**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

**Dye’s PGA track enviro-friendly**

By KIT BRADSHAW

PORTST. LUCIE, Fla. — They say that “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 Mamu. The Big Mamu 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 out and back, but he used every...

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**Q&A**

**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 with offices in Palm Beach, Fla., and New York City. Among 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...

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**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-sponsor pools and restaurants will enhance the resort experience for guests. The resort is scheduled for completion in December 2001.

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really was such a thing as a golf course architect. I opened up the yellow pages and there were 10 golf course architects in Palm Beach County alone. There was Jack Nicklaus, and I didn’t know who Robert Trent Jones was, or Tom Fazio.

So instead of getting up at noon everyday and laying on the beach, I started getting up at 7 a.m. and putting on a decent pair of pants and a shirt and visiting architects’ offices. One morning I ended up at Gary Player’s office and asked the secretary if I could talk to someone. The guy who came out was Tom Walker. He was vice president of design. He introduced himself and said “Come on back to my office.” I hadn’t got much going on this morning. We sat back there and he talked to me for two hours about golf course design and how most people start in golf course maintenance or construction. I hope someday I can do that for somebody else. I sat down, took the time and talk to someone in school who needs guidance.

I left there all fired up and went down the street to PGA National, asked if I could get a job on the maintenance crew, and ended up getting a job for that summer. The next Christmas I came down and looked in the phone book under ‘golf course construction,’ because Tom Walker said that’s what I needed to do. The first name I saw was Jerry Pniemann. I went in and he offered me a job helping build Frenchman’s Creek that summer. While I was in Florida I sent out resumes to five architects and heard back from two — Gene Bates and Robert Trent Jones Sr. Gene’s office was two minutes away. I came back over Easter and he offered me a job for that summer. So I had to go back to Jerry Pniemann and tell him I had a job with a designer, which is really what I wanted to do. I ended up going to work for Gene full time after I graduated the following January.

GCN: When did you decide to go out on your own?
KS: After five years I was starting to push the envelope to try some things. I decided to resign to go out on my own, but Gene rehired me the same day to work on the Boca Resort and Carolina National in Southport, N.C. I was working out of his office, but was on my own when I brought on the Quail Lodge project.

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GCN: What’s been the hardest thing about being out on your on?
KS: When I was working for Gene, I could count on a paycheck every two weeks, whether I was on vacation or working 14 days straight. Now, when I’m not working, nobody’s working. If I’m not bringing in money, no one is bringing in money. I also didn’t realize the amount of time I’d spend on accounting. But the independence is great.

GCN: How do you view your role as an architect?
KS: I’ve gotten to know David McLay Kidd [designer of Bandon Dunes in Oregon] and he has a line I like to use myself. “When you’re out there on a big project — and you’ve got great shapers, contractors and people — then the architect is like the conductor of a great orchestra.” You just keep everyone focused and let them do what they need to do.

GCN: Is there anything you avoid or anything you like to include in your designs?
KS: I try to stay away from straight lines. The thing I like most is Western-style bunkers. I’ve been fortunate to play all the Northern California courses — San Francisco GC, Olympic, Pebble Beach, Spyglass, Cypress Point. They all have those very strong, steep faces and mellow out at the bottom. I love that look. That’s what we brought back to Boca. It’s a little more maintenance, but it’s a great look.

If you’re looking down the fairway from the tee, I like to bring things that cross your vision perpendicular to the fairway so you see things coming in from the side. It’s a very strong visual appearance. You have to have a wide fairway to make it work.

GCN: Is there any architect or courses you particularly admire?
KS: Everyone likes the classical architects — the Rosses, Mackenzies and Tillinghasts. I learned an awful lot from Steve

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Hills tackles Ross's Inverness finetuning

TOLEDO, Ohio — The Donald Ross-designed Inverness Club, site of four U.S. Opens, one U.S. Amateur and two PGA Championships, has undergone an improvement program that will position the historic track to host future major championships.

Construction of a number of new tees lengthened the course to 7,234 yards, playing to par 70 or 71. The most significant portion of the renovation involved reconstruction of bunkers and regrassing of the greens. "Inverness has a long and rich history of hosting major championships," said club President William Parker. "The improvement program will maintain the integrity of the course as a major championship site into the next decade and beyond."

Golf course architect Arthur Hills oversaw construction that began last August. New sand and internal drainage will be added to each bunker, with several bunkers being repositioned. Bluegrass sod will be placed around bunkers and greens to remove heavy bentgrass rough around the putting surfaces. The greens are being re-grassed with Penn G-2 creeping bentgrass.

Hills used the collection of historical photographs at Inverness during his planning. "One of the goals is that the course will have the same character and appearance as it has now," Hills said. "All of the work that will be done this fall has been done after consultation with the USGA [U.S. Golf Association]. I would call this program a modest fine-tuning which will allow Inverness to lengthen its course for future major championships the club may host. The key to the added length is added yardage to the long par-4s, in an effort to bring middle-irons into use."

Oliphant Golf Construction of Madison, Wis., was the contractor. Construction was completed in November, and the course will reopen in April.

Q&A: Schulties

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Wolfard [a former Bates' associate now working on his own in Dallas]. My favorite golf course is San Francisco Golf Club. You just feel the history. Among the modern courses I really like Shoal Creek in Birmingham, Ala., and I love Fazio's Pelican Hills in Newport Beach, Calif. It's hard to compare designers. Everyone has a different canvas to build their courses on, every piece of property is different. What I'd like to do is give every architect a piece of ground where there isn't a foot of elevation change or a piece of vegetation that you particularly want to keep, and see what you get. Now Pebble Beach is a phenomenal golf course. Is it a great design? I'm not sure. Someone was smart enough in the way they laid it out. But they didn't move a lot of dirt. How could you mess up piece of property with 12 holes on the ocean? Some of the best courses may not be the best layouts, they just sit on a phenomenal piece of property.