

Nicklaus' Aspen Glen targets trout, eagles — and golf

CARBONDALE, Colo. — Boasting an American bald eagle protection plan and trout habitat program, The Aspen Glen Club now has unveiled the first nine holes of an 18-hole golf course co-designed by Jack Nicklaus and Jack Nicklaus II.

The nine holes, which will be holes 10 through 18, feature views of Roaring Fork River and 13,000-foot Mt. Sopris. In fact, the 15th hole frames the river and mountain, drawing Nicklaus' comment: "What a great tee shot. Who wouldn't like this view?"

Aspen Glen anticipates opening the front nine this fall.

The course opening celebration, on July 4, featured a fly-fishing exhibition on the river, fishing being a draw to this golf

community. Roaring Fork is designated as Gold Medal trout waters. To improve habitat for spawning, Aspen Glen created a 1,400-foot-long by 6- to 8-foot-wide spawning channel. It will also function as a nursery, allowing the fish to grow large enough to improve their survival rate on the river.

Aspen Glen also stabilized a 400-foot section of eroding riverbank, using logs, willows and grasses.

Bald eagles have frequented a spot along the river since the 1940s. In coordination with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Garfield County Commissioners, Aspen Glen created specific measures to protect the eagles and their nests.

COMING TO AMERICA

Graham Marsh sets up shop in U.S.

KANSAS CITY — Graham Marsh, winner of the 1997 Nationwide Senior Golf Championship and 60 tournaments around the world, will be seeing more of the American landscape than the fast greens of the Senior PGA Tour.

The Australian is expanding his 10-year-old golf course design firm into North and South America by forming an alliance with HNTB Architecture of Kansas City. The alliance will be known as Graham Marsh Golf Design (USA)/HNTB Golf.

Until this year, Graham Marsh Golf Design (GMGD) had worked exclusively in Australia and the Pacific Rim.

The new alliance has actively been looking at projects in Missouri, Hawaii, Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Michigan and California.

"In addition to playing golf on the Senior PGA Tour in America and having some success, I wanted to be part of the aggressive golf course market here," Marsh said. His design firm has completed 30 golf courses and has 15 courses under construction, all in Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, the Philippines, South Korea and Micronesia.

HNTB Architecture has been planning and designing golf communities for 20 years. Since 1990, HNTB has worked as a consultant to Tom Watson on several golf courses, including the Tom Watson Golf Course in Miyazaki, Japan, and Yashima Country Club in Awano, Japan. HNTB also has been actively designing projects in Missouri, Indiana and Washington and opened the Blue River Golf Academy in Kansas City in June.

"HNTB has the experience I was looking for," said Marsh of his new partner. "The firm has diversity in its practice — architecture, engineering and master planning — and excellent golf course experience working with Tom Watson for the past seven years. It is an exceptional architecture, engineering and planning firm."

Chris Dimond, director of course architecture at HNTB, also sees the two firms as a great fit for targeting some of the thousands of golf courses planned for the next decade.

"Graham's reputation as an international golfer and as an outstanding designer in the Pacific Rim is invaluable," Dimond said.

Dimond also finds a unique compatibility in the computer and communication technology that both firms use in course design. "Over the past six years Steve Bauer, HNTB's senior golf architect, and Richard Chamberlain of GMGD have developed the world's most sophisticated computer-aided design applications in the golf design industry," he said. "I don't think anyone uses computers to the magnitude that we do. The new alliance uses computers to control earthwork costs, enables Marsh to review designs from remote locations while on tour and produce 'fly-throughs' of designed golf holes for owners as well as to produce design documents."

"Winning on the Senior PGA Tour and designing quality golf courses are my two main objectives in America," Marsh said.

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