The Gulf Coast is becoming a gaming mecca, but golf

After years of prodding, the EPA will alter its peer-review methods, hoping to stop uneven science.

Flood waters from the swollen Ocmulgee and Flint rivers wreak havoc on Georgia golf courses.

A tale of two projects: Fast track vs. slow track.

GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Delhi the first two-year turf school with course.

Super Focus: Pock maintains family tradition.

On the Green: You've got a crime dog in Pa.

Q&A: Lee Chang busy on two continents.

Marketing Idea: Developing repeat customers.

RISE conference opts for Southern exposure.

GCSAA institutes new trade show policies.

Superintendent's respond on consumer preferences, EPA regulation, environmental activism and other maintenance issues. Their answers appear on page 21.

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Marty takes aim at Southeast market.

Marketing Idea: Developing repeat customers.

The Public Arena: Municipal coming of age.

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Rise conference opts for Southern exposure.

GCSAA institutes new trade show policies.

What's new in the marketplace?

Palmer to keynote Golf Course Expo

Arnlie to address Army at conference & trade show.

Brauer's Minn. project awaits court resolution.

Seed companies re-think the rye market.

The term "high-volume, low-profit" might fit no other product better than perennial ryegrass—the choice of many for overseeding.

"People just after this business for the volume. But it's very low-profit," said Steve Tubbs, vice president of turf merchants of Tangent, Ore.

"It's important to the industry in the fact there is a lot of seed used.," said Tom Stanley, marketing manager at turf seed in Hubbard, Ore. "However, when you look at the dollars involved, it's not very important.

Then why get involved?

"That's a good question," Stanley said, "and I think it's a question a lot of Oregon seed companies are asking themselves. This year the trend continues from the last several years. We've seen declining prices and increased production.

"Everybody wants a piece of the overseeding market. It's big. A lot of distributors think it's glamorous. And it's a way to dump overproduction into a market that's not going to hurt them in other regions of the country."

Fifty million to 60 million pounds, or

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Continued on page 26.
Muddled in Minn.

Continued from page 1

anybody. We're trying to be as environmentally sensitive as we possibly can be.”

The hold-ups include endangered species, potentially endangered species, alleged forest fragmentation, water resource squabbles, state government in-fighting and citizen action lawsuits. The latter has tied up the project in court, though Brauer remained hopeful the matter may finally be settled and ground broken by September. The entire affair takes place in this town, an hour north of Duluth in the so-called “iron range region,” where mining operations have slowed considerably. Under direction of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB), a state government agency, the region took a giant step toward economic recovery with development of Giants Ridge ski resort in the 1980s.

Spurred by the success of winter tourism, the IRRRB soon sought a summer component and Brauer was summoned to design the golf course with help from PGA design consultant Lanny Watkins.

With a choice of several sites in St. Louis County but inhibited by the endangered barren strawberry and nearly endangered marsh marigold — which is still being considered for protected status — Brauer and the IRRRB finally settled on a parcel adjacent to the ski area. Indeed, the base chalet would double as clubhouse.

However, the IRRRB was jolted when its sister agency — the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) — filed a motion for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS), the first ever requested for a golf course project in Minnesota.

“Typically, the state would be easier on itself,” said Brauer. “No golf course in Minnesota has ever been required to do an EAW [the less stringent Environmental Assessment Workshop]. So when they were asked to do a full-blown EIS, they felt they were being singled out.

“This fits into the bigger political picture. DNR’s biggest quarantine is they didn’t have more input in the decision in St. Louis County. They also questioned whether counties have the technical knowledge to make that kind of environmental decision.”

Eventually, the IRRRB and DNR took their respective cases — the project with help from PGA design consultant Lanny Watkins.

As for the MCEA, its motivations appear even more political.

“The MCEA had already filed its own environmental report, noting its dissatisfaction with the schemes and rules used by the county during the permitting process,” said Eazler. “The MCEA doesn’t think the county can handle this type of permitting, and they also want more EIS’s done, in general.

“To be quite frank, I think they are using this example as a vehicle to make their point.”

Among the concerns of DNR, MCEA and IRRRA is forest fragmentation and its effect on the Minnesota songbird population.

“The song bird population is in decline, and no one knows why,” said Brauer. “The claim is, anytime you cut a road or line through virgin forest, you cut a path for predatory or parasitic birds, like the cow bird.

“We don’t believe this is a virgin area and no additional damage would be done with our 130 acres of clearing. They say our 130 acres would affect 130,000 acres of forest. But the cow bird is already there. The area is no longer virgin forest.”

As for groundwater concerns, back in April, the IRRRB hired Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services Inc., to study the area. Cohen has already testified several times before the St. Louis County Planning Commission and EQB. He will explain his results to the public sometime in August.

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