

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Aspen Corporation Recognized for Golf Course Construction Excellence

New Orleans – *Golf Course Industry*, a leading business management magazine tailored for the golf course management industry, presented its fifth annual Builder Excellence Awards at the Golf Course Builders Association of America’s annual dinner, in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show, in early February.

Daniels, W.Va.-based Aspen Corp. took home the Legacy Award for best renovation project with its work at Water’s Edge Golf Course in Penhook, Va. Aspen also earned the Affinity Award for best environmental project with its work on the Fantasy Valley Golf Course at Wisp Resort in McHenry, Md.

The 18-hole, tee-to-green project at The Water’s Edge Country Club included irrigation upgrades on all holes; complete bunker reshaping and draining; and replacing all greens, surrounds and tees. Even though the project scope doubled in size, Aspen completed the renovation within two weeks of the original deadline.

“I’m proud that with the cohesive team involvement of architect Richard Mandell and owner Ron Willard, we were able to complete the project within two weeks of the original deadline without compromising quality,” says Donnie Adkins, president of Aspen.

“The Water’s Edge project success is an example of how important it is to put the right team in place on such a demanding golf course renovation,” says Ronnie Adkins, vice president of Aspen.

At Wisp, Aspen constructed four new holes, integrating them into the existing 18-hole course while taking four holes out of play for real estate development. In addition to installing an extensive erosion and sediment plan prepared by the project engineer and approved by the Maryland Department of Environmental Protection, Aspen and golf course architect Todd Schoeder from Design Workshop were able to make additional improvements to protect one of the most sensitive trout streams in Maryland.

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“We took the importance of protecting the stream and wetlands seriously,” says Donnie Adkins.

Aspen is currently working again with architect Todd Schoeder from Design Workshop, to construct a new eighteen hole course at Wisp Resort, along with designer and PGA Tour professional Hale Irwin. This project requires the same type of extensive erosion and sediment plan received by the Fantasy Valley project.

Kevin Gilbride, publisher of *Golf Course Industry*, says the magazine’s awards program with the GCBA helps bring to light the association’s mission of advancing and continuously improving the profession of golf course construction.

“Member companies have always lived by this mission, and we’re proud to be in a position to recognize those member companies for their outstanding success in 2008,” Gilbride says. “We congratulate Aspen Corporation for their well-deserved recognition as leaders in modern course construction and renovation.”

The 2009 *Golf Course Industry* Builder Excellence Awards were judged by:

- Craig Felton, golf course superintendent, Oak Hills Country Club, San Antonio;
- Mike Benkusky, golf course architect and president of Michael J. Benkusky Golf Course Architecture, Lake in the Hills, Ill.;
- Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, president and consulting agronomist, Golf Agronomy International, Williamsburg, Va.;
- Tommy Sasser, vice president of development, Linger Longer Communities, Greensboro, Ga.;
- Mike Bylen, owner, Shepherd’s Hollow Golf Club, Clarkston, Mich., and Pine Trace Golf Club, Rochester Hills, Mich.

Judging criteria included scope of work; degree of difficulty; quality of execution; comments from owners, architects and superintendents; time tables; agronomics; how adversity was addressed; and creativity. To enter the awards program, builders must have completed construction and/or renovation of no fewer than 27 holes in the previous two years.

Aspen Corporation is a Certified Golf Course Builder, the only one in the state of West Virginia, and one of only 36 in the world, as well as a Charter Member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America.

Aspen Corporation employs more than 150 people in three subsidiaries: Aspen Golf, Aspen Irrigation, and Aspen Landscape. Aspen Landscape is a full service landscape and lawn care company, primarily servicing the greater Beckley area.

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For more information on Aspen Corporation, or project photo's, contact Ronnie Adkins; email address radkins@aspen-golf.com . You can also visit their websites at www.aspen-golf.com or www.aspen-landscaping.com.