



Excavate Makes a Big Splash at Pete Dye Golf Course

Mechanical dredging has become a thing of the past with the introduction of Excavate. Excavate, the industry's first biological dredging formula, has made a big splash at Pete Dye's Crooked Stick Golf Club.

"To be able to remove 1 foot of muck in 30 days from our signature hole was amazing," says Pete Dye, world renowned golf course designer, co-founder and designer of Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, IN.

Over the years, the control of aquatic plants in ponds leads to quite a bit of organic buildup. In many cases, these ponds are used for irrigation. "It's a two-edged sword," says Kirk Richmond, head superintendent of Crooked Stick. "If we keep the algae and weeds out, we tend to build up heavy amounts of muck and sludge." In the past, we had no choice except to look toward mechanical dredging. Joe Schneider (Sanco Industries, Inc.) introduced the first biological dredging option.

Excavate is a unique combination of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria that aggressively digest and reduce muck and sludge.

"Excavate is simple to use and takes very little time to install," says Kyle Allen, application foreman and assistant superintendent for Crooked Stick. With the help of aquatics specialist Jeremy Grubaugh of Pond Champs, Inc., Kyle followed an easy to use protocol for mapping and installing Excavate in the pond on Crooked Stick's signature hole, Hole #6. "It's as easy as 1, 2, 3," says Kyle. "First, we mapped out the pond. Second, we evaluated the sludge depth. And, finally, we installed the Excavate." Using only a boat, a two man crew, measuring equipment, and simple-to-use installation equipment, Kyle and Jeremy were able to complete the job in just a few hours.

The advantages of this program are many. "The cost is a fraction of the mechanical dredging contracts. The reality is, we had no stoppage of play and the turf was unaffected," says Schneider. Mechanical dredging tears up the landscape. The material is left on the course to dry before it is hauled away. The odor alone makes dredging undesirable. "With the ease of application and the science involved, we look forward to using Excavate on the remainder of our ponds," says Dye.



Above: Signature Hole #6 at Crooked Stick Golf Club, Carmel, Indiana.

Left: Kirk Richmond and Pete Dye were very happy with the results of the Excavate program.