Dream 18
Maryland technology and Houston cash recreate golf’s best holes on a Houston oil field

Wicked weed
Pre-emergent herbicides wage annual battle against goosegrass, bane of the South

Move over, Spielberg
Jerry Mach loads his camera for a different kind of audience — the golf industry

Matchmaking money with movers and shakers
Deals are already being struck by investors and entrepreneurs connected by the golf industry’s fledgling electronic matchmaker.

1st Vermont project OK’d
A Vermont advisory board has approved an integrated turf management plan and conservative risk assessment for a golf course, the first such approval under the state’s strict turfchemical guidelines adopted two years ago.

Golf Course Management & Construction
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Hot off the press
USGA defines research
A comprehensive reference book summarizing the scientific literature on the positive and potentially negative environmental effects of golf courses will be available late next month.

All systems go at Pebble
The 10th hole at the new Boulders South Course in Carefree, Ariz., designed by Jay Morrish, was the old 6th hole of the Boulders Nine. Morrish used the existing nine, refurbishing a couple of its holes, in a rerouting plan to devise the new 18-hole layout. See story on page 20.
Vermont grants first course approval under new board

Continued from page 1

Sherman Hollow has been through the process this year." While the decision is a good sign for developers, it may not help other course proposals.

Sherman Hollow is not scheduled for an April review. But if it were, and if it received a favorable VPAC report, the District IV board would still be under no obligation to accept VPAC's recommendation, Leland said.

"Sherman Hollow points out how important neighbors' feelings still are about a project," Leland said. "If the project moved forward, there would be no opposition from neighbors, or anyone else, a project will usually get a permit." Leland said golf industry leaders could use the Equinox decision as impetus to change state law, so that the burden of proof is taken off the developer to prove a project won't adversely affect neighbors' property, and placed on abutting landowners to prove that it will.

Equinox underwent a thorough Roes Jones-designed renovation. "They basically scraped it down to nothing and brought it back to life again," Leland said.

The District Environmental Board, consisting mainly of volunteers with limited scientific knowledge, approved the project subject to VPAC's acceptance of a pesticide plan.

Unlike the district board, Leland said, VPAC's members include experts from such state agencies as Fish and Wildlife, Extension Service, Water Resource Division, Forest and Parks Department, Department of Agriculture, Transportation Department and the University of Vermont Pharmaceutical Department.

"The process is supposed to make (the effects of) additions or new courses easier for the district boards to understand," Leland said. "The district committee doesn't always understand the science involved in a golf course proposal."

Vermont law requires all course proposals to develop a comprehensive management plan, site-specific information on soils, hydrology and drainage data, information on pesticides not included in the prescreened list, and calculations of pesticide concentrations in surface and ground water.

Maryland-based Environmental & Turf Services Inc. developed Equinox's turf management plan. "This management plan is a very special document," said Stuart Cohen, CEO of ETS.

"We considered pesticide mobility in soils, persistence, human toxicity and aquatic toxicity," said ETS President Stuart Cohen. "The VPAC's regulations did not provide specific guidance in this area, so we had to integrate and refine a new kind of assessment.

"We had to have several colloquial, substantive discussions with the regulatory officials since we were setting many precedents. In some cases our assumptions were reasonable, and in other cases we were overly conservative.

"But we were trying to comply with the spirit, as well as the letter of the law. And the spirit of the law is that the Vermont government wanted us to be conservative, thorough and competent, but not fancy. "I believe we gave VPAC what it wanted. This is due, in part, to the fact that we were able to work closely with VPAC during the process."

VPAC approved the final recommendations. They included normal use of glyphosate, fenarimol, metalaxyl, propanocarb, 2, 4-D, dicamba, flurprimidol, and paclobutrazol; restrictions applied to applications of bendiocarb, propiconazole, and MCP. Isoproturon was not allowed due to aquatic toxicity concerns.

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