ASGCA elects new members to association

Architects Weed, McCumber, Huntley, CMMinho, 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 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 Kern of Noblesville, Ind.; and Steve Fry of Toledo, Ohio.

"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 critical 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 players/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.

Second touring pro joins ASGCA

By Mark Leslie

GCBA 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 first 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 Bellwite 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;
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Palm Harbor GC closes for six months for repairs

PALM COAST, Fla. — Palm Coast's oldest golf course, Palm Harbor, is reconstructing its tees, greens and clubhouse.

The course closed June 1 and is scheduled to reopen Dec. 1, according to Fred Kleinfelder, director of golf maintenance for SunSport Recreation. The ITT Community Development subsidiary operates Palm Coast's four golf courses, tennis clubs, marina and restaurants. All SunSport facilities are open to the public.

Palm Harbor's approximately 550 members have been offered full member privileges at either Cypress Knoll or Matanzas Woods golf clubs until Palm Harbor construction is complete.

Matanzas and Palm Coast's fourth golf course, Pine Lakes Country Club, were designed by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay, while Cypress Knoll is a Gary Player course.

The 6,572-yard Palm Harbor layout, designed by Bill Amick, opened its front nine in 1971 and back nine two years later. Tifton Turf Farms, Inc., of Tifton, Ga., is rebuilding the tees and greens and restoring them to their original size. Kleinfelder said the work is necessary because hybrid Bermudagrass greens revert to unsuitable grasses after about 20 years, and tees and greens gradually lose their original shape and grade.

The Palm Harbor clubhouse expansion, being handled by ITT Community Construction, will put the pro shop, locker rooms and 19th Hole under one roof.

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Dye Designs changes name to reflect times

Dye Designs International, Inc. has changed its corporate name to Perry O. Dye Designs International. Inc. The decision to add his full name to the 10-year-old corporate entity comes at a time when Perry Dye is concentrating fully on his golf course architecture.

The first new project to be signed by Perry Dye as Perry O. Dye Designs International Inc. is the Sakuranbo Country Club in Yamagata Prefecture, Japan.

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