

continued from page 36

with the owner and his environmental consultant, trying to identify where the vegetation really was within the stream."

He said that working with officials and educating them how a golf course

can be designed is a great way to approach such problems.

The Harradine perspective

Peter Harradine, a British course

architect who has designed more than 200 courses, primarily in Europe and the Middle East, is outspoken when it comes to environmental issues facing golf course designers today.

Although he has learned to mitigate problems by meeting with officials of the World Wildlife Federation and other local regulatory agencies early in the development process, he said that architects face difficult challenges in many parts of his world.

"Switzerland and Germany are very, very tough," he said. "I was at a magnificent site in Eastern Europe last week, and I told them you'd better build this very fast, because when you join the European Union, it will be too late."

He said that most sites now are landfill areas or plain agricultural land.

"The only places or architects who get great [golf] sites are those who are outside the sphere or influence of the environmentalists," he said. "It's very difficult to create a great golf course from a rubbish site—it's a lot more difficult to put makeup on an old woman and make her beautiful than to start with a young pretty one."

Harradine said many of his projects are located in the Middle East, where he finds the relative lack of environmental constraints to his liking.

"At least you can convert [the course sites] and do pretty much what you like with them there," he said. "Of course it's mostly sand, so what harm can we really do?"

Despite his frustrations, Harradine and other architects said that communication is more productive than confrontation when working through the permitting and community approvals processes. But they said that communication and cooperation should be a two-way street.

