

UPDATE

Course remodeling trend growing

Remodeling seems to be the wave of the future for golf courses.

According to Ted Robinson, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, many courses built 25 or more years ago no longer challenge today's player, who has better equipment and can avoid the original hazards.

"Therefore," he says, "many courses are moving and adding traps, rebuilding their greens and enlarging tees. In many cases, they also are adding water hazards that serve as water retention ponds for the irrigation system."

Robinson said, however, that every remodeling project does not mean a complete construction project. Most courses retain a golf course architect to evaluate the playability of the layout and then submit a master plan that can be implemented over several years, depending, of course, on budget.

Design factors that many architects will review in the master plan are:

- **Tees** - Tees establish playability and are prime targets of improvement. They tend to be much larger and longer than in the past because of the beating they take from concentrated play. It is not uncommon for tees to cover 5,000 to 7,000 square feet in area on the modern course.

- **Fairways** - "Sparking up" a fairway can involve the reshaping of mounds, traps, lakes or ponds. Major gradework may be required to eliminate blind shots or to soften severe terrain.

- **Traps** - The trend has been toward milder convolutions of the edges of the traps and more gentle rise from the bottom of the trap to the top edge. Gentler contours make it easier to cut the edges with power mowers, reducing time and labor expenses.

- **Ponds** - Artificial ponds may be recommended. They enhance visual impact, offering a stimulating challenge if they are strategically placed and serve as a valuable water source. The excavated material can often be used to rebuild bunkers and mounds.

- **Irrigation System** - Good irrigation systems can't be over-emphasized. The trend is toward completely automated systems. Installing an irrigation system is a relatively simple procedure. An 18-hole system can be installed in two to four months depending on the terrain and scope of the system, and is generally less disruptive than club members think. An automatic system can conserve water, reduce labor expense and allow watering during nighttime hours.

- **Greens** - The shape, size and protecting features of each green should be in direct relation to the approach shot. Although larger than those of earlier eras -- a good average size is 6,500 square feet - today's greens should offer variety. More and variable pin placements are possible with larger greens and alleviate problems caused by heavy play. Gentle undulations permit the use of machine mowers and reduce the risk of scalping. The green should be designed to drain in more than one direction. It is possible to enlarge a green and add traps without losing play, but the best way often is to reconstruct it entirely. It is less of a task to install additional drainage than is supposed. Critical areas can be retiled and backfilled and the sod replaced within one day.

EQUIPMENT

Toro sues R&R in parts dispute

The Toro Company has filed a copyright infringement and unfair competition suit in U.S. District Court, Minneapolis, against R&R Product Co. of Tucson, AZ.

Toro alleges R&R, a replacement parts manufacturer, uses Toro's parts numbering system and copyrighted material from Toro's catalogs.

Vernon A. Johnson, vice president and general counsel for Toro, said, "The lawsuit was filed to provide our 55 domestic distributorships with a source of protection that by law is rightfully theirs."

PEOPLE

Alden Dow dies, landscape architect

Alden Dow, internationally recognized landscape architect and direct decendent of Herbert Dow, founder of Dow Chemical, died in September. Alden Dow had a great degree of influence on Dow Gardens in Midland, MI, and is known for his planning of Lake City, TX. He was a stockholder in Dow Chemical and sat on the board of the Dow Foundation, but was never employed by the company. Alden predicted a movement of people back to the urban centers of the country from the suburbs and believed in the use of native and exotic plant material. He was 79.

EQUIPMENT

New show planned for outdoor equipment

After spending years trying to get attention of dealers at the Hardware Show and other general shows, manufacturers of outdoor power equipment have developed their own show to be held July 23-25, 1984, in Louisville, KY.

A steering committee finalized plans during a meeting in September. Represented on the committee were Bolens, Briggs & Stratton, Brinley-Hardy, Bunton, Deere & Co., Dixon Industries, Gilson Brothers (Sensation), Homelite, Kohler, Lawn-Boy, MTD Products, The Toro Co., Simplicity, Wheel Horse, and others.

Although the show is really intended for equipment dealers, it's a good

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