

Schreiner busy on Ohio projects

AKRON, Ohio — Recent assignments at Chippewa Golf Club and Westfield Companies Country Club are fueling architect Craig Schreiner's presence in Ohio. He has been retained by the two northern Ohio clubs to prepare long-range master plans.

"We will focus on basic improvements such as drainage, new tees, bunker renovation, tree work and practice area enhancements," said Schreiner.

The Westfield Companies Club is a 36-hole facility with two distinct courses developed in the 1970s. The older South Course was initially a nine-hole layout. The North Course evolved to accommodate the successful growth of the Westfield Insurance Co. The Chippewa Golf Club was built in the 1970s in two phases as well.

"The renovation of Chippewa will be dramatic," Schreiner said. The site is exceptional due in part to a major drainageway that bisects the site east-west. Several holes will be rerouted increasing length and variety in the layout.

Schreiner, who helped restore Donald Ross's East Course at Oak Hill Country Club for the 1995 Ryder Cup Matches, is also under contract with NCR Country Club, where preparations are underway for the 1998 U.S. Mid-Amateur. The two 18-hole courses were designed and built by Dick Wilson in the early 1950s.

"The intent of the master plan is to improve playability for both courses while maintaining the integrity and distinct character of each golf course," said Schreiner. "The South Course is more challenging, tighter, and tree-lined with undulating topography and dramatic greens.

"The North Course is much more playable due to its wide landing areas and shorter length. It is open, the greens are somewhat modestly contoured, and the landing areas are more forgiving."

True Blue opens

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The project broke ground in June 1996.

Strantz has modeled True Blue on the characteristics of Pine Valley and Pinehurst #2 — with emphasis on maintaining a natural feel similar to the top courses in the United Kingdom. "What makes the British courses so great is the subtle nuances of the fairways and rough," he said. "It's why those great courses really withstand the test of time. We're not taxing the acquirers by pulling out water to irrigate 100 acres of grass. Instead, we're making use of sand and natural vegetation to complement the wetlands."

These efforts are aided by a layer of white sand just below the topsoil, which allows for some tremendous scenery and contour changes.

Strantz was joined in the building of the course by former PGA Tour player Forrest Fezler and Danny Gore, the head PGA professional for True Blue. Gore volunteered to step out of a traditional "golf pro" role to help build the course with the construction team, allowing him to learn the nuances of the course literally from the ground up.

North Course improvements include developing a short-game practice area and renovating the existing practice range tee and landing area. Native vegetation will be introduced in non-play areas of the golf course to diversify wildlife habitat areas and to reduce maintenance costs. To improve playability, forward tees will be added on the North and South courses and back tees will be added on the North course. A tree program for removal and planting will be developed for both

courses. Schreiner will also prepare landscape plans for the entry of the newly renovated clubhouse as well as formal landscape treatments for the starting tees on both golf courses.

"We'll be tweaking the courses at NCR to make sure they are in pristine condition come tournament time," said Schreiner. "We're pleased that NCR is dedicated to improving their fabulous facility."

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Elsewhere, Schreiner is finalizing a



strategic preservation plan for Donald Ross-designed Oyster Harbors Club in Osterville, Mass.

Planned improvements include drainage on several holes, remodeling of the practice range, development of a short-game practice area, and new tees.

Poorly drained areas will be addressed and a golf cart path will be added to facilitate efficient golfer circulation while reducing compaction on the course.

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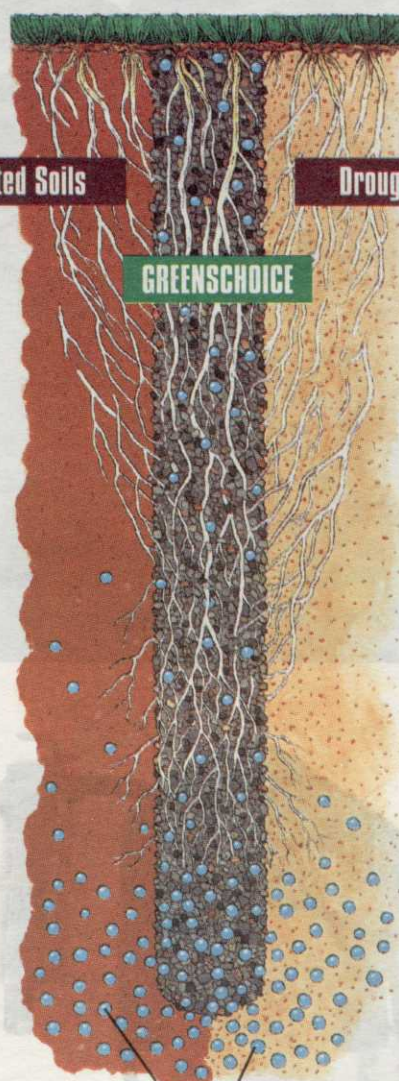
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