JASPER, Ind. — The heralded remodeling plan at Sultan's Run Golf Course here was unveiled May 21. The $1.5 million project, under golf course designer Tim Liddy, affected all 18 holes.

The original design was done by General Manager Allen Sternberg and then head pro Tom Jones. Wadsworth Golf Construction of Plainfield, Ill., began work on Liddy's redesign in 1996.

"We felt it was time to take a good product and make it a showcase," said head PGA professional Rusty Mason. "What we had the past five years was a good layout, but one that wasn't functional for the long haul. We decided...

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ASGCA accepts Fought, Benkusky and Kavanaugh

TORONTO — The American Society of Golf Course Architects elected three new associate members — Mike Benkusky of Marengo, Ill., Ken Kavanaugh of Tucson, Ariz., and John Fought of Aurora, Ore. — during its 51st annual meeting here.

An associate of Lohmann Golf Designs, Benkusky's work includes Bishops Bay Golf Course (GC) in Middleton, Wis.; and Boulder Ridge Country Club (CC) in Lake in the Hills, Ill.

As principal of his own firm, Kavanaugh has designed Southwark GC in Pearlard, Texas; The Vistas at Westbrook Village in Peoria, Ariz.; Seasons Ridge GC in Lake Ozark, Mo.; and the Oregon GC in West Linn, Ore.

Fought is principal of John Fought Design/ OB Sports LLC and is responsible for such layouts as Big Sky Golf & Country Club in Pemberton, B.C., Canada; and CrossWater in Sunriver, Ore.

The Links Course holes flow along the top of the rocky bluffs above the water, with fairways and some greens perched on the edge of those bluffs. Four of the seven holes play along the water, some on bluffs 170 feet above Little Traverse Bay. Hills routed the 27 holes over and through four diverse geological formations — sand dunes, a quarry, lakeshore and wooded uplands.

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Bay Hill turns quarry into golf
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Quarry Course holes play down into the old limestone quarry; then out to two more bayside holes. Several are routed through natural sand dunes. The rest are cut through northern Michigan hardwoods.

The 10,000-square-foot clubhouse has a commanding view of the bay as well as the 9th hole on the Quarry Course.

The golf course reclaims what was once a scarred and browned-out cement factory, adjacent to a sand and gravel quarry, jutting out over the pristine bay.

Three years ago the land was an environmental disaster dotted with poisonous piles of kiln dust, a 90-acre hole in the ground, and two huge cement and brick smoke stacks. "The place looked like a windswept lunar surface," said Andy Stemple, an environmental quality analyst of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

No vegetation would grow on the piles of kiln dust which contained arsenic, lead and other metals — residues of the cement-making process. The poisons wafted up into the atmosphere when the wind blew off the big lake, while some of the polluting metals constantly seeped into the bay.

Today the smoke stacks are gone. The kiln dust has been replaced by rolling green fairways, and the huge hole in the ground is a deep blue-water harbor.

With the permission of the Michigan DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the developers blew a hole in the sea wall, allowing water from Lake Michigan to flood the old quarry and creating the 75-foot-deep Quarry Lake where 100-foot Hatteras yachts regularly congregate. Bay Harbor has already hosted more than 50 Hatteras yachts for one function, the largest such gathering of those luxury models on the Great Lakes.

The yacht club boasts a 23,000-square-foot clubhouse and 500 slip marina. The "slipominiums," as they are called, sell for $150,000 and include a yacht club membership.

The ramshackle cement factory buildings have been replaced by 10,000-square-foot Victorian-style waterfront mansions. Where fences once circled browned-out land, green park land now invites passersby to enjoy the view of Little Traverse Bay.

The peninsula created on each side of the dredged-out entrance to Quarry Lake gave the developers prime frontage that they turned into $1 million lots featuring the bay in front and the new lake in the backyard.

The 1,100-acre site will have 800 homes and condominium units, clustered in groups of 25 neighborhoods, each with different themes. There are waterfront homes where owners can walk out their front door to their yachts; homes on the golf course; and clusters of condominiums near a shopping and restaurant district.

Alice Dye heads new slate of ASGCA officers

TORONTO — Alice Dye of Carmel, Ind., became the first woman president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at its recent annual meeting here. Dye's election also signals the first time that a husband and wife have both served as society president. Her husband and design partner, Pete Dye, was president in 1989.

Also elected at the meeting were Vice President Bob Lohmann of Marengo, Ill.; Treasurer John LaFoy of Greenville, S.C.; and Secretary Brian Ault of Kensington, Md. Immediate Past President Denis Griffiths of Braselton, Ga., will serve as ex-officio member of the board.

Greg Muirhead of Montclair, N.J., and Lee Schmidt of North Palm Beach, Fla., were elected to the board. They join returning board members Bob Cupp of Atlanta, Ga.; Mike Dasher of Winter Park, Fla.; Bill Love of College Park, Md.; Tom Marzolf of Hendersonville, N.C.; Clyde Johnston of Hilton Head Island, S.C.; and Damian Pascuzzo of Walnut Creek, Calif. Dye, Lohmann, LaFoy, Ault and Griffiths also are members of the board.

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