

ASGCA OFFICERS PREDICT CONTINUED COURSE DEMAND

If interest rates remain in the "reasonable" range and golfers continue to flock to golf courses in record numbers, officers of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) expect new course development to accelerate rather than plateau.

Robert Trent Jones, Jr., ASGCA president, has projected that 5,000 new courses will be needed by the year 2000, but he now believes demand could be even greater in the '90s. "All segments of the golf business—juniors, young adults, middle-age males, women, and seniors—are growing dramatically, and we must build facilities to satisfy these eager golfers," he says.

"Obviously, we need more public courses, and we are gradually seeing more being built. These courses, however, will be much more challenging than those public fee courses of a generation ago. In fact, some of the new public courses are among the best designs coming on stream," Jones asserts.

The California-based architect also notes that today's golf course architect has learned to work with various governmental agencies to satisfy all the environmental concerns associated with wetlands and endangered species. He adds that many courses are being built successfully in environmentally sensitive areas.

Focus On Playability - Dan Maples, ASGCA vice president, who works out of Pinehurst, NC, designs many courses for resorts and developers in tourist destinations. He believes that architects designing for this ever-growing market will be concentrating on "enjoyable but not boring" courses.

"We work on making courses playable so that the golfers enjoy their round," says Maples. "Aesthetics are important to developers around the world."

Maples points out that Society members are now working throughout the world, and most clients want a "U.S. championship course, which in their mind means challenging, not intimidating, and fun to play." More ASGCA members are working internationally, especially in Europe, as the U.S. golf boom continues to roll out in every area of the world.

More Variety In Nines - Tom Clark, ASGCA secretary, of Wheaton, MD, explains that many developers are asking for 27 or even 36 holes initially, with different degrees of difficulty on each nine. With this layout, beginners can build up their confidence on the easiest nine and then progress to the others. Clark says this also helps speed up play on the tougher nines.

Clark thinks many courses will soon be seriously considering a policy that requires

new players to complete certain proficiency tests, including those on golf etiquette. If multiple courses are available, only those with lower handicaps, for instance, will be allowed to play the more difficult courses.

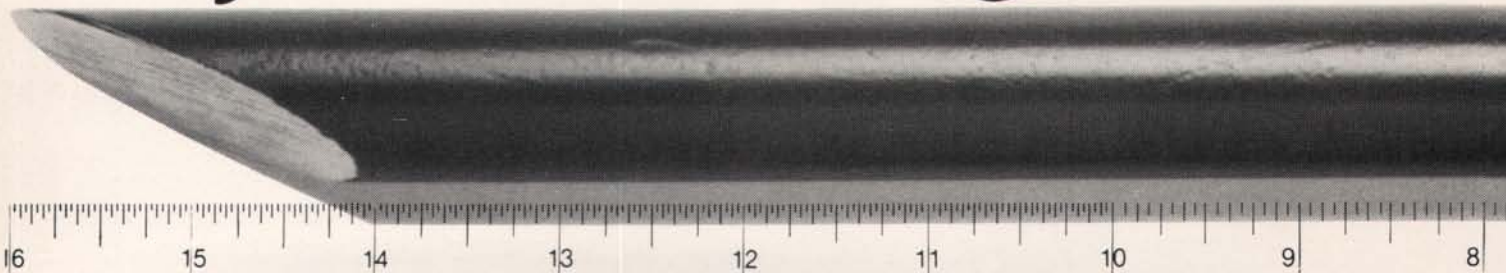
The majority of new courses in recent years have been built in conjunction with real estate developments, and Clark says that trend will continue. In most cases, the course is open to the public until the development is filled, at which time it becomes a private club.

"We see this same pattern becoming more popular with municipalities in the next decade," Clark adds. "The typical scenario is for the developer to give the necessary land for the golf course to the municipality in return for the right to build housing around the course."

Television Has Impact - Arthur Hills, ASGCA treasurer, is based in Toledo, OH, but works throughout the country. He states that "people want the championship-type courses they see on television, but they want fair and realistic courses without gimmicks."

"The bottom line is that there is a gradual return to a more traditional approach to design, with realistic placement of bunkers and greens that allow the player a fair putt without worry about severe breaks or multiple levels," says Hills.

Only Verti-Drain® goes 16"



And now there's a 10"



Because we knew you wanted to own a Verti-Drain, we developed the new 005.120 ten inch model. Slightly smaller than its bigger brothers the 12" and 16" models, it has the same patented soil shattering feature but costs about 20% less. It attaches to smaller size tractors requiring only 17HP at the PTO. Still it goes deeper than any other competitive model. It's ideal for restoring your compacted greens.



He believes golfers appreciate that courses serve as greenbelts in communities that need open space and oxygen. He adds that architects have worked successfully in environmentally sensitive locations, often providing additional wetland areas when wetlands are needed for the strategic playability of the golf course.

Design For Site - "Golf courses of the future will fit with the lay of land," says Jones. "Designers are conscious of their responsibility to the community and players to build a course that 'fits.' There is no doubt that owners and the golfers who play their courses will pay a fair price to play a well designed course. Courses built by 'amateur architects' that are poorly maintained will not be successful."

With the global concern about water conservation, many new courses will have a more natural look, Jones adds. But he suggests that this fits in with designing with the lay of land.

"U.S. design has been accepted internationally," says Jones. "But that does not mean that there is a certain style. Architects will continue to evaluate each site and produce a design that accentuates its best features and provides a layout that will be environmentally sensitive and challenging to the golfers who will be playing it for generations to come."

C. E. ROBINSON

C. E. "Robbie" Robinson, designer of some of Canada's finest golf courses, passed away recently. He was 82.

Robinson, who served as president of the the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1961-62 and 1971-72, also designed courses in the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America.

Robinson graduated from the University of Toronto's Agricultural College in Guelph, Ontario, in 1929. After graduation he began an apprenticeship with famed Canadian golf course architect Stanley Thompson, who landed Robinson a position as course manager and superintendent at Sunningdale Country Club in London, Ontario.

In 1936, Robinson returned to the Thompson firm and then served from 1941 to 1946 with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. Following military service, he was employed for two years in site selection and housing development with the Canadian government's Central Mortgage and Housing Development.

Robinson began his golf course architect practice in 1948, and founded C. E. Robinson & Associates, Ltd., in 1961. He became recognized as an authority on turfgrass culture after additional study in soil science and agronomy at Cornell University and turf management at the University of Mas-

sachusetts, and for several years was the director of the Royal Canadian Golf Association's Green Section.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma; one brother, Gerald; and three sisters, Nina Shanette, Ivy Bobb, and Ruby Robinson. Donations in his memory can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

SUPERINTENDENTS TO FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The environmental impact of golf courses will be addressed at the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show on February 19-26 in Orlando, FL. More than 15,000 professional turf managers and other industry leaders are expected to attend the event, which is sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Some of the environmental topics slated for discussion are: water quality and conservation, integrated pest management, hazard communication, underground petroleum tanks, and storage, disposal, and recycling of chemicals. Expert presentations on these and other topics will be made during the Friday, February 23 session on "Managing Today's Environment."

A special government relations open forum will also be held at the conference.

deep and shatters the soil.



model for those less needy.

Or use one of our larger machines for fairways and sports fields the same way turf pros worldwide do. Go with the leader—Verti-Drain. Call or write for our free literature and the name of your nearest distributor.

VERTI-DRAIN®
Works like a pitchfork, only better.

Emrex, Inc., 501 Tall Trees Drive, Scranton, PA 18505 (717) 963-0829

Circle 122 on Postage Free Card