

HERB GRAFFIS AWARD FOR 'GOLF FOR FUN'

NORTH PALM BEACH, FL., March -- Golf is basically a game and, as a perennial reminder of this, the National Golf Foundation has established the Herb Graffis Award to honor one of the game's most colorful and enterprising journalists. The award will go annually to the individual who, in the judgment of the selectors, has made a memorable contribution to golf as recreation, gold fellowship and health.

The new award will serve as a companion piece to the 8-year-old 'Joe Graffis Award', honoring Herb's late brother, which recognizes an important contribution to the advancement of education in the game.

In making the announcement of the new award, Don A. Rossi, Executive Director of the National Golf Foundation, said, "Herb was agreeable to the establishment of this award only on the condition that it should recognize that golf is a game and that it's important that it be played for fun, friendship and health. This was entirely in accord with our thinking in proposing the award because, in the pressure cooker of today's growing professionalism in sport, the ideal of sport for enjoyment tends to become lost.

"We hope the new Graffis Award will contribute in some small way to preserving the spirit of play," said Rossi.

Graffis, elected two years ago to the World Golf Hall of Fame, has long been regarded as one of the game's most prolific and entertaining journalists. He and his brother founded the two most successful early golf publications, GOLFING (now GOLF magazine) and GOLFDOM, the game's first business journal. Now 85, Herb lives in retirement in Ft. Myers Beach, FL., where he plays a nine-hole round two or three days a week "for the fun of it".

The National Golf Foundation itself was a creation 43 years ago of the Graffis brothers who urged its establishment by the manufacturers of golf equipment.

The Foundation will solicit nominations for the new award, said Rossi, who added that the nominations will be evaluated by a jury to be named at a later date.

National Golf Foundation, Inc.
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Over the recent decade there has been a growing trend within our profession. That of superintendents consulting other superintendents. In my opinion there is nothing wrong with someone getting paid for their services, however, it is wrong for an individual who wants to consult going over another superintendents head in doing so. This has been a growing concern to me of lately.

I think we should all follow the professional code of ethics that prevails in other fields or simply stated The Golden Rule. Should a particular individual need another opinion regarding a certain problem or help in direction to follow, I don't think we should keep our mouths shut waiting for your neighbor to botch something up. By the same token, an individual who does have a problem shouldn't be afraid to ask your neighboring superintendent for his thoughts on a matter.

If we all stick together in helping each other out there will be less talking about people behind their backs and we all can achieve a better professional profile.

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