

# LETTERS

## Leave the masters' designs alone

To The Editor:

I was intrigued by the article "Mastering the 'masters' an intriguing pursuit" in the July edition of *Golf Course News*. So often over the years contemporary architects have redesigned the works of the masters such as Donald Ross and others.

In the 1930s, '40s and '50s there was little need for justification for the remodeling work in that the architects were hired by the clubs

(usually the greens chairmen) to make material changes to the courses to fit the individual desires of those in charge.

In the '60s and '70s the battle cry was "modernization," whatever the devil that means. In the '80s and '90s there have been many changes that have been passed off as labor-saving and responses to technology. Now Brian Silva has come up with "sympathetic renovation."

In my opinion, this is all non-

sense. For the last four decades Geoffrey Cornish and in the past five years Brian Silva have done remodeling work on Donald Ross layouts. In nearly every case both of these architects have superimposed their design work on the courses of the "master." There has been little or no attention given to the original plans, the Ross mystique or the overall balance that existed in many Ross works.

As a Ross fanatic I have played dozens of his courses in New England and the Northeast. I have gotten to the point where I can recognize from afar the handiwork of Geoffrey Cornish on a Ross design. This is relatively easy because it just doesn't fit.

As for Mr. Silva, I see absolutely no element of "sympathetic renova-

tion" in his recent work at Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford, Conn., but rather a myriad of pot bunkers and other such garbage that was never a Ross trademark.

My point is that there are techniques for the restoration of golf courses that do not entail a change in design and demeanor. Greens can be dug up, brought to USGA standards and replaced in duplication of the original. There are plans to many Ross courses that were used as more than a general guideline and could be used today to stem the tide of bastardization of Ross works.

It is my sincere hope that those that are contemplating renovation of their golf courses — be they Ross, McKenzie, C.B. MacDonald,

Travis or many others — realize that a golf course design is like a work of art. After all, most responsible people would not hire a contemporary artist to add some reds to a Renoir.

Very truly yours,  
Michael J. Fay, senior v-p  
Donald Ross Society  
West Hartford, Conn.

## Write us

Letters are welcome on any subject pertaining to the golf course industry. Please mail them to: *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

## NCA plans conference for directors

The National Club Association's first annual Club Director Conference, slated for Sept. 9-11, at Pinehurst (N.C.) Hotel and Country Club, will provide the latest thinking and solutions for a number of crucial challenges to private clubs.

Designed specially for incoming officers, the 1-1/2 day conference will also help private club directors, officers, owners, general managers, and others in the club community.

It will provide briefings and materials with immediate, take-home value — material that can be shared with those who do not attend.

Sessions will focus on legal/legislative and environmental concerns, board-manager relations, financial reporting and analysis, risk management, insurance, membership development, policy planning, and more.

## Schreiner puts up his shingle

Craig Schreiner, an associate member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, has opened his own design business in Kansas City.

Schreiner said he will soon announce several projects he will work on in the United States and abroad.

He was a design coordinator for Don Sechrest from 1985-86 and for Hurdzan Design Group from 1987-89.

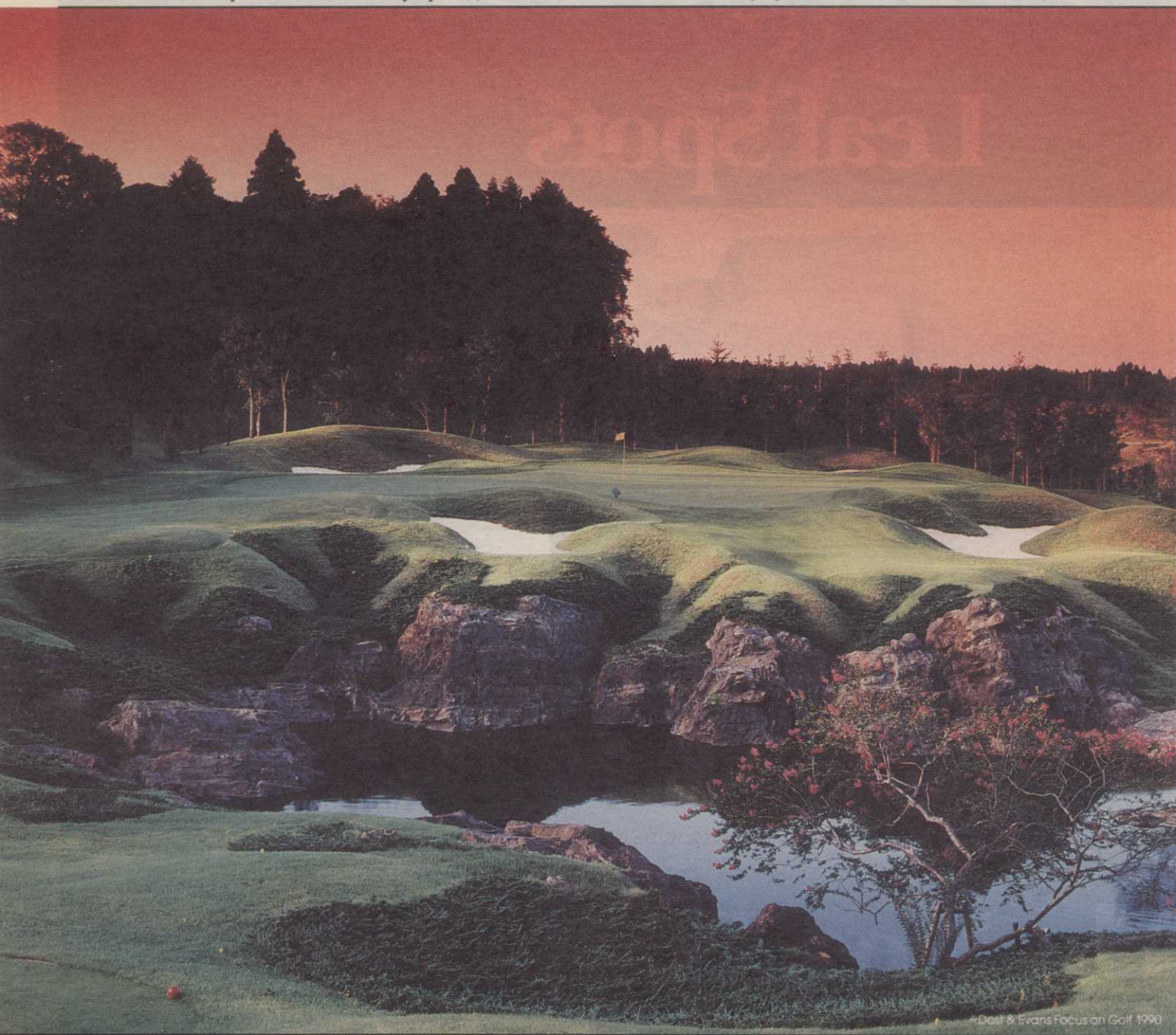
Schreiner earned a landscape management degree from Oregon State University in 1974 and a turfgrass management degree from Ohio State in 1984, when he went to work for Wadsworth Construction Co.

His office is located at 4500 Main St., Suite 900, Kansas City, Mo. 64111; 816-753-3001.

## Club Mark gets Red Fox pact

Club Mark Corp., a Houston, Texas-based management firm, has been awarded the management contract for Red Fox Country Club in Tryon, N.C.

Red Fox originally opened more than 25 years ago as an exclusive members-only club in the Great Smoky Mountain resort area. A series of acquisitions involving undeveloped land caused an onslaught of operational and financial problems at the club in recent years.



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