

# Environment focus of architects' conclave

BY MARK LESLIE

Everybody in the golf industry has a stake in the environment and laws governing its use, says Paul Fullmer, and so the American Society of Golf Course Architects will focus on those issues at its annual meeting March 24-27 in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Fullmer, executive secretary of the ASGCA, said from his Chicago, Ill., office: "The environmental challenge is the No. 1 issue in the golf industry and that's why we're addressing it so heavily in this particular conference. We will continue to until we get some of these problems resolved."

**'Everybody has a stake in this (issue).'**

— Psul Fullmer

ASGCA Executive Secretary

"Everybody has a stake in this," he said. "The PGA (Professional Golfers Association) does, too. If the course doesn't get built there will be no pro there and no pro shop. The same with the superintendents. If the course is delayed or killed, there's no job for the superintendent. So everyone has a vested interest."

Highlighting the 44th annual meeting will be the 15th Annual

Donald Ross Banquet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 26, at which the Ross Award will be presented to John Zoller, former senior executive director of the Northern California Golf Association.

A walking tour of Cypress Point Country Club will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 24. On Sunday, the updates and lectures on the environment will begin.

A professional development

seminar, "Developing Golf Courses in Environmentally Sensitive Areas," by Gary Anderson of Espey, Huston & Associates will be presented at 8 a.m. Sunday.

Monday at 8 a.m., another professional development seminar, "Golf on the Monterey Peninsula: Case History of Spanish Bay," will be led by USGA Past President Sandy Tatum; Lee Otter of the California Coastal Commission; environmental consultant Larry Seemans; and architects Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Don Knott.

At 9:45 a.m. Monday a roundtable on environmental impact will be conducted by the Al-

lied Associations of Golf.

Tuesday J. Steve Godfrey of Biological Research Associates will present a seminar at 8:30 a.m. entitled, "Integrating the Environment into Golf Course Design: Opportunities for Wetlands Mitigation, Storm Water Treatment and Wildlife Habitat." The Japanese journalist and golf course architect Takeaki Kaneda will talk on "Golf in Asia" at 9:45 a.m.

The annual ASGCA tournament will fill the afternoons the last three days, and the organization's full membership and various committees will also meet.

Fullmer said the ASGCA headquarters is surveying its members "to get specific information on their relationship with various environmental agencies" and to draft guidelines both for golf developers and for those agencies.

He said many governmental agencies have new board members and "sometimes regulations are being interpreted differently in different areas depending on the individual. We would like to get a standardization (of the laws)."

Fullmer cited an instance at last year's Michigan Golf Summit at which an official with the Michigan Department of Environmental Resources said it would help if there were standard guidelines for everyone to follow.

Fullmer said people in the golf industry and government agencies are getting "more sensitive to the issues."

"If the situation has improved," he said, "I think it's because the golf industry has improved its presentations. There were many times when the full (development) team didn't appear at various hearings. The key player many times is the developer, and when he doesn't appear himself, that rubs various commissions on the local level the wrong way. It's very important for the developer to be front and center on this thing to answer questions, and if he's not there he starts out with a strike against him."

Fullmer said the architects who have had the greatest success taking projects through the government bureaucracy are "the ones who not only do their homework and come in with a very comprehensive presentation, but who also have the full team there to answer questions, et cetera... So we're encouraging our members to come in with every piece of ammunition they can, plus bring every member of the team."

The ASGCA meeting will be a step in the right direction, he said. "We will get information there to take back to the Allied Associations of Golf to help formulate a book that will be accepted by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Natural Resources and these kinds of people."

Fullmer said a record attendance looms for the March conclave.

"The conference is looking pretty good," said incoming

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# Issues

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the fact that the maze of government regulations is different for every project.

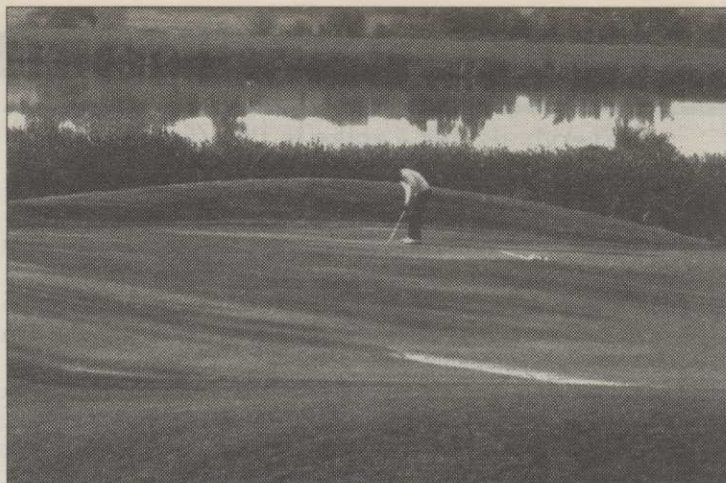
Lindsay Ervin of Crofton, Md., said many decision-makers in the environmental agencies are uneducated in the issues and have become unwilling to mitigate.

From other areas of the country the importance of environmental concerns was echoed — from Jeff Brauer and Kenneth Dye of Texas to Michael Hurdzan and Arthur Hills of Ohio; Tom Fazio and Clyde Johnston of the Carolinas; Jack Nicklaus and Gordon Lewis of Florida; Stephen Kay of Purchase, N.Y.,

and Philip Wogan of Topsfield, Mass.; and Richard Phelps of Evergreen, Colo.

Griffiths, who in 1989 finished courses in Georgia, Florida and Texas, said, "Every project is taking an education for us to find and satisfy what the regulations are... Every new project entails different regulations, more stringent regulations. And that means it costs our client more time and more money."

Five years ago, Griffiths said, wetlands laws were lenient enough to allow filling some areas and enlarging others.



Architect Bob Lohmann incorporated wetlands into this hole at Oak Knoll Golf Course in Streamwood, Ill.

"That has slowly changed to almost everywhere they say, 'We don't even want you in the wetlands,' " he said. "There are some

cases where you have limited land, boundary constraints, whatever, and in some cases your project won't work if you can't infringe (on the wetlands)."

Griffiths said "one of the really scary things we're seeing now" is that now that the Corps of Engineers and EPA are going to regulate the wetlands together.

"That is going to mean more problems. It has far-reaching implications," he said. "We're heading to where it's going to be literally impossible to touch wetlands."

Ervin said there is mass fear about the use of nitrogen and pesticides on water quality.

"A lot of this fear is a lack of education by the agency people, at least as far as golf courses are concerned," he said. "A lot of studies are coming out now showing that there is some but not nearly as much pollution as the agencies think (from golf courses). I think educating them and showing them that golf courses are good for the environment, not bad, is a process that's going to take a while; but I think it has to be done in order to help lessen the impact on golf courses."

Ervin, who is designing courses in Maryland and Virginia, agreed that the wetland issue is a problem. "It's getting more and more stringent. They (agencies) don't want you to get in there to touch it," he said, adding that cutting trees in some areas of the country is being stopped.

Ervin believes many regulations start on the local level before becoming nationwide.

"One state, or one county might implement something, and then over the course of a few years, other states or other counties look at it and do the same. Like sediment control. At one point there was no sediment control at all. Now it's spread throughout most states. At one time Virginia wasn't too bad to work in at all; but now it's a bear to get anything approved," he said.

Citing industry efforts to compile information and knowledge to persuade control agencies that golf courses do not pollute the environ-

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## ASGCA

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ASGCA President Dan Maples. "We usually have a pretty good turnout. I'd say out of 100 members, we should have 60 to 70... It gives us a chance to see other courses as architects when we go to an area like that. You have 60 or 70 architects who are going to be playing three, four or five courses in that area. So that's part of our education, too."

Four associate members face a vote for full membership, and about 15 are applying for associate membership, Fullmer said.

Pointing to years in the past when there were no architects eligible for membership, Fullmer said, "Part of the golf boom is reflected in the number of our applications. Last year a record (seven) number of people were brought in. The society is changing quite dramatically."