

ASGCA goes global

Golf course architects now practice their art in hundreds of countries.

By PAUL FULLMER, ASGCA

During the '60s, television was bringing golf into the homes of millions and one golf course architect—Robert Trent Jones—was making headlines around the country with his dramatic new courses.

The growth of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in the past 35 years mirrors the interest in and progress of the profession of golf course architecture:

Larry Packard became active in the Society in the late '60s. He recognized the need for a permanent organization, and for a



Foundation that would address subjects that effect the development of golf courses. In 1970 I became the first Executive Secretary of the Society and set up operations in Chicago.

Youngsters energize

Early on most members of the Society were senior practitioners, but gradually members brought in their sons, associates or recognized competitors, and this "young blood" (Bobby and Rees Jones, Ed Seay, Bob Graves and Bill Amick) helped transform the Society. In 1977 President Seay invited the heads of other golf associations to the ASGCA annual meeting, which was the nucleus for the formation of the Allied Associations of Golf.

Landfills to landscapes

The Society took an early interest in golf's environmental side, with Phil Wogan, a graduate biologist and long-time ASGCA member, developing a White Paper on the subject in 1972. This led to additional Professional Development sessions and a variety of articles on how environmentally sensitive sites, such as landfills and abandoned mines, could be reclaimed as productive and visually-appealing golf

ASGCA pioneers meet for the 50th Anniversary in Toronto. Larry Packard (second row, right), established the headquarters office during his presidency in 1970-71. Geoff Cornish, (fifth row, right), also a Fellow and former president, received the Donald Ross Award from the Society in 1982.

courses. Some 100 golf courses have been designed and built on "impossible" sites.

Bill Love, chairman of the Environmental Affairs Committee, authored the industry's first in-depth environmental analysis in 1992, *An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development*. Along with former ASGCA presidents Don Knott and Mike Hurdzan, Love was a major player within the Allied Associations of Golf in the 1996 development of the *Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States*.

Today, the American Society of Golf Course Architects has 130 members.

—Paul Fullmer has been executive secretary of the American Society of Golf Course Architects since 1970. He graciously wrote this article for LM's Anniversary Issue. We were unable to include it in that issue due to space considerations. -ed.



ASGCA meets at the Biltmore Hotel in Clearwater Fla., 1963. New president Bill Lanford (seated) joined by (first row, from left) Jim Harrison; Red Lawrence; Floyd Farley and C.E. "Robbie" Robinson. Second row, from left, outgoing President Ralph Plummer; Robert Trent Jones; Billy Bell; Bill Neff; Perry Maxwell; Mark Mahannah. Back row, Fred Garbin and Dave Gordon. Jones was a founding member. Farley, Neff, Garbin and Gordon are still ASGCA members.