

Fellowship Award

Gary Roger Baird has been awarded Fellow status by the American Society of Golf Course Architects. ASGCA Executive Director Chad Ritterbusch, presented Baird with this honor of distinction at the Society's annual convention, which was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee in April of 2014. This award is presented to those members who have contributed to the game of golf, and have represented the integrity of The Society over the years.

Baird's career began shortly after his college graduation in 1968, when he was retained as a design associate for world renowned golf architect, Robert Trent Jones. Baird's career flourished with the Jones group for nearly 10 years, as he became a senior design associate. During that period, much of his design work was in the western U.S., as well as Pacific Rim countries.

In 1977, Baird began his own design company, Gary Roger Baird Design International, which has evolved into Global Golf Design. Over his career, which now spans 45 years, Baird has been the recipient of many high rankings and awards for his work. He has been chosen to provide design modifications on courses originally designed by the greats of the Golden Era, including Alistair MacKenzie, as well as Donald Ross. Two courses held national championships after his work was completed.

Baird has provided design expertise on several other courses which have hosted Major Golf Championships, as well as PGA Championship play. It's no coincidence that four of those National Championships were in Asia, as much of Baird's work has been in the Pacific Rim. His work includes courses designed in Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, the Philippines, China, and Korea.

More recently, Baird's Pine Beach Golf Resort course designed and built on the western peninsula of South Korea, hosted a KPGA tournament on opening day. This offered a glimpse of this now recognized gem, as the tournament was televised worldwide on the Golf Channel. Numerous articles have compared his Pine Beach Golf Resort to Pebble Beach, in the U.S. Golf Digest Asia ranked it the #1 "Best New Course in Korea" upon its opening, in 2015.

In that same year of Pine Beach's #1 ranking, Baird received another #1 Best New Course ranking for his Van Tri Marsh course in Vietnam, originally designed for the Daewoo Corporation, of Korea. Simultaneously, his Springdale Golf Resort on Jeju Island in South Korea was ranked in the Top 10 Best New Golf Course category. Of the 7 major championships held on Baird's course, 4 have been in Asia, and 3 in the United States.

[Update: June 1, 2013 – Press Release](#)

The LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association) is returning to the Hermitage Golf Course, in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S. Designed by Gary Roger Baird, Hermitage hosted the LPGA Sara Lee Classic from 1988-1999, and to this day, is considered a favorite amongst the LPGA stars. So successful, the Hermitage has now been selected as the host for the Handa Cup. This internationally-renowned event begins October 11th of 2013, and runs for several days. The tournament challenges 12 U.S. born LPGA legends, against 12 international LPGA Legends in team and individual matches.

At a time when many architects are moving toward retirement, Baird has returned to his native state, and created a design studio in Central California to better serve his clientele. Much of this work will pertain to renovations and remodeling so that potential adjustments in any upgrading work, will solve, or protect potential longer term water shortage, and the requirements concomitant with environmental regulations.

His philosophy is “to embrace our approach of sensitive environmental design, allowing the land to become our architect, and by not being an absentee designer”. This also helps our clients reach their short and long term financial goals, well beyond completion of their project”.

“I simply hope for all of the U.S., and elsewhere that I, as only one member of the ASGCA, can offer awareness and integrity the ASGCA brings to this wonderful game of golf.”



Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of higher intentions of a group; sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution, and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities.

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