Dye is cast for ASGCA

Alice takes gavel this month

When the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) meets in Toronto, May 12-18, Alice Dye will succeed Dennis Griffiths as its first female president. A design partner with her husband, Pete, since 1959, Alice has been a storied amateur state and national golfer as well as prime champion of forward tees in course architecture. When son Perry was accepted by the ASGCA last year, it meant the Dyes and both sons were ASGCA members — younger son P.B. having joined several years ago.

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Golf Course News: What do you want to focus on during your term in office?

**Alice Dye:** We will continue all of the programs that Dennis Griffiths started: stressing low-cost golf courses and the President’s Award. We also want to improve speed of play and create a greater identity for the ASGCA Foundation so that the industry knows we are doing something in a special niche to help.

By building low-cost golf courses we can reduce the price of golf and keep it growing. The President’s Award will be directed toward a specific project: this year Junior Golf. So many programs are so big that we can’t make a particular contribution, so our foundation will center on some area that is pertinent to our organization where we can really be of help to the golf industry, golfers, everyone. The Foundation has done some good work with research, and with a living history. We have videotaped about 20 old-time architects who are still living, telling their experiences and philosophies. People like Robert Trent Jones on tape, telling his philosophy — this will be invaluable 50 years from now.

The environmental book that [ASGCA member] Bill Love put together was wonderful. It required a lot of work and dedication, and it is information that only our organization can provide. But we’re such

Q&A

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Foster set to unveil the Texas Star

EULESS, Texas — Hurricane Creek meanders by while century-old oak trees and an assortment of native grasses outline the fairways here on the newest design from Keith Foster, the city of Euless’ Texas Star Golf Course and Conference Centre.

The facility, located in the heart of the Metroplex and 10 minutes from the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, opens for play May 22.

The constant feature of the 287-acre site is Hurricane Creek, which winds through a landscape of stacked rock ponds, waterfalls and hill country terrain. The 7,000-yard track, constructed by Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., will play to a par of 71.

Sporting a spikeless golf shoe policy, the course will host The Collegiate Players Tour National Championship on Aug. 12-14.

The state-of-the-art conference center includes more than 5,000 square feet of divisible space.

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Commentary

With irrigation and alcohol, hard part is knowing when to stop

By Dr. Michael Hurdzan

Recently I had a discussion with perhaps the dean of club professionals, from one of the most distinguished and expertly manicured golf courses in America. We talked about, what else, Tiger Woods’ prodigious length off the tee, and my friend offered that maybe it was time to bring back fairway cross bunkers that make the classic courses of the 1920s so popular and a great test of golf.

“Only then,” he mused, “will par-5s stay three-shot holes and will 460-yard par-4s be more than a drive and short iron for the big hitters.”

Personally, as a fan of cross bunkers, I applauded his observation, but we both realized that such hazards would most seriously frustrate the average and below-average golfer, make for slow play and add to maintenance costs. I suggested there might be another strategic solution, which would actually more fairly increase the challenge of a golf course for all golfers, speed up play, reduce maintenance costs and make golf courses better neighbors to their surrounding environments. That idea was also a 1920s classic, but it was a product of technological deprivation, not intelligent decision-making.

This big idea was — to turn off fairway irrigation.

Now my dear Mom taught me “all