joins ASGCA

By Mark Leslie

Make no mistake: The newest famous member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects will not take the rap for signing his name to course designs on which he has not worked closely.

While so many touring pros are criticized for putting their members on courses without getting involved in the day-to-day operations of a golf course architect, Mark McCumber is among the hands-on play-

ers/designers like Jack Nicklaus, Tom Weiskopf and Ben Crenshaw.

Indeed, McCumber was designing golf courses before he joined the PGA Tour. Before McCumber was accepted as an ASGCA member in May, Nicklaus was the only touring pro in the society's ranks.

Now McCumber is the first member of the 45-year-old organization to first learn the design trade, then win PGA tournaments.

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BRIEFS

DYE TO DESIGN YAMAGATA LAYOUT

Perry O. Dye Designs International, Inc., has signed a contract with Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. of Kobe, Japan, to design an 18-hole championship golf course in Japan's Yamagata Prefecture.

Dye will also design a 9-hole facility in Fuzhou and a 27-hole layout in Zhaoqing.

The 18-hole layout winds through a birch forest offering dramatic views.

Dye is involved with three Chinese projects — a 27-hole facility in Xiamen, an 18-hole course in Fuzhou and a 36-hole layout in Zhaoqing.

Six Dye designs are on the drawing board in Indonesia and another 63 golf holes in Morocco. Eighteen of Euro Disney's 27 Golfplan-designed holes are scheduled to open in August.

Golf Course News