

Environmental planning

Audubon plan for becoming a guardian of nature

BY SHELLY FOY

USGA Green Section

AND TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

In part two of our series on the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, we are going to offer tips on the "Environmental Planning" category.

First however, I would like to back track just a little.

STEP 1: Your course has made the decision to join the ACSP and you have sent in your registration form and \$100.00 registration fee. (Forms can be obtained by calling the Audubon Society of New York State, Inc. at (518) 767-9051 or by calling the USGA Green Section Florida office at (407) 546-2620.

STEP 2: Your golf course then be-

EDITOR'S NOTE: This continuing series of articles is designed to provide ideas which we hope will stimulate interest and creativity in this very positive environmental program. We have asked for help and ideas from superintendents around the state who are either seeking certification or have already received it.

The following segment is made possible by the generous supply of information from three outstanding Florida golf course superintendents. What we have provided are suggestions and ideas. Specific programs should be geared for your particular property and interests. So enjoy the information you are about to receive, for it comes from the best source in the world — you. TJB

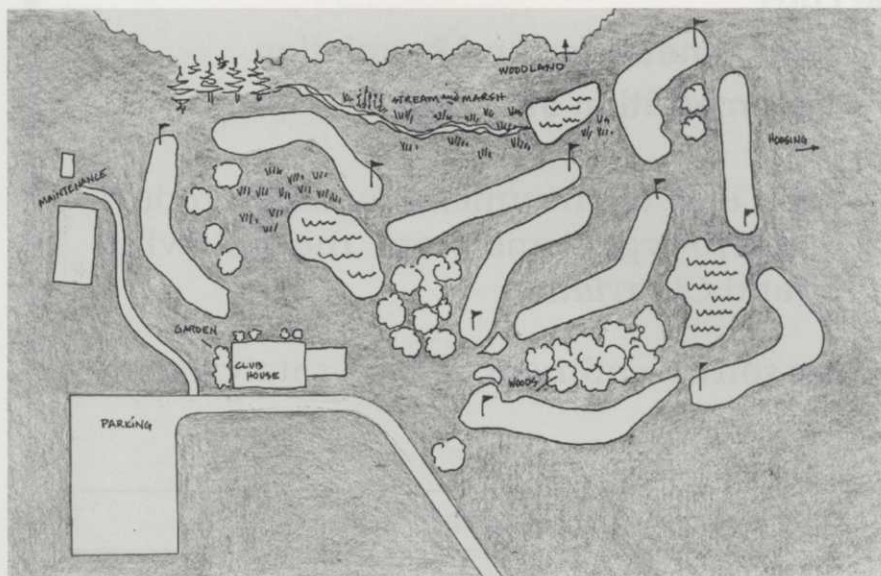
comes a registered member of the ACSP. You will receive a resource inventory handbook asking specific questions about your golf course property (size, existing habitat, etc. Once completed, the ACSP staff will use your resource inventory to provide you with a written report specifically for your golf course. This report will contain suggestions and recommendations on conservation and habitat en-

hancement.

Keep in mind, the ACSP staff only makes recommendations to your course. The final decisions concerning implementation of projects remains with the golf course superintendent and course officials.

STEP 3: You will need to form a Cooperative Sanctuary Committee, or "resource committee." This committee

First, map it out



To get a good picture of what you're starting with and plan appropriate habitat projects, make a simple map of your

property. First, draw in property boundaries, roads, buildings and parking areas. Then add golf play areas and existing vegetation,

such as trees, shrubs, woods or grass. Label these the best you can, and be as specific as possible about the types of vegetation present. Next, draw in any special features or distinct environments on your site. These may include water features, wetlands, gardens, steep slopes, or special maintenance areas. Outline surrounding land use that borders the property. Finally, label existing areas of high wildlife activity. Sketches courtesy of the Audubon Society of New York State, Inc.



could include staff of the golf course, board or greens committee members, golfers, and at least one person from the local community with expertise in the types of projects you wish to undertake.

Choose people willing to volunteer their time and energies to develop and implement habitat enhancement projects. Your committee will serve many purposes, including becoming technical advisers, volunteer laborers, public relations persons, but mostly, their commitment to the land and wildlife of the golf course should remain constant.

Choose people you feel comfortable working with. The Audubon Society of New York State does not specify who needs to be on your committee, nor are there any meeting requirements for this group.

STEP 4: Now you are ready to start documenting your efforts and receiving certificates of achievement for each of the six categories listed below:

- 1) Environmental Planning
- 2) Public Involvement
- 3) Wildlife Habitat Management (Formerly Wildlife Cover and Food Enhancement)
- 4) Integrated Pest Management
- 5) Water Conservation
- 6) Water Quality Management (Formerly Water Enhancement)

*The categories have recently been updated to help clarify and simplify the process.

To achieve status as a Certified Cooperative Sanctuary, all six categories must be reported to the Audubon Society of New York State and the criteria met.

Now, on to Environmental Planning.

The Environmental Planning category is like your blueprint or map. Your plan should include goals and how you plan to achieve them. Check each of the categories and see what you are doing now and what you can do to improve them. Do you have a time frame or deadline you want to set?

You are writing this plan to achieve certification in this category, but by being specific in defining goals, you will be making the process easier for yourself and your committee.

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