Pearson leaves Golden Bear, enters the fray of golf course design

By MARK LESLIE

JUNO BEACH, Fla. — Testing the waters and finding them tepid, golf course architect Tom Pearson has left Nicklaus Design Co. and formed Pearson Golf Design, headquartered here.

Opening his own firm, Pearson follows in the steps of former Nicklaus cohorts Jay Morrish, Bob Cupp, Scott Miller, Rick Jacobson and Nick Robbins.

"I've been at Nicklaus Design a long time," Pearson said. "I always felt that I was at the top just by working with Jack. The only thing I could personally see that would be a step up would be to go on my own. This is that step."

Pearson spent 15 years working with Nicklaus and also worked with Robert von Hagge and Bruce Devlin, assisting Nicklaus and also worked with Robert von Hagge and Bruce Devlin, assisting

"Cooks Creek points way to future"

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Jim plans to build some housing the property.

For them all, especially course builder Niebur Golf, it was a major undertaking confronted by one massive problem flooding. The Scioto River runs along the 350-acre property and merges with Little Walnut Creek on-site. That confluence over the years has often submerged the property.

"It's the natural areas, like the tall grasses. Whenever we clear areas for development today, Pearson said, is putting that things we've done, or that it would have been better if we had enhanced it rather than left it alone."

"The biggest challenge facing golf development today, Pearson said, is putting together an adequate land package to support a course.

"We need to have so many acres to do a good course. A developer has to put together enough land to make the numbers work. If there is wetland or something else, he has to obtain more land... Then there's just so many variables involved."

"Cooks Creek is doing and how they can help the Ohio DNR personnel visit every several months to discuss what Cooks Creek is doing and how they can help Scharenberg added. "It's the natural areas, like the tall grasses. Whenever we clear areas for air circulation we pile the branches back up like wigwams. People don't realize that play in the forest has 10 times the amount of animals than the birdhouses."

Ohio DNR personnel visit every several months to discuss what Cooks Creek is doing and how they can help Scharenberg and his crew.

"Initially, environmentalists saw our intentions were to do it right," Hurdzan said. "Once they saw that and we could show we weren't going to alter the flow of the river, that indeed we were going to stabilize the land to erosion, and increase the wildlife value of the site, they were thrilled."

"the soil dredged up was used to raise the fairways six to seven feet to get out of the flood plain and not alter any of the flood capacity of the valley. Some

virtually flat except for one huge ridge that runs down the middle," Hurdzan said. "But Jim said, 'By God, we'll do it anyway.'"

"It's not actually the bird houses that do the most good," Scharenberg added. "It's the natural areas, like the tall grasses. Whenever we clear areas for air circulation we pile the branches back up like wigwams. People don't realize that play in the forest has 10 times the amount of animals than the birdhouses."

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"The story line, Hurdzan said, is that 'wetlands have always been unusable ground. We have taken modern earth-moving equipment and put the flood plain into recreational use without changing the intention of what a flood plain is all about — to allow for flood waters. The flood plain today is probably a better storage area than before.'"

"Cooks Creek? It's a narrow, three-to-six-foot-wide creek that runs down through the Upland nine which looks down on the Bottoms nine set in the

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