

**ASGCA OFFERS REMODELING GUIDELINES IN BROCHURE**

The American Society of golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has introduced a new brochure, "Remodeling Your Golf Course," to help owners, managers, superintendents, green committee members and others who might be involved in remodeling a golf course. To obtain a free copy, phone the ASGCA at 312-372-7090, or visit its website at [www.golfdesign.org](http://www.golfdesign.org).

**Q&A: ASGCA directors**

Continued from page 37

and experimented with changes of styles and I find my work going right back to what Nugent told me Robert Bruce Harris told him in 1949.

**GCN:** Alice, you said you were wondering how young architects can make it today. Are those who are coming in and getting one or two jobs a year surviving?

**Dye:** I wish I could answer that, but I don't know. We have been instrumental in helping quite a few people get started and we're continuing to do that. We get a

lot of letters from people asking to work for our firm. A lot are trying to get into this field. And I don't know how they can do it unless they do join a firm and serve an apprenticeship.

**Bob Lohmann:** A lot of people, often landscape architects, work for [golf course] builders as foremen or job superintendents. They get an opportunity to work with architects and with construction plans. There's no better way to learn than that. I did that with Ken [Killian] and Dick [Nugent].

**GCN:** Baby Boomers are starting to turn 50. How will the aging of the population, in particular the Baby Boomers,

impact design, if at all?

**Brauer:** I think we've seen some of the changes have already taken place. The Baby Boomer generation is less "clubby" than previous generations and that's led to the public golf boom. They have disposable income at the peak of their career, and that has led to the upscale public golf course. When you talk about physical design, you try to research the market. I researched myself. I turn 42 in a month and I notice very specific design changes. For example, I pay a lot more attention to climbs up onto the tee and make sure you don't have to go through 30 mounds to get to the greens... Look at the access points to the greens and tees as they relate to the cart path. Thirty years ago, you looked at the access points to the green coming from the front. Now you see them coming in from the side.

**Dye:** I think Baby Boomers are going to want to play different golf courses. Whereas before, people belonged to one club and stayed and played there... They will travel.

**GCN:** The older generation plays more golf than the younger population. Is it going to drive the building of more courses and mean more work?

**Lohmann:** An example of remodeling: Mike Hurdzan is designing a new course in Peoria, Weaver Ridge, a public course. The two private clubs in town — Mount Holly and Peoria Country Club — have been doing nothing [for improvements] for years. And all of a sudden they both went into major remodeling. I think you will see a lot of that all over the place, existing courses deciding they have to keep up with the newer courses...

**LaFoy:** Birmingham, Ala., has always been a big golf city. After Shoal Creek was built, Mountain Brook Club, an old Ross club rebuilt. Then Pete and Alice redid the old West Course at Birmingham Country Club; then they redid the East Course. Vestavia rebuilt; Green Valley rebuilt. Probably three or four other clubs in Birmingham rebuilt. In a period of five years, almost every country club in Birmingham rebuilt after Shoal Creek moved in. I think you will continue to see that. There will be more clubs competing for the Baby Boomer business in addition to the upscale daily-fee courses.

**GCN:** Eighty percent of today's new courses are public. Do you see this trend continuing?

**Brauer:** I don't think it's a new trend. I think starting in 1897 it's been going. I pulled out some old minutes of ASGCA meetings. In its second or third year, [the society] was talking about creating more access to public golf.

**Dye:** Public golf has changed from just municipal golf, where the courses were miserable, up to the point where some are very nice now.

**GCN:** What is being done and what can be done to develop less costly golf courses?

**Griffiths:** I haven't seen a trend yet. We're still going up. I think a lot of it is perception: This goes to the Baby Boomers, who feel they have to play on an upscale daily-fee golf course. Why? What's wrong with just a good, quality golf course that doesn't have waterfalls or lakes but has a medium amount of maintenance and is an enjoyable experience? I think our perception of what is a "quality game of golf" today is a bit twisted. Just because I didn't have a perfect lie doesn't mean my game was ruined.

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