

Environment Maples' major concern

New ASGCA president taking office for 1990

BY PETER BLAIS

A series of pipes, streams and small lakes is spread across Dan Maples' Pinehurst, N.C. backyard, the handiwork of his 8-year-old son, Brad.

"He's got four or five courses built back there," said the elder Maples, who will become president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at this month's annual ASGCA meeting in Pebble Beach, Calif.

If Brad follows in his father's footsteps, he will be the fourth generation of Maples to get involved in golf course architecture.

Dan's grandfather, Frank Maples, was one of Donald Ross' construction superintendents. Dan's father, Ellis, worked for Frank before becoming a course architect in the 1950s and designing such well-known layouts as the Country Club of North Carolina and Grandfather Golf & Country Club.

Dan joined his father's firm in 1972 after graduating from the University of Georgia with a degree in landscape architecture. While with Ellis Maples & Associates he assisted in the design of Ford's Colony CC in Williamsburg, Va.; Devil's Knob in Wintergreen, Va.; and a nine-hole addition to Bermuda Run G&CC, the Clemmons, N.C. facility originally designed by his father.

Dan set out on his own in 1979. Marsh Harbour Golf Links in Calabash, S.C. was his first solo effort. Some of his better-known works include Oyster Bay Golf Links in Sunset Beach, N.C. (Golf Digest's 1983 Resort Course of the Year) and The Pit Golf Links in Aberdeen, N.C. (among Golf Digest's Top 50 U.S. Public Courses).

So, it is with three generations and 18 years of personal design experience behind him that the 44th president of the architects' association asserts that the environment is the major issue facing his organization.

"I'll be pretty environmentally oriented," said the Pinehurst, N.C.-based designer. "We've been dealing with a lot of environmental issues throughout the Southeast. There are some things we can do and some things we can't do. Trying to determine the difference is our biggest problem."

The ASGCA has grown from a handful of members when the group was formed in the 1940s to more than 100 today. While that represents a significant increase, the total membership pales next to many other golf associations.

"We're concerned with the quality of people we're bringing in. It's not just an open society. You have to be sponsored by three people. Every year we keep working on our quality of applicants," said Maples, who joined the ASGCA as an associate member in 1973 be-



Dan Maples

fore advancing to the board of governors, treasurer, secretary and his current post of vice president.

Quality as a goal has to be extended to the work done by members of the architects' society, especially during these times of rapid change.

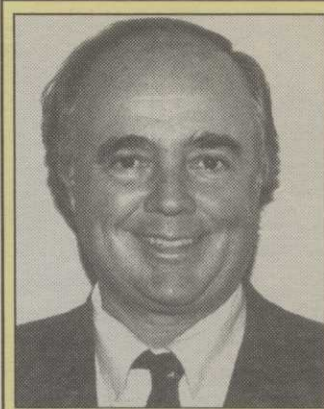
"We need to keep building quality courses as the demand rises. We have very strong demand now so one of our goals has to be building quality courses," said Maples.

Of his predecessor, Robert Trent Jones Jr., who is building a course in the Soviet Union, the

new president said: "He did a good job, an excellent job. Bringing the Russians on a golf tour of the United States probably helped the whole country. It was really good PR."

Maples is also designing courses internationally. He is finishing up a course in Spain and is in the planning process for 27 holes in Hanover, West Germany.

Domestically he concentrates on the Southeast but is working on two projects on the island of Hawaii, one in Elizabeth City, N.C., and another in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.



Robert Trent Jones Jr., who has championed the cause of educating the public about the environmental benefits of golf courses, ends his term as ASGCA president in March.

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