Cape Cod Study director defends findings

To the Editor:

The article on the New York at
torney general's report attacking
golf courses was balanced, thor-
ough and interesting (GCN, Sept.
16, pp. L1, 17). Rather than to play
on a green rug situated among
trees, shrubbery add depth, char-
acter and scenic impact.

Grass and wildflowers inclusive-
turf maintenance is restricted to
native

Figure 2 represents the true mainte-
nance for the first five-year
period. After opening, then, because
of the work performed within that five-
year period, the maintenance responsi-
bility is expected to steadily decline
because of the "self-sufficiency"
achieved over much of the course.

If Dr. Surgan is referring to the
background wells, he is correct and
I appreciate the compliment. That
I have never discussed
this with Dr. Surgan, nor has my
technical coordinator, Joe Senia.
The only deficiency we ever
acknowledged was in the method used
to install the wells. The drive-and-
wash method may have caused
cross contamination down the
boreholes, thereby increasing
the number of detections than we
would otherwise have seen.

I hope this clarifies the issues.

Sincerely,

Stuart Z. Cohen, president
Environmental & Turf Services

Trett/Triplet

Cordially,

Raymond F. Zall

Letters to the editor are wel-
comed. Please address them to:
Letters, Golf Course News, P.O.
Box 977, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

Tress, shrubbery add depth, character and scenic impact

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The Cape Cod study authors
acknowledged the deficiencies...".

I was the director of the study, and this is
sole or sole author of the two articles
published on it. I would like to respond to his
statement.

Some of the wells were dug too
depth to detect surface applied pes-
sicides. This an incorrect statement for
several reasons. First, all monitor-
ing wells...were screened at or
just below the water table" (Cohen et al., Ground
Water Monitoring Review 10 (1),

In other words, the sampling points
(the screens) could not be placed
any shallower. Second, the average
depth to water in non-background
(non-control) wells was 21 feet at
Bass River, 35 feet at Falmouth, 6.5
feet at Eastward Ho, and 10 feet at
Hyannisport. The range was 5.28-
33.46 feet. Yes, that is a lot of the
depth to water in non-background
(non-control) wells was 21 feet at
Bass River, 35 feet at Falmouth, 6.5
feet at Eastward Ho, and 10 feet at
Hyannisport. The range was 5.28-
33.46 feet. Yes, that is a lot of

I have been working in the field
of pesticides in ground water since
1979 and do not know anyone who
would consider these depths "too
depth," especially when one consid-
ers the sandy subsurface.

Third, these depths are similar to
ground water depths in the areas
discussed in the "Toxic Fauners"
report, the subject of the GCN
article.

For example, in our review of
elicoidar ground water (Lorber,
Cohen & DeBuchanan, Ground
Water Monitoring Review 10 (1),
127-141, 1990), we summarized the
approximately 12,000 detections on
Long Island. One study cited in our
text documented significant detect-
gions in ground water around 100
feet deep, much deeper than the
Cape Cod sites.

"Others (wells) were placed up-
stream from where the pesticide
applications were made, so that the
chemicals had no chance of flowing
past the well..."

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That's another crucial factor for
visually reinforce the ecological di-
versity found in Louisiana.

Figure 1 represents approxi-
mately 11 acres (less water) that
would normally be "maintained."

Figure 2 represents the true mainte-
nance responsibility of only 4.7 acres.
And this is just one hole.

The maintenance program for
Sweet Bay Island is designed to be
top-heavy with required mainte-
nance for the first five-year period
after opening. Then, because of the
work performed within that five-
year period, the maintenance responsi-
bility is expected to steadily decline
because of the "self-sufficiency"
achieved over much of the course.

Sweet Bay Island represents a
unique opportunity for golf to help
provide a passive recreation or leis-
ure experience for the "other" 85
percent of the population that amaz-
ingly does not play golf. Small boat-
fishing, picnicking and nature
trails are expected to peacefully
coexist with golf within this 380-
acre native plant arbotem.

Trees add depth to a golf hole if
correctly placed. They create scale
and branch development necessary
to the golf hole. Small boatwashing
method may have
vertical cross contamination down
the boreholes, thereby increasing
the number of detections than we
would otherwise have seen.

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Golf needs to assume a lead role
in environmental repair, ecology
and native plant use. Golf courses
today should not only be a tremen-
dous asset to the communities they
are a part of, they could make a
more-significant contribution to the
bird and wildlife sanctuaries and as
nature preserves or native arbor-
ements. But ultimately, should tree-
planting programs reach fruition,
the level of enjoyment derived from
playing golf will rise and the num-
ber of rounds played will follow.

Stephen R. Bailey is a registered
landscape architect in Illinois and
frequently contributes his design tal-
ents on golf course projects in his
area.