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Remodeling Boom Continues, says ASGCA President; Competition, "Wear and Tear" Cited as Reasons

The president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects predicts that golf facilities will increase their interest in course remodeling due to the impact of new equipment technology, competition for rounds, advances in turfgrass management practices and years of use. Owners and their superintendents are embarking on everything from minor "touch-ups" to complete overhauls of their layouts.

ASGCA President Bill Love says that new course construction is still strong in the real estate sector, where new courses are being built in conjunction with housing developments. Yet ASGCA members report continued interest in remodeling. "Older courses are reacting to the challenge of newer ones down the street and are remodeling to respond to, and take advantage of, technological advances," he observes.

Nearly every course 20 years old or more should be evaluated to determine what improvements should be made for it to remain competitive, the College Park, Md. architect notes. And much like residential remodeling, "it's usually wise to develop a master plan, not only to head off problems, but also to budget for the long term. Such a plan also insures a projects' vision remains intact through administrative and committee changes," he says.

He encourages golf course superintendents to consult with an ASGCA member before proceeding with a remodeling project. "An ASGCA member can explore a course's full potential, as well as describe new products like irrigation and grasses that should be considered when planning a project," he explains. "ASGCA members also have experience in presenting and explaining projects to members or other involved parties."

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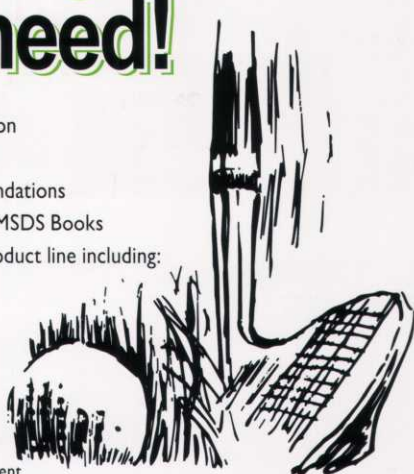
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