Shelter Harbor
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that caused delays centered on the state's
desire to put in place significant buffer zones
around the wetlands, Hurdzan said.

"When we would find small wetlands,
then figure on a sig-
ificant buffer, it re-
ally reduced the
amount of usable
area," Hurdzan said.

"We were constantly
trying to find the best
compromise - how to
protect the maximum
amount of wet-
lands with the mini-
mum amount of
impact. There's no
filling of wetlands
that I'm aware of."

In total, Hurdzan
said, the delays ran
from between six months and a year because
of the continual finding of new wetlands.
Throughout the stop-and-start planning pro-
cess, Hurdzan had to change the course's
planned routing.

"I would say that the routing plan was
substantially changed 25 or 30 times," he said.
"Not just a little tweak, but going in and taking
a whole different look at something."

Hurdzan said throughout the process, project
manager Richard Anthony and the group of
founders of the club handled the constant
delays well.

"The Shelter Harbor people hired the best
people they could, everybody worked very in-
tensely and they played by the rules," Hurdzan
said. "I cannot emphasize enough the quality of
the people involved in this and their willingness
to compromise things they really didn't want to
compromise, but they knew it was for the good
of the project. The fact that the owners stuck it
out says a lot about them."

Because Hurdzan's firm, Hurdzan-Fry Golf
Course Architects, has built a reputation of
taking on challenging
environmental
projects like Shelter
Harbor, he was pre-
pared to see it
through to the end.

"Donald Ross
would never have
built a golf course here
because he would have
given up on the
problems that are
associated with it," Hurdzan said. "Our
attitude is that if it
doesn't kill you, it
makes you stronger. If we can make it through
Rhode Island, by God, we can probably make
it through anywhere."

Despite all the problems, Hurdzan said he
wouldn't avoid a project in Rhode Island in
the future.

"With the quality of clients we have and
with the potential greatness we have with the
site, I would absolutely take on a project in
Rhode Island again," he said. "Would I want to
work in Rhode Island on a routine basis? Sure,
they're nice enough people and I would learn
the rules as well as them, but you have to pick
your sites very carefully in Rhode Island."

Upon completion of the course, Shelter
Harbor's owners plan to deed the wetlands
on the property to the state of Rhode Island,
Hurdzan said. "Because of permitting issues, archi-
tect Michael Hurdzan
had to "substantially" change the routing at Shelter
Harbor 25 or 30 times.

Because of permitting issues, architect Michael Hurdzan had to "substantially" change the routing at Shelter Harbor 25 or 30 times.

Because of permitting issues, architect Michael Hurdzan had to "substantially" change the routing at Shelter Harbor 25 or 30 times.

Purdue study: Wetlands effectively filter runoff

By ANDREW OVERBECK

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — While golf
course developers, architects and builders
routinely loathe wetland regulations and the
steps that must be taken to work around
them, Purdue University's Kampen Golf
Course actually created three wetland cells
to study their ability to filter golf course and
residential runoff.

The five-year study started in 1998 after
the completion of the Pete Dye-designed
course, and so far the results have shown
that the constructed wetlands have been
extremely effective in filtering runoff. The
wetlands serve as a buffer to Celery Bog
which used to handle the runoff coming
from the two residential highways, a motel
parking lot, gas station and 200 residences
that surround the course.

Runoff is tested as it enters the course
to determine the initial level of pollutants and
is then tested at four other points along the
way before a final test as it leaves the prop-
erty and enters Celery Bog. The water is
monitored five times a year and during some
storm events.

"We have been able to prove that the golf
course does not add any pesticides and fer-
tilizers to the system," said Purdue's turfgrass
extension specialist Zachary Reicher. "We
have recorded reduced levels of chloride,
nitrate-nitrogen, ammoniacal nitrogen,
chemical oxygen and suspended solids."

The wetlands have been consistent in the removal of organic nitrogen
and phosphorous.

Fazio-designed Ridge at Back Brook opens back nine

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP, N.J. —The Ridge
at Back Brook opened its back nine for
play in late September. Designed by Tom
Fazio, the course's front nine opened in July.

The two nines combine to form a course
that plays from between 3,636 and 7,136
yards.

The Ridge at Back Brook has been inte-
grated into a 300-acre site whose natural
features include multiple ridges with rock
walls augmented by Back Brook and a
number of smaller tributaries.

Complementing the course is a 20-acre
practice facility that includes a separate teach-
tee, a sand and bunker shot area and two
putting greens. A short-game area with fair-
way, rough and sand bunkers is scheduled to
open next year.

Future plans for the course include a rust-
ic clubhouse made of wood, stone and rough-

hewn beams, which will house the grill,
lounge, pro shop and locker rooms.