

ASGCA goes on line with 'great golf holes' series

A number of questions have plagued man over the years. But now, there is an answer to perhaps the most exasperating of all: What makes a golf hole great?

Golf enthusiasts can see what the experts think are the best holes in golf and why, when Architect's Corner arrives at the American Society of Golf Course Architects' (ASGCA) website.



The new series is at <http://www.golfdesign.org>, and will feature each ASGCA member's favorite hole with a personal description and photo or illustration.

Architect's Corner will allow visitors to see what considerations architects face in their designs.

Golf enthusiasts will be able to learn from

each architect's expertise and vision of the behind-the-scenes planning and processes linking a hole from tee to green.

"This is a great way for our members to explain the subtle details that really separate a good hole from a great one," said Denis Griffiths, ASGCA president. "It will teach more golfers about course design and hopefully help them further appreciate this wonderful game."

Olympic moderation

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rounding the Olympics.

"That was different, though," Bryan noted. "People started showing up on Thursday for the Super Bowl and the game wasn't until Sunday night. That gave visitors all day Thursday, Friday, Saturday and most of Sunday to play. People usually showed up a couple days before the World Series and got out on the course then or during the day before a night game. With the Olympics, people came in the day before the events they wanted to see and then left as soon as those events were over. That didn't leave time for golf."

Hoping to cash in on the 19-day Olympic window, several developers with projects nearing completion talked about working overtime to open prior to the Games. A harsh winter made that impossible for most developers, said course architect Mike Young.

But a Young client, Heritage Club's Whiteside Ltd., thought the gamble was worth it. Whiteside spent an additional \$2 million re-sodding the course after the cold winter temperatures killed most of the original planting.

"They didn't recoup what they spent," said Young, a course owner himself who saw play drop during the Olympics at his own suburban Atlanta facility. "My advice to Sydney developers would be to weigh the prospects of any new development over the long term and not base their decision to build or open early on what a short-term event like the Olympics might bring. The final decision has to make sense, with or without the Olympics."

Biosolids popular

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ing condition. How does a golf course superintendent or builder find usable compost?

Advising golf courses not to use yard-waste composts and any compost whose materials are not phytotoxic, Hummel added, "The better ones we've seen are usually from municipal waste-treatment plants or food processors."

Companies like Allgrow in the Northeast establish compost facilities at municipalities and serve as brokers, selling the product.

Then, there are companies like New Milford Farms in Connecticut and Anheuser-Busch that compost their waste products. New Milford Farms composts cocoa and coffee shells from its Nestle's production. Anheuser-Busch, meanwhile, "has a number of composting facilities that produce a consistent product," Hummel said.



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