It's Mitchell!

O.M. Scott has named its Tradition of Excellence winner: Bob Mitchell of The Greenbriar

Mona Speaks

In a Golf Course News exclusive, the GCSAA's top dog forecasts the future

Talking Some Shop

A new monthly feature focuses on streamlining maintenance building operations

HIGH FIDELITY DEVELOPMENT?

Can you identify this tropical resort location?... It's Cuba!

Embargo or no embargo, the Caribbean's largest island has not ignored the region's growing golf development market. For coverage, see pages 39, 44-46.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

On-line turf services grow by leaps & bounds

Power to the People: Save electricity costs

Genetic engineering improves bentgrass

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Paiute Nation moves ahead despite opposition

Mackenzie's missing manuscript

Former USGA agronomist hangs out shingle

COURSE MANAGEMENT

AGC aggressively eyes upscale public market

Club Managers elect Spitzig new president

GCSAA director on saving clubs money

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

New trade show for hot Asia-Pacific market

Cyamid supports Pendulum with more staff

What's new in the marketplace

IRS to alter contract labor laws?

By Peter Blais

A proposed bill designed to stop employers from misclassifying independent contractors could affect golf course workers. "There are a couple East Coast clubs that could be forced to make million-dollar settlements depending how this works out," said Elizabeth Kirby-Hart, vice president of legal and government relations for the National Club Association.

Caddies, golf and tennis pros are the most likely to be affected, although any change could also impact grounds crews and course construction workers, according to representatives from those areas.

Continued on page 56

B.A. IN RESORT MANAGEMENT?

Stonecreek Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., is one of several courses operated by Phoenix-based Resort Management of America, which specializes in the management of collegiate courses, including Karsten CC at Arizona State and University Ridge at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For story, see page 55.

Kapalua pioneers resort-wide Audubon Sanctuary program

By Mark Leslie

MAUI, Hawaii — New York Audubon Society and Kapalua Resort officials are collaborating on a new program that would be an environmental equivalent to Mobil's 5-star designation for hotels.

"We're looking to create a model of international significance for destination resorts... as well as establish Kapalua as a launching pad for the Audubon Heritage Program," said Ron Dodson, New York Audubon president. "To ultimately reach our environmental goals, we must demonstrate that the environment and economy are interconnected... that good business decisions and good environmental decisions are permanently linked, both locally and globally."

New York Audubon has been expanding its presence... Continued on page 70

Mitigation banking develops eco-niche

By Mark Leslie

The battle cry "No net loss" has led to major strides in reclaiming the nation's Lost wetlands and to a new era of "mitigation banking."

While a federal inter-agency task force drafts formal mitigation bank criteria, state and local governments as well as some entrepreneurs and at least one environmental group are forging ahead in this pioneering arena.

In today's world of construction, a developer must follow a set sequence of actions when wetlands exist on their property. The preferred course of action is avoiding wetlands altogether. Minimization follows... Continued on page 48

Bruce Fiorine

NGF offers membership discounting

By Hal Phillips

JUPITER, Fla. — By entering an agreement with Thor Guard, whereby National Golf Foundation (NGF) members will receive a 10 percent discount on the Miami-based firm's lightning prediction system, the NGF has ushered in a new era of relationships with its membership.

"I don't know if it's a departure, to be honest," said Bruce Fiorine, the NGF's vice president of marketing. "It's more... as much as a member privilege. If any firm came to us and offered our members a discount, we'd jump at the chance.

Continued on page 67
By MARK LESLIE

STUART, Fla. — And then there were two.

The Champions Club at Summerfield has become the first public-access facility in the country to be granted Audubon Signature Program status. The Tom Fazio design, which opened Feb. 8, 1994, joins the private Collier’s Reserve in Naples as the only Signature facilities in the country.

Riverbend Golf operates the course, which was built by Ryan Golf Construction, while Summerfield Stuart Partners (SSP) is building the neighboring housing development.

“Two things are especially important about The Champions,” said New York Audubon Society President Ron Dodson, who administers the Signature and Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary programs for golf courses. “First, it is a public facility... Second, unlike other projects, these people didn’t spend a lot of money to qualify as a Signature project. One of the things people have been questioning us about was whether they see Collier’s Reserve (and its very expensive, exclusive living) as a showcase Champions as not only a public golf course, but one maintained and built according toinski standards and done with minimal expenditures up front. And we’re still saving on irrigation, electricity and other things.

Kapalua/Heritage

Continued from page 1

ence in the world of golf, administering Cooperative Wildlife Sanctuary and Signature programs to help preserve and enhance wildlife on golf courses. The Audubon Sanctuary Program is directed and focused on existing golf courses, while the Signature Program is designed for projects in the planning and development stages, prior to construction. More than 1,200 golf courses are involved in Sanctuary Program, and 21 have registered for the Signature Program, which has awarded two Signature status.

Resorts are a new horizon and offer a canvas for a broader brush.

“I envision it as a destination resort equivalent to Mobil’s distinctive designation for hotels,” Dodson said. “Going there as a customer, you would know it is waste- and energy-efficient, habitat- and wildlife-sensitive, etc. We want to make sure that whether it is in Kentucky or Hawaii, there are opportunities to make customers and visitors understand the natural, cultural and human history of the area.”

Kapalua is a lot of golf courses at resort facilities,” Dodson said. “But it seemed if you have people spending days and weeks, it would be great to take a whole resort and develop a program that would essentially use our sustainability principles — the approach we use for Signature facilities — but also develop a priori and environmental education program that would link together the hotels, the golf course if there is one, bike paths, beaches, hotel rooms, even restaurant menus. When you went to these facilities you would have subtle environmental and educational experiences the whole time you were there — not jammed down your throat. You would see in your room that decisions were made for energy-efficient lighting, for water conservation. Interpretive signage along walkways would identify plants. And this would encourage people to do the same things of types around their homes.”

At this point, Dodson pointed out, “It’s a program concept but not a program yet.” He anticipates it will take a year, with the Kapalua Land Co.’s commitment in finances and labor, to develop a full program for other facilities to join.

Kapalua has three golf courses that are fully certified in the Audubon Cooperative Wildlife Program. The Village Course was first in the country.

Led by President and CEO Gary Gifford, Audubon officials approached Kapalua, offering “to donate money and property and to help develop the Heritage Program — the materials, approach and guidelines,” Dodson said. “If all goes well, at the end of the year Kapalua will be our flagship resort site just as Collier’s Reserve [in Naples, Fla.] is our flagship Signature site.”

Kapalua’s Don Young is overseeing an effort to draft a resource inventory of the resort’s 1,500-acre property, which includes a pineapple plantation, several miles of beach front, two hotels, seven commercial office buildings, 270 condominiums, single-family residences and homesites, two tennis complexes, and an array of restaurants and shops.

“Kapalua presents some of the most diverse natural resources in the world with the area’s high mountain rain forest, cultural and archaeological sites, pristine bays preserving abundant marine life, agriculture... and sweeping vistas of the Pacific,” Dodson said.

While Kapalua will have its own Audubon Heritage Steering Committee, New York Audubon officials are working to get a National Audubon Heritage Steering Committee, Dodson said. “I think we’re at the beginning of putting together an organization and a group of dedicated staff [of volunteers],” he said. “We don’t want to get bureaucratic and top-heavy with a bunch of employees. We have this group of people I’ll call cooperative staff members represent many of the key personnel — business people, golf course superintendents — all top people in their field. We’re giving them the opportunity to use their expertise. I think when they work with other people who want to do good things for the environment.”

“Instead of hiring people we can use most of their existing expertise and programs that will benefit our members. The secret is to get everybody educated, enthusiastic and involved... That way you take five people and turn them into 100.”

Champions the first public-access Audubon Signature course