Pelican's Nest Golf Club at Pelican Landing

Architect Jan Bel Jan & Pelican's Nest Golf Club Awarded ASGCA Design Excellence

The fifth annual American Society of Golf Course Architects Design Excellence Recognition Program honorees have been named. Projects from 11 courses have been cited for their work with ASGCA members in addressing unique design challenges.

Since its creation, the Design Excellence Recognition Program has highlighted the innovation and problem-solving skills required of today's golf course designs, from new 18-hole layouts to practice facilities and renovations of various sizes.

The 2016 nominations were reviewed by a panel of golf industry leaders, including representatives of the Club Managers Association of America, and Golf Course Builders Association of America.

The recognized courses in the South are:

- **Atlantic Dunes**, The Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head, South Carolina/Scot Sherman, ASGCA
- **The Oaks Club** – Heron Course, Osprey, Florida/Hurdzan/Fry Environmental Golf Design
- **Pelican's Nest Golf Club**, Bonita Springs, Florida/Jan Bel Jan, ASGCA
- **University of Southern Mississippi Short Game Facility**, Hattiesburg, Mississippi/Nathan Crace, ASGCA Associate

"Congratulations to these tremendous golf facilities, as well as the architects who provided their talent and expertise," ASGCA Vice President John Sanford, ASGCA, said. "Once again this year, the projects highlighted by the Design Excellence Recognition Program show the positive impact a well-designed facility has for golfers and their community."

Pelican's Nest Golf Club, Bonita Springs, Florida/Jan Bel Jan, ASGCA

Pelican's Nest features 36 Tom Fazio designed holes routed, re-routed and built in phases over 10 years beginning in 1985. This led to a facility with inconsistent greens, irrigation, drainage, turf types and bunkers. Members desired more playable courses with unique identities, uniform appearance and maintenance practices, and the option to "tee it forward." ASGCA member, Jan Bel Jan was hired to create a plan and complete the plan. By project's end, greens and bunkers were rebuilt, select fairways re-contoured, pipeline for reclaimed water installed, irrigation and drainage greatly improved, contemporary, low-input turf-types planted, irrigated turf grass reduced in favor of native materials, and an additional 21 tees created. Result is a high "fun factor," with measurable increases in satisfaction, playable days, rounds, revenue, guest play and improved handicaps. The Billy Bunker system was also used to maintain the bunkers going forward.

Architect Jan Bel Jan, whose firm is located in Jupiter, Florida has been a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects since 1990, and recently was elected to the ASGCA Executive Committee. www.JanBelJan.com

Pelican's Nest Golf Club has two courses, Hurricane & Gator, and is nestled in the gated community of Pelican Landing in Bonita Springs, Florida, bordering the banks of Spring Creek and Estero Bay. The award winning golf club embraces the environment which provides a home to many species of wildlife and has been a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. www.NestGolf.com

At Pelican's Nest Bel Jan brought her 'Scoring Tees' concept by using on-site fill generated during the renovation of the Hurricane course to add the new tees to both 18 hole courses. This makes it possible for players with lower club head speed to enjoy playing and having the opportunity to reaching the greens in regulation. As Jan says, "We have the opportunity to keep them in the game." The Scoring Tees are usually positioned past a hazard or bunker so the initial shot lands in a safe position.

The Scoring Tees have multiple uses besides just being there for the older and less mobile generation. They can be used for introducing youth to the game, family-fun outings, and short game contests among the regulars. They keep members and players in the game for longer times and enjoyment.

Great Job Jan & The Nest!