

BACKGROUND

Received a degree in Landscape Architecture from Massachusetts State College in 1935. Worked for the National Park Service in Maine, the U.S. Corps of Engineers in Massachusetts and the Chicago Park District.

Joined the staff of golf architect Robert Bruce Harris in 1946, remained until 1954. Then formed the design firm of Packard and Wadsworth with close friend Brent Wadsworth, who later left to create The Wadsworth Co. (It would eventually become America's largest golf course construction company.)

Was among the earliest advocates of the use of waste water for golf course irrigation. Served as President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1970, and played an important role in establishing his profession's outlook on environmental concerns.

Was joined in his practice by his son Roger in the early 1970s. Retired to Florida a decade later, but continued to work on some designs.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

While understanding that courses had to be compatible with maintenance equipment, Larry Packard refined the style of his mentor, Robert Bruce Harris, by giving more freeform shapes to bunkers and greens, moving bunkers closer to the edges of the putting surfaces and expanding the teeing areas. Like Harris, he treated each course as a total landscape and paid particular attention to planting and vegetation.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

Parabolic teeing areas. Doglegs often protected by a pond. Almost always one double-dogleg par-5 per course. Greens guarded by ponds, but water always a dozen yards or more away from the edge of the green, with a gentle slope leading into the pond. Graceful lines throughout.