The North Carolina Golf Council, born with high expectations, has hit upon tough times and public golf are fast approaching.

Wetting agents OK'd for Hydroject

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New course listings

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What's new in the marketplace

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One company girls for sluggish 1990

What's new in the marketplace

The votes are in...

Council goes dormant

Two GCN-sponsored conferences — on marketing and public golf — are fast approaching.

Taxes paid by Golf Courses

GOLF'S ECONOMIC IMPACT

A special report, commissioned by the NGF, details golf's impact on local, regional and national economies. See page 3.

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INSIDE

Critics assail anti-growth advocate

Experts question Klein's methods, motives and results

By Mark Leslie

Golf course developers and builders bristle when his name is mentioned. Architects frown. Scientists snicker. Anti-growth advocates smile.

One thing about Richard Klein, president of Community & Environmental Defense Associates: When asked about him, people do not teeter on the fence. "He is not fondly mentioned around here."

said David Locke, vice president of Daft McCune Walker, Inc., a landscape architecture and land planning firm in Maryland.

Milt McCarthy of McCarthy and Associates in Upper Marlboro, Md., said: "In projects we've worked on, Klein has preferred himself as a geotechnical or ground water hydrology expert. He was involved in an important flood case in the D.C. area, and he was very effective."

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Drought continues to plague Northwest

By Peter Blais

Drought in parts of the Northwest, Rocky Mountains and Midwest has increased maintenance costs and, in the most severe cases, decreased play at golf courses.

Reno, Nev., is one of the hardest hit areas. City-owned Northgate Golf Club depends on runoff passing through a nearby ditch for its irrigation water. But with little rain and virtually no snowpack last winter, the ditch has run dry much of the summer of '92. The club went 27 days without watering its fairways at one point, according to head pro Don Boyle.

"Rounds and revenues are down 50 percent," he said. "We've reduced our fees about 25 percent. But if you don't have the product people are accustomed to, 

Continued on page 10

Industry analysts mull Landmark decision

By Hal Phillips

While federal authorities ponder the fate of once-mighty Landmark Golf Course Design and Construction, industry analysts go about their business — namely, trying to figure out how the financial world will view golf course projects in light of the latest Landmark decision.

"As an appraiser, I don't see how this would negatively impact value in the long term, but in the short term it definitely hurts," said Larry Hirsh, president of Golf Property Analysts, Inc. and president of the Society of Golf Appraisers.

"I think the situation has scared away financiers, which we didn't need to begin with," Hirsh continued. "And by eliminating the availability of financing, you've reduced the size of the market, which in turn further reduces the supply of financing."

"Anytime you get negative publicity, it will scare lenders away," added Don Rhodes of Textron Financial. "We're

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Klein: Golf courses are his targets

Continued from page 1

In a housing development project in Annapolis (Wood Landings II) where he became a heavy metals expert...

"Pretty soon it's going to be lunar rocks."

Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc. in Wheaton, Ill., said Klein's report, Protecting the Aquatic Environment from the Effects of Golf Courses, "is below nominal scientific standards. It would never pass peer review."

Cohen said Klein "twisted a lot of things around. He offered for example a comparison between pesticide and fertilizer use on corn-soybeans with greens, tees and fairways. It was mixing apples and oranges... Once we realized how his report took so many facts out of context, we felt we couldn't trust any conclusion without going back to the original source and checking it ourselves."

Architect Michael Hurdzan of Columbus, Ohio, said Klein "takes information out of context, or misinterprets it... He uses client developers, architects and scientists get to face him. "In our specific situation he took things way out of context," developer Lex Birney said, referring to his Queenstown (Md.) Golf Links. "It was the kindergarten approach to soil-type classification, taking terms such as 'foamy,' 'sandy' and 'clayey' and using them in senses that they are not intended to be used in in terms of gradations of permeability of soil types and things like that."

"Then he used the Cape Cod Study... He took it out of context, twisted it all around and applied it to an area that had no geographic similarity to that in the first place."

Klein "knows the buzzwords," McCarthy said. "He knows what gets regulators' attention. And, to some degree, he knows how to play the game from a protectionist's standpoint fairly well, because he knows what will be high-visibility issues, and he knows how to adequately bring them up at least enough to create enough doubt to get the project delayed until the question is finally resolved."

A Germantown, Md., developer was forced to perform $400,000 worth of "unnecessary" ground water studies because of Klein's intervention, McCarthy said.

"What bothers me about him is the concept of being a hired gun," said Jim Irre, a wetlands ecologist with McCarthy & Associates. "People might call me a hired gun, too, working for the developer. The difference is that I am playing by a set of rules set up by the federal,}

Baltimore County, which he said asked him to work with Daft McCune Walker to find sites suitable for public courses. But Locke and Bob Staib, Baltimore County's director of parks and recreation at the time, said Klein has attended only one one-hour meeting.

Klein said his typical fee is $2,000 to $3,000.

For his fee a client gets Klein to do studies on the site of proposed construction, right?

Not usually. "I usually can't get access to the site," Klein said. Instead, he uses information from government-required environmental impact statements. Traffic and land-use impacts are also studied, he said, "and we can tap existing data... such as USGS geological surveys and records."

FACING OFF

Then Klein will speak for his client at public board hearings. "That is when developers, architects and scientists get to face him."

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Scotts TGR Turf Enhancer 50 WP not only improves the color, density and plantability of turf...
Experts say science played little part in Klein’s research work

By MARK LESLIE

Richard Klein’s springboard to national acceptance and recognition as an expert in protecting the aquatic environment was a speech he made at a conference in 1980. He had authored a paper on the subject, which he claimed showed the adverse effects of golf courses on the environment. However, experts say science played little part in Klein’s research work, and his conclusions were based on unscientific generalizations—peris fraught with guesswork, laden with uncertainties associated with pesti-
cides.

Klein tested a portion of a stream from a golf course as well as city water. He admitted to “a lot of uncer-
tainties expressed in that publication,” but added: “I tried to be as honest as I could in interpreting the data and interpreting the feedback that I got from people who knew much more about the specific part of the golf course than I do...”

Klein has to do is confuse the laymen on planning and zoning boards know no better than to be-
drunkenly obeying the ordinance. This isn’t surprising when you consider that it’s a layperson who is doing the research. To a scientist, he’s often making it clear that there are a lot of uncertainties associated with pesti-
cides coming from a golf course.”

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