he "Golden Anniversary Challenge" presented by the American Society of Golf Course Architects for GCSAA members immediately got my attention.

Having been with the PGA Tour for seven years as both a construction and golf course superintendent, I had worked with some of the best tour players in the country as well as some of the best people in the golf industry.

I was fortunate to learn from these people what makes a challenging, but fair, golf course.

The property selected for the contest consisted of a 327-acre site, mostly wooded, with three meadow sites, a large pond and a creek that

presumably had adequate flow for irrigation purposes. The topography was moderately sloping with an overall elevation change of about 180 feet.

I studied the "topo" for about three days, and then started to draw in corridors for holes, based on natural features, orientation to prevailing winds, the sun and topography.

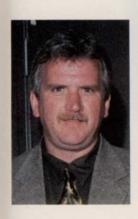
I looked for natural areas to incorporate water features such as ponds. Fi-

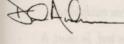
nally, I chose sites for the clubhouse, cartbarn, parking lot, practice facility and maintenance facility.

I designed number 13 first. It was a natural, along the existing creek, with no significant amount of disturbance to the creek or the surrounding area. The second holes created, numbers 3 and 4, were worked around the new ponds on the south side of the property. I wanted the 1st and 10th tee as well and the 9th and 18th green, to be near the clubhouse, for operational purposes.

I used the topography and the remainder of the natural features to route the remainder of the holes to make a continuous loop. The side hill, par 3, 12th was the only "forced" hole in the design, due primarily to the fact that at one time during the drawing, I only had 17 holes and needed a return to number 13.

## Design test builds respect for the game





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Liability concerns merit attention

Yardage is fairly well-balanced, with some long, tough 4 pars as well as a moderately short par 5. Fairway bunkers on longer 4 and 5 pars is set up more for target/definition or collection more so than penalty, while on the shorter 4 pars, the bunkers are more penal.

I tried to incorporate "bail outs" around the greens so that there was a safe area to recover from with either a putter or a wedge. Landing areas are generous, with no blind shots. Each par 3 has a special feature that stands out-bunkering, water, length or severity of green contour.

Even if I hadn't been one of the three finalists in the ASGCA's contest, the exercise made me more aware of how a good golf course design compliments the game and preserves the environment. A superintendent's responsibilities include maintaining and fostering the integrity of the architect's original design, and having a thorough understanding of the game of golf and how design leads to success.

Guest columnist David Anderson, Evergreen Country Club, Haymarket, Va., was a winner in the ASGCA's "Golden Anniversary Challenge," held to mark the Association's 50th year.