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Restoration, Sympathetic Redesign, or Renovation?

By: Edward F. Shearon, III – Shearon Golf

GCSAA Narrows Relocation to Three Sights

At its recent planning meeting, the GCSAA Board of Directors engaged FPL Associates to narrow the search to three communities- Phoenix, Orlando, and Jacksonville- while keeping Lawrence as an option. In the weeks of January 13th and 20th, principals of the search firm will visit Orlando and Jacksonville to ascertain what opportunities exist for relocation. No decision has been made on if or when to visit Phoenix.

When assessing a golf course and making a decision as to the best way to revive its physical features and appeal, there are three redesign styles to consider: **restoration**, **sympathetic redesign**, and **renovation**. The first step in deciding which style is right for your course is to gather insight from the Club's membership. A membership survey is the best way to garner this information. The survey will help determine members' likes and dislikes and areas of concern that need to be addressed, all broken down by demographics. The resulting information can then be summarized and used as the basis for research and strategy development by a committee comprised of the course superintendent, golf pro, and various levels of players within the club, with the design team acting as a consultant.

When assessing a golf course....there are three redesign styles to consider: restoration, sympathetic redesign, and renovation.

A **restoration** is the basic level of redesign. By studying archived pictures and plans, the course can be restored as it was originally built. With the plans and pictures as a guide, the original shapes of bunkers, tees, and greens that may have been altered over the years through maintenance practices, can be re-established. By restoring the nuances of the architect's original design, you can capture the essence of the course as it was intended. However, there are some disadvantages to this process. Unless you apply the same technology (i.e. hickory-shafted clubs and gutta perch balls) and agronomics (i.e. green speeds) as in the past, the course's original intent will be lost and will no longer have the shot values to challenge the best players, but instead penalize the higher handicap golfer because of the locations of the hazards.

A more desirable approach is to develop a **sympathetic redesign**. In this approach, the course will be restored to its original design while making slight modifications that allow for changes in technology, agronomics, and environmental issues. In order to have the course play to its original objective, it must be lengthened, hazards moved out, and tees pushed back. The use of computer-aided design allows for the re-creation of the design intent while taking modern factors into consideration.

The top concern when doing a sympathetic redesign is safety. The Urban Land Institute recommends 300-foot corridors – 150 feet from the center of each fairway to adjacent fairways or property. Few classic courses meet this requirement. A master plan will at-



President's Message.....

What a Christmas Day snowstorm! Over twelve inches of snow fell throughout the Northeastern part of the state. Hopefully, by now all of us have gotten through this holiday season safe and with minimal storm damage!

It is time now to start getting all our educational seminars and conference schedules together for the next few months before we are back out on our courses prepping for another golf season.

In the month of January there are a few Pennsylvania Turfgrass Association sponsored educational events we should be attending. The Eastern PA Turf Conference at Valley Forge is set for January 7-9 at the Valley Forge Convention Center. Along with that, the Northeastern PA Turf School & Trade Show is scheduled for January 30, 2003, at The Woodlands Inn & Resort in Wilkes-Barre.

I would like to congratulate Jim MacLaren. He is the recipient of the first Dave Rafferty Distinguished Service Award. The award is given by the Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association in honor of the late Dave Rafferty. Dave was a dedicated past CPGCSA president who recently passed away. Jim is a well deserved recipient and has helped many of us throughout his many years of service in the state. Way to go, Jim!

The PTGA Board is near completion of the golf/meeting schedule for the 2003 season and has started to book host courses for the 2004 season as well. You can find these sites listed elsewhere in this issue.

In your 2003 dues notice you will receive five raffle tickets to sell to individuals for a chance to win golf passes at some great golf courses. This raffle will be our main fundraiser for the season and all proceeds will be deposited into our Scholarship Fund. Thank you for helping out in this fundraiser!

See you all at the meetings!

Ron Garrison, CGCS

From the Editor's Desk.....

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season.

This month's issue includes Part Two of the GCSAA Delegates Meeting Recap. Please pay attention to the issues involving your vote. If you feel strongly about any issues, don't hesitate to let your voice be heard so that the vote of this association can be a proper reflection of its membership.

Eric Reed

P.S. Good luck to the Steelers the rest of the way as it appears that the Browns shall assume their throne atop the AFC North next year and for many years to follow.



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GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting Recap—Part 2

Considerations for a change in Headquarters Location

- 18 Months ago, GCSAA contracted a consultant to narrow potential relocation sites based on certain criteria such as accessibility, climate, labor pools, and golf visibility. The selected cities include Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth, Jacksonville, Orlando, Phoenix, Lawrence, Houston, Charlotte and Miami.
- The Leadership of GCSAA feel today that to maximize the visibility of the association in the golf community, to broaden the scope of member services, and to continue to solidify its leadership role in golf requires a re-examination of the benefits to the membership of moving GCSAA to a high-traffic, golf intensive region. A higher association profile has tangible benefits in expanded member services, and serves to elevate the awareness and understanding of the role of the golf course superintendent.
- Currently, a change in headquarters location would require a 2/3 approval from the membership at an annual meeting. You are being asked to vote a change to the bylaws, which will grant the GCSAA Board of Directors the authority to change the headquarters location without a membership vote. This leveraging power would be advantageous to the Board getting the best deal possible if a move is to be considered.

GCSAA Bylaws Proposals

- The addition of a Class A-Retired classification, that would allow Class A members to retire, but continue to work within the golf course management industry.
- When the PDI is implemented on July 1, 2003, the current definition for Superintendent Member will no longer apply. The classification will now include all superintendents who have not met the additional qualifications for Class A status, regardless of their years of superintendent experience.
- Establishing an International Superintendent classification, i.e., a green card member with limited membership benefits at 50% of the Class A cost.
- Revise Associate Member to read: applicant must be employed at a golf course and does not qualify for membership under the Class A, Superintendent Member, or Class C bylaws definition.
- Fiscal year will end December 31 (effective 2004).

Currently, BOD must have an annual audit available at the annual meeting. The new fiscal year will only permit five weeks to prepare audit. Bylaw proposal is to permit BOD 150 days to audit books and make audit available to membership. This would be approximate to the time that the BOD now has to prepare and present an audit based on the current fiscal year being used (September 30).

2003 GCSAA Board Candidates

- For President: Jon D. Maddern, CGCS
- For Vice President: Mark J. Woodward, CGCS
- For Secretary/Treas: Robert J. Maibusch, CGCS, MG
- For Secretary/Treas: Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS
- For Director: Gary K. Carls, CGCS
- For Director: Ricky D. Heine, CGCS
- For Director: Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS
- Dave Downing and Sean Hoolehan have remaining terms as directors, leaving three vacancies for Director's positions. The loser in the Secretary/Treasurer vote will be nominated from the floor for a Director's position. Two out of the remaining three candidates will be elected to Director's positions. Information on the candidates will be available on the GCSAA website or in Golf Management Magazine.

Career Development

- A compensation and benefits survey will be mailed to members in January 2003, with results available in May 2003. The survey will also be available online for members to complete. Everyone who completes the survey will receive a free copy of the report.

GCSAA Board Service

- The approximate days of voluntary service per year are 30 days for directors, 60 days for the secretary/treasurer and 80 to 100 for the president and vice president.

Professional Development Initiative

- A pilot project began in November and will run through April.

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- In May, Class A members will be provided their particular renewal cycle (a 3-, 4-, or 5-year cycle with corresponding requirements). The cycles are of different length only to stagger the membership; requirements will be equal for all Class A members. After your first cycle, you will always have a 5-year renewal cycle.
 - ◊ 3-year cycle: 3 points, 1.2 must be from education
 - ◊ 4-year cycle: 4 points, 1.6 must be from education
 - ◊ 5-year cycle: 5 points, 2.0 must be from education
 - ◊ Certified members will utilize their current renewal cycle.
- After July 1, 2003, anyone registering for the certification exam will be required to also complete a self-competency assessment as well as create a Development Action Plan through the Professional Development Resource.
- Certification renewal for anyone earning certification on or after 7/1/03: 15 points with 5 coming from education points, or 5 points with a minimum of 2 coming from education points, plus passing the six-hour written exam. All CGCS's must show proof of having a pesticide license or of passing the GCSAA IPM exam between the period 7/1/03 and 6/30/08. After that date, they will be required to show proof once during their 5-year renewal cycle.
- A redesigned certification process is planned for implementation in November 2004.
 - ◊ Submission of a portfolio used to validate the "soft" skill testing objectives through the appli-

cants completion of case studies, skill statements and submission of work samples.

- ◊ Written closed book examination consisting of 236 questions within 6 hours. Some questions will provide exhibits to assist in answering the questions.
- ◊ On-site course attesting.

The minutes for the delegate meeting were 36 pages in length. You can access the minutes on the GCSAA website, or I will be happy to try and get more information concerning any questions that you might have. You can reach me, Eric Reed, at Barley5@aol.com, or by phone at 570-788-4277.

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PATTERSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Pocono Turfgrass Association is now accepting applications for the Patterson Scholarship. The \$500.00 scholarship is awarded annually and includes an honorary membership in the Pocono Turfgrass Association.

The requirements for consideration are:

- Applicants must be in their final year of a two-year turf program or a four-year undergraduate program in a turf related major.
- Applicants must submit in writing why they wish to be considered for the scholarship.
- Applicants should include a letter of endorsement from the applicant's employer in the turfgrass profession. This endorsement may come from an internship program employer.
- Applications must be received by the Pocono Turfgrass Association on or before May 31, 2003.
- Please mail the applications to the following address:

Patterson Scholarship Program
Duane Schell, Chairman
260 Country Club Drive
Mountaintop, PA 18707

For any questions, please call Duane Schell at 570-868-8113.

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Reminders!

Dues notices will be mailed mid-January. Please return to Melinda as soon as possible.

A notice for the Snow Meeting on January 24 was sent out in last month's newsletter. Be sure to get your reservations in as soon as possible. Don't miss out on a great time!

Anyone with an announcement concerning a member such as a birth, death, marriage, please call Melinda at 570-388-2167. She will see that it gets into the newsletter.

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April
May
June
July
August
September
October

2003

Olde Homestead G.C. (tentative)
Hideaway Hills
C. C. at Woodloch Springs
Fox Hill Country Club
Great Bear G. & C. C. (tentative)
Valley Country Club
Glenmaura National G. C.

2004 (tentative)

April
May
June
July
August
September
October

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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



(Continued from page 1)

tempt to mitigate this concern and many others by way of mounds, hollows, tree plantings, and bunkering. If the safety concerns are not addressed, liability will become an issue. Drainage is another important concern that must be addressed when developing a sympathetic redesign. Due to upland development, many classic courses are now being flooded. A strategy must be developed to remove this additional water as quickly as possible to prevent any turf damage. The membership demographics must also be taken into consideration. Most classic courses were originally designed for the male golfer playing fewer rounds per year. Now, a course must cater to all types of players, including women, seniors, and juniors, by adding new tee boxes and adapting for an increase in the number of rounds.

A **renovation** is the third design option. This approach entails the complete redesign of a course without regard for the original intent of play or style. A renovation is usually chosen when a course is in need of modernization in regards to agronomics, technology, environmental issues, and player demographics. A renovation may also occur when land is sold or acquired and necessitates the re-routing of various holes. Re-routing may also be necessary if it is decided that the infrastructure (i.e. parking lots, clubhouse, tennis courts) of the course needs to be relocated.

Regardless of which design style you choose, having a master plan is vital. The general objective of a master plan is to provide maximum playability for the membership, enhance the aesthetics of the course, and allow for the most efficient maintenance. This plan will also provide you with the existing conditions of the course that should prove useful to generate in-

house discussion and comments on existing problems and proposed solutions. By having a set, coherent plan, alterations to the course can easily be implemented in one stage or be broken down into multiple stages, regardless of turnover in staff or membership. As the master plan will serve as the basis for the future of the course, much painstaking effort should be parlayed into its development.

Whether embarking on a restoration, sympathetic redesign, or a renovation, it is imperative that you select a quality golf course architectural firm. Having a firm that will take the time to gather the necessary information, skillfully design a master plan, and work harmoniously with the contractor during its implementation is essential in the success of the redesign process. With over 4,000 new golf courses built in the last ten years, competition for rounds is steadily increasing. If existing courses remain stagnant, they will lose their original design intent and shot value and may fall behind in the campaign to attract new members.

Some Words of Wisdom

He who permits himself to tell a lie once,
finds it much easier to do it a second time.

When you have an elephant by the hind
legs and he is trying to run away,
it's best to let him run.



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