

Wadsworth given Ross Award

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courses with Larry Packard, Wadsworth started Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. Today, it is headquartered in Plainfield, Ill., and has offices in Florida, Arizona and Hawaii. The firm has built about 400 golf courses and employs 300.

When Wadsworth asked to have a photograph taken of him and all those in the room who had been his clients, nearly everyone joined him.

ASGCA outgoing President Art Hills read a statement from Wadsworth employees which said their boss "has set a high example of what can be accomplished. His hard work and dedication are qualities that we can look up to with the greatest respect and admiration."

"I think that kind of statement coming from his employees is the highest tribute that we might pay to him," Hills said, adding: "He has rare insights into the game of golf, the design field, and what it takes to build an outstanding golf course. He is an outstanding person, and a great contributor to the game."

Wadsworth said that in the last 15 years ASGCA members have been "responsible for a great Renaissance in this profession."

"You are the innovators. You are the guys who set up the programs. You are the leaders. All we do is follow. You've done a wonderful job the last few years, and I believe that part of our surge in this industry is due to what you fellows have done," he said.

Although saying he has earnestly avoided revealing his thoughts on design in the past, Wadsworth asked the architects to sincerely live by the recent catch phrase: "Building a golf course to be a challenge for low-handicappers and playable for high-handicappers."

Multiple tees and occasional bailout areas can help close the gap between golfers, he said. And this would be "very beneficial for the future growth of the game."

"We've got to provide for the majority of golfers," he said. "I might add, it also enhances the desirability of the golf course design... In order to stay on par with the better golfers, the less-skilful golfer needs a larger

playing field."

A 1951 alumnus of the University of Illinois, with a degree in landscape architecture, Wadsworth interned three summers with founding ASGCA member Robert Bruce Harris. He entered the military for two years, then joined Packard's firm in 1954.

The Ross Award recognizes Wadsworth's "ongoing contributions to the game of golf and the profession of golf course architecture through his innovative construction work for

nearly four decades, and especially his amazing ability to work with a number of golf course architects and interpret their individual plans to produce the distinctive and challenging courses that make this one of the most exciting eras in the history of American golf.

"And, most importantly, for taking the time to understand the architect's perspective and designing nuances on each project, and therefore to help build unique golf courses that will stand the test of time and bring pleasure to hundreds of thousands of golfers."

Baird joins pioneers in new frontier

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families for several hundred years that was covered by lichee nut trees.

Builders have to preserve as many trees as possible because of compensation for every tree taken down.

The 27-hole project, handled by a Hong Kong developer, is awaiting final approvals and Baird anticipates beginning construction within a year.

Accessible only by hovercraft, the facility may include a

casino.

"We'll know in six to eight months," Baird said. "It's exciting. The site is all sand dunes and native vegetation. It will be a links-type golf course out of the same vein as some of those in Scotland or Ireland."

Baird said 27 holes of golf provide a 54-hole combination. "The challenge is to make certain that no matter how you combine those holes, they are all of equal interest, challenge and aesthetic quality," he said.



Furry Creek advances

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada — As Furry Creek Golf & Country Club works toward its July 31 opening day, more than 100 people are busy laying turf, planting trees, and building the members' clubhouse. In addition, an "alternative centre" is being designed to become an integral part of Furry Creek Golf & Country Club community. A retreat for small groups, scientists or artists in residence, the Alternative Centre at Furry Creek will be devoted to explorations in art, architecture, and ecology.