New wetlands regulations tighten the screws

By Mark Leslie

ASHINGTON, D.C. — Nine out of 10 golf course projects could be affected by new national wetlands regulations that are expected to be instituted on April 14 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The regulations, which control jurisdictional waters of the United States such as wetlands, streams and lakes, were scheduled to go into effect on Dec. 31, 1999, but they were delayed for some tweaking. Reportedly included are two new rules that could have wide-ranging impacts on developments:

- Preconstruction notifications (PCNs) will likely be required on all projects impacting more than 1/10-acre. Nationwide Permit (NWP) 26, which will be replaced by five new NWPs in April, now allows for 1/3-acre impact without PCNs; and it was anticipated to be reduced to 1/4-acre — until now.

On the other hand, a less-restrictive ruling regarding golf course construction in flood plains appears to be in the works.

“Greater than one-third of our projects in coastal areas over the past 10 years have had wetlands impacts of several thousand square feet,” said Dr. Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc. in Wheaton, Md. “In general, people should contact the ASGCA, 221 111. 60601; telephone 312-372-7090.

"under all is the sand" in South Florida. When golf course architect Pete Dye first surveyed the course that was to bear his name at PGA Village here, this saying was only partially true. In addition to the flat sandy topography, there was something else he had to accommodate when designing The Big Manu. The Big Manu is a 100-acre marsh that not only needed to be preserved, but protected via the design. When he first walked this 300-acre combination of sand and wetlands, Dye knew his job would be demanding. He was creating a course that had to follow strict environmental guidelines, combine playability with challenge, but also be a showcase to the world, since The Dye Course would be part of the PGA of America’s PGA Village. On Jan. 1, at the height of the tourist season along Florida’s Treasure Coast, The Dye Course officially opened to the public. Built as part of the triumvirate of public courses for PGA Village, it is an extraordinary combination of tradition, preservation and innovation in design.

Not only did Dye design the course in the traditional fashion, with the holes going in and out, but he used every acre to its fullest.

Kipp Schulties gains steam

Kipp Schulties, 30, worked for the Gene Bates/Fred Couples design team for seven years before opening his own firm two years ago. In addition to offices in Palm Beach, Fla., and New York City, the Indiana native’s best-known designs are the Boca Raton (Fla.) Resort & Club (Kipp Schulties Golf Design Inc. for Gene Bates) and Quail Lodge Resort Golf Club in Carmel, Calif. Other Schulties’ efforts include Carolina Lodge Golf Club in Southport, N.C., and Heron Ridge Golf Club, both with Fred Couples. Schulties has a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Purdue University and a master’s in business administration from the University of Miami. A single-digit-handicap golfer while in college, Schulties didn’t consider becoming a golf course architect until his mother suggested he find out if there was such a profession during his sophomore year at Purdue.

Golf Course News: How did you get into course design?

KS: On spring break my sophomore year I decided to go to Florida and see if there was anything I might like. I was only partially true. In addition to the flat sandy topography, there was something else he had to accommodate when designing The Big Manu. The Big Manu is a 100-acre marsh that not only needed to be preserved, but protected via the design. When he first walked this 300-acre combination of sand and wetlands, Dye knew his job would be demanding. He was creating a course that had to follow strict environmental guidelines, combine playability with challenge, but also be a showcase to the world, since The Dye Course would be part of the PGA of America’s PGA Village. On Jan. 1, at the height of the tourist season along Florida’s Treasure Coast, The Dye Course officially opened to the public. Built as part of the triumvirate of public courses for PGA Village, it is an extraordinary combination of tradition, preservation and innovation in design.

Not only did Dye design the course in the traditional fashion, with the holes going in and out, but he used every acre to its fullest.

Kipp Schulties, left, with PGA Tour great Fred Couples.

Hyatt to build $152M resort

CAMBRIDGE, Md. — A venture including Chicago-based Hyatt Corp. has secured funding to build a $152-million privately financed waterfront Hyatt resort, golf course and marina on Maryland’s scenic Eastern Shore here. The resort hotel and conference center will be owned by Maryland Economic Development Corp. (MEDCO) and managed by Hyatt. The developer is Quadrangle Development Corp. and construction management will be provided by Clark Enterprises, Inc. Construction was financed by the sale of tax-exempt revenue bonds to private institutions. Phase I of the project will be construction of the 400-room Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort, which will include an 18-hole golf course, 24,000-square-foot conference center, 15,000-square-foot health and fitness spa and a 150-slip marina. Hyatt-signature pools and restaurants will enhance the resort experience for guests. The resort is scheduled for completion in December 2001.