ASGCA offers white paper on ‘Alternatives’

While North American markets continue to demand more golf facilities, developers are often faced with a stark realization: Sometimes there isn’t enough land, money or experienced players available to make a full-sized, par-72 golf course feasible.

Developers caught in this situation can now consult a free white paper available from the American Society of Golf Course Architects. The 15-page “Alternative Approaches to the Green,” written by Bill Amick, past president of the society, describes the many types of golf courses developers may build. These include nine-hole or phased full-length, executive or mid-length (18-hole par between 55 and 68), par-three, compact all-clubs, and Cayman courses.

“Today, we’re seeing the development of more and more alternative facilities,” explained ASGCA President Denis Griffiths. “Municipalities and other developers are discovering that these facilities offer some important advantages over the contemporary 18-hole course.”

To obtain a free copy of “Alternative Approaches to the Green,” send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to The American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601. Phone: 312-372-7090.

ASGCA honors winners of design contest

AS VEGAS — Professional golf course architects Arthur Hills, Rees Jones and Jack Nicklaus presented three amateur architects with Golden Anniversary Challenge design-contest awards during the recent GCSAA International Conference and Show here.

The professional architects’ firms selected the three winning, 18-hole designs from numerous entries. Hills presented an award to David Anderson, superintendent at Evergreen Country Club in Haymarket, Va.; Jones honored Bruce Scott, a turf student at Colorado State University; and Nicklaus presented his award to Jim Ramey, superintendent at the Sunriver course at the Crosswater Resort in Oregon. All received framed versions of their routings.

All three winners also received copies of Donald Ross’ recently released book, “Golf has never failed me.” The books were autographed by Hills, Jones and Nicklaus to mark the occasion.

Forse projects

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size. “They averaged 8,000 square feet,” Forse said, “and they’re now somewhere in the 4,000s and 5,000s. One green, on a par-5, will extend 60 feet from where it is now.”

Foremost in the mind of the overview committee is restoring the course’s Biarritz green, named after Biarritz, France. Banks and Seth Reynor both included in their layouts a Biarritz par-3: a long green with long bunkers on the sides and a deep swale through the middle of the green.

In Tamarakis’ case, the Biarritz green’s original size was 80 yards long, with a 4-foot-deep swale. Today the green only occupies the plateau beyond the swale.

The hole plays from 150 to 215 yards, and the green drops off 20 feet to the left. “You may never play the same green again,” Forse said. The bunker on the right side of the green was originally 270 feet long, but has been broken into two.