Michigan Homestead gets go-ahead

By Peter Blain
GLEN ARBOR, Mich. — The four-year battle apparently isn't over for the Homestead Resort's golf course project.

The national office of the Environmental Protection Agency May 8 approved the controversial northern Michigan course, including the filling in of 3 1/2 acres of wetlands.

EPA Director William Reilly's decision upheld the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's 1990 approval and the wishes of Republican Gov. John Engler. But it conflicted with the recommendations of the regional EPA office and four other government agencies.

Three days later, project opponents — including Friends of the Crystal River, Sierra Club, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, National Wildlife Federation and Trout Unlimited — filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court seeking to overturn the EPA ruling. A decision whether to issue a permit to the resort course near Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore isn't due until June 8.

"It's still a hot topic around here," said John Tune, editor of the Record Eagle in nearby Traverse City. Homestead developer Bob Kuras is unsure when he will start construction.

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Erosion control blankets fast proving their worth

By Mark Leslie
Erosion control has become a buzzword in the construction industry, transforming erosion control blankets from a secondary to a major tool of the trade.

"We used to only use them (blankets) from an engineering standpoint when we usually had a problem," said Ron Boyd, president of Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. in Williamsburg, Va. "Now you've got more regulations — such as laws on cutting: d tilling on steep slopes — so that their use is sometimes mandatory."

Ken Starrett, vice president of marketing for American Excelsior Co. of Arlington, Texas, said over the last few years strong laws regulated by the Soil Conservation Service, Corps of Engineers and highway departments have been adopted by communities.

"The number increases...

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Equal access: A tall order

By Hal Phillips
Equal access and fair hiring practices for the disabled used to be goals; now they're the law of the land.

With regard to accessibility for handicapped citizens, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) took effect in February, 1992. Come July 26 of this year, golf clubs with more than 24 employees will be subject to the ADA's employment provisions.

While tax-paying clubs with 15 to 24 employees needn't comply for another two years, golfing establishments nationwide — tax-paying or non, public or private — will study the ADA provisions. The law will

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Emerald Dunes: Voted best new public course.

Architects, builders vote on the nation's top new courses

By Mark Leslie
Diamonds. Emeralds. Golf course architect Tom Fazio must be into gems. Two of his Florida jewels — Black Diamond in Lecanto and Emerald Dunes in West Palm Beach — have been selected by course architects and builders as the best private and public golf courses, respectively, to open in the last five years.

Fazio, who designed three of the top six private courses and two of the best seven public layouts, attributed the achievement to excellent sites and developers.

"It's the people involved that make a project happen," he said. "I've got a story for every course I've done. There's a
Golf clubs set to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act

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almost certainly be broadened in coming years, particularly with regard to capital improvements.

Private clubs under IRC 501(c) are exempt from the employer section. However, clubs which host public events and/or find their status questioned by state legislation should be prepared to comply.

"Most of our members are already in compliance and doing the best they can," explained Kathi Driggs, a spokesperson for the Club Managers Association of America."A majority (60 percent) are not obligated to comply because many are tax-exempt, non-profit clubs.

"However, we have advised our members to look at ways to comply, if nothing else, for public relations purposes." According to the law, clubs will be responsible for providing "reasonable" accommodation of employees or qualified applicants with an impairment.

What constitutes an impairment? A substantial orthopedic; visual; speech or hearing disability; tuberculosis; HIV infection; cerebral palsy; epilepsy; muscular dystrophy; multiple sclerosis; cancer; heart disease; diabetes; mental retardation; emotional or mental illness.

As of July 26, covered employers will also be required to take steps to accommodate the disabled, such as:

- Auditing all testing and employee procedures to ensure any requirement that would qualify a disabled employee is truly job-related.
- Does not lay the topdressing on top of the grass. No brushing is necessary.
- With a light topdressing 18 greens can be done in less than 2 hours with only 3 passes for average green.
- Very little or no sand pick up when mowing.
- Cut your greens longer and still maintain fast putting surface.
- Best putting surface available.

Look At These Advantages

-FAST: Does not lay the topdressing on top of the grass. No brushing is necessary.
-SAVE: With a light topdressing 18 greens can be done in less than 2 hours with only 3 passes for average green.
-CLEAN: Very little or no sand pick up when mowing.
-QUALITY: Cut your greens longer and still maintain fast putting surface.
-RESULT: Best putting surface available.

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This is the ideal machine to use for spiking. The new double 4" spiking blade does the job so smooth the golfer will never know you've been on the green. It will leave 400 spiking holes in a 3 foot width.

For more information about what the ADA requires, clubs can order the Technical Assistance Manual published by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Call 1-800-669-EEOC.