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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Aspen Corporation Recognized for Golf Course Construction Excellence**

Milwaukee – Daniels, W.Va.-based Aspen Corporation was one of four golf course construction companies recognized as the best of the best by *Golf Course Industry* magazine in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Builder Excellence Awards presented August 12 during the Golf Course Builders Association of America’s annual meeting in Milwaukee.

Aspen Corporation received the 2010 Creative Award for best new construction for Woodhaven Golf Course at Glade Springs Resort, located in Aspen’s corporate home base of Daniels, W.Va. The judging panel called it “a golf course that looks like it has been there for a long time, which is a very difficult thing to do with the site conditions and the allocated budget. A strong working relationship between owner, designer, and contractor has produced an outstanding golf course.”

“As the third golf course at Glade Springs, most of the best golf-friendly terrain had been allocated to the first two courses,” says Donnie Adkins, president of Aspen. “Woodhaven was considered a ‘challenging’ site from the very beginning. The goal was to build the best possible golf course with the available budget on this particular piece of property. The golf course needed to be affordable and accessible—both to build and maintain.”

“We had intense meetings and discussions with the developer and architect to put all our minds together to find the best possible solutions to all the challenges,” says Ronnie Adkins, Aspen vice-president and on-site project manager. Following several weeks of discussions, the project was on track with an ultimate goal of building the best possible golf course with the available budget.

One big challenge to the project was a lack of groundwater for irrigation at the golf course site. Aspen’s solution was to install an automated pump system to carry water from a nearby 70-acre lake to Woodhaven.



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”The two-mile pipeline traversed some very challenging and difficult terrain,” says Ronnie Adkins. “We ran through two existing golf courses, under six to eight streets, and even under a lake in order to stay off private property. Numerous cart paths and existing irrigation had to be crossed and all utility lines had to be avoided as well.”

Woodhaven, which opened in 2009, prides itself on offering not just a majestic view of the gorge, but also spectacular mountainous terrain. Amy Grace, General Manager of Glade Springs Property Owners Association, says “It was nice to have our golf course built by our ‘neighbor.’ Of course, Aspen has an excellent reputation, so we knew they would do a great job; we can’t imagine anyone else having worked on this project.”

The Builders Excellence Awards program is conducted annually by Golf Course Industry in conjunction with the Golf Course Builders Association of America’s annual meeting. The goal of the program is to recognize outstanding work by GCBAA members and to spotlight the association’s mission of advancing and continuously improving the profession of golf course construction.

The 2010 *Golf Course Industry* Builder Excellence Awards judges were:

- Mike Benkusky, golf course architect and president of Michael J. Benkusky Golf Course Architecture, Lake in the Hills, Ill.;
- Bill Prest, golf course superintendent, Sweetbriar GC, Avon Lake, Oh.;
- Tommy Sasser, development consultant, Eatonton, Ga.;
- Jason Straka, golf course architect, Hurdzan Fry Golf Design, Columbus, Oh.;
- Jim Dunlap, journalist, San Diego, Calif.;
- Charlie Birney, president, Atlantic Golf, Edgewater, Md.;
- Todd Voss, certified superintendent, Double Eagle GC, New Albany, Oh.; and
- Chris Schiavone, president of RDC Golf Group, Monroe Township, N.J.

Pat Jones, publisher and editorial director of *Golf Course Industry*, said this year’s awards program was notable because of the number and strength of the entries given the economy and the construction downturn in golf. “It’s obvious that the work that is being done in the construction and renovation market is being done extremely well and that builders and owners are doing amazing things with limited budgets,” said Jones.

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Aspen Corporation has won Builders Excellence Awards on three other occasions for its work nationwide. Another Aspen project, Pikewood National Golf Course in Morgantown, W.Va., was named Best New Private Golf Course for 2009 by Golf Digest.

In the last several years, Aspen completed work on several golf courses that regularly host PGA events, including Firestone South and The Greenbrier's Old White course. The company also recently completed a renovation of Southpointe Golf Club, home of the 2010 Mylan Classic.

Aspen Corporation is a full service golf course construction company, specializing in renovation, restoration, irrigation, and athletic fields.

For more information on Aspen Corporation, or project photos, contact Ronnie Adkins, [radkins@aspen-golf.com](mailto:radkins@aspen-golf.com). You can also visit Aspen online at [www.aspen-golf.com](http://www.aspen-golf.com) or [www.aspen-landscaping.com](http://www.aspen-landscaping.com).