Gulf of Mexico developers weighing impact of treatise

By ANDREW WHEELER

Bay St. Louis, Miss. — Golf course developers in the five states bordering the Gulf of Mexico are still assessing the potential impact of a federal and state initiative to protect coastal areas. At a December 1992 conference, government officials from all five states, environmentalists, business people and the Environmental Protection Agency signed on to the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP). According to the timetable, its goal is "to protect, restore, and enhance the coastal and marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico and its coastal natural habits, to sustain living resources, to protect human health and the food supply, and to ensure the recreational use of Gulf shores, beaches and waters... in ways consistent with the economic well being of the region." The agreement sets forth a series of nine environmental challenges to be accomplished from 1993 to 1997. While their impact on existing and future golf course projects remains unclear, the GMP goals bear a striking resemblance to restrictive conditions protecting other coastal areas: reduction of at least 10 percent the amount of trash on beaches; an increase in Gulf Coast seagrass beds and in Gulf shellfish beds available for safe harvesting by 10 percent; the reduction of the rate of loss of coastal islands; and the enhancement of Gulf commercial and recreational fisheries. "I think golf courses can accommodate environmental concerns," said Jeff Brauer, an architect at Golf Scapes in Arlington, Texas, who does not think these measures will affect development significantly. "Golf architects are committed to being responsible." Continued on page 29

Commentary

Reality check: Computers do their stuff

By CARL MISTRETTA

In all phases of daily life, the power, speed and reliability of the modern computer has touched everyone in some way. The design business is no different. Computers help manage all forms of personal and business information. As a computer-aide designer for Nicklaus Design, it is my responsibility to remain knowledgeable of the technological future of our industry. Computers have dramatically improved the profession of golf course design. Continued on page 30

First certified builders approved

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The first group of certified golf course builders has been announced by the Golf Course Builders Association of America. Executive Vice President Phil Arnold announced certification has been earned by Paul Clute & Associates of Hartland, Mich. (Paul Clute, president); Golf Development Construction of Louisville, Ky. (Charles Fenimore, vice president); Irvin Construction Co. of Miamisburg, Ohio. (Jim Irvin Jr., received the award). Brent Bean has joined David Jensen Associates, Inc., a Denver-based land planning and design firm, as planning director. Previously, he was planning director for the cities of Black Hawk, Lafayette and Rifle, and planner for the cities of Boulder and Longmont. He was assistant planning director for Benton County in Oregon. His responsibilities will include project processing and coordinating preparation of submittal documents, and working with the DJA design team to develop successful processing strategies.