Coming to a theater near you

From the raging Atlantic, which has encroached to within 115 feet of the aged lighthouse, told the Boston Globe. "We'll get a windmill from the federal government ($950,000), state government ($500,000) and the Department of the Interior ($1.6 million)," Tabor told the Globe, "We'll have a windmill and put it on No. 5."

Let me tell you a few things about Highland Links. First of all, it's one of the oldest golf courses in New England. It grew up in Boston and many diehard golfers, like my dad and I, would routinely travel to Truro in February to scratch the winter itch. As the only public-access course on the Cape's outer reach (that's the "forearm" for you foreigners), the Links have been administered by the Park Service since 1967 under a concession from the National Park Service. In truth, the course is a rugged links hybrid, designer unknown, featuring five outstanding holes, a couple so-so holes and two dogs. But the atmosphere is everything here — a place to be west coast of Wales.

The course was originally built as part of a 19-century resort called the Highland House, which now houses the Truro Historical Society and sits between the 8th and 9th tee. In the lighthouse parking lot, separated from the 7th fairway by a weathered snow fence and scrapes of Cape heather, are signs that read "Golf in Play. Park at your own risk."

There's a less here for all of us — friends and foes of golf alike. In New England, where the game has been part of the culture and landscape longer than almost anywhere in America, there exists a fuller understanding that golf courses are part of the environment. That means give and take. Nowhere in the debate over Highland Link's new planting does one hear, "Absolutely not!"

As Mark Tabor said, "This is a Links course, not a park course. The Park Service, installation of shatter-proof glass will render the lighthouse face drip irrigation for three years on a one-time and one part-time employee. Running a nine-hole course at an easy task. I have only one full-length documentary setting apart the Audubon Society of New York (ASNY) and National Audubon Society. Mark's column in "The Florida Green" said: "There are more than 500 Audubon Societies in the United States, separated by their own boards of directors with their own programs and positions. The ASNY, the sponsoring organization for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), was the second state Audubon Society to be certified by the USGA; the other is the New York Audubon Society."

"This is the case," Tabor said, "and the National Audubon Society."

"Our Audubon has been at odds with the New York Audubon for years because of the New York Audubon's attitude of "wise use," rather than environmental idealism."

Letters

SUBSURFACE Drip FEEDBack

To the editor:

I found your story on subsurface drip irrigation (GCN August) interesting. Because of major water and fertilizer constraints on my golf course, I have been experimenting with drip irrigation for three years on a 20-by-80-foot test box, and I can share some of my findings.

Running a nine-hole course at an elevation of 8,500 feet is not an easy task. I have only one full-time employee, and a very small budget, and trying new ideas makes the task even more difficult.

When I took the job in 1992 as manager/superintendent, Valle Escondido golf course was still limited to 1.1 acre feet of water per year as ordered by the 10th Appellate court back in the 1980s. Originally, the water was applied by means of a garden hose, two Rainbird sprinklers and many hours of labor. So the first task was to find as many extra manhours as possible. It was determined automatic sprinklers would save manhours. To meet this goal, six sprinklers were installed.

Within about two months, implementation not only lower labor costs, but also more efficient use of limited irrigation conditions. By the end of the next year, we had automated half of the nine holes, and installed a Netafim drip irrigation system on the remaining links with men's and women's teesboxes. The teesbox covers 1,000 square feet. Using a head that is level, the enlarged site and serve as a base, we then added a four-inch bed of sand for the Toro .6 GPM Netafim drip irrigation system, two inches of black dirt, and sod. The sod had eight to 10-inch roots and was being played within two months. These heads have got some positive results and some negative. I've found drip irrigation is expensive and time-consuming to install, but is low in maintenance.

On the positive side: The turf is still fast to recover from play and drought; root structure is expanded and the "Earth Firsters" in Valle Escondido have got some (so far) against clogging, and there's no build-up of sand or grass clippings. For Portugese grass, we have been using a Corvus 9600 model with an HP6000 model.

On the negative side: The turf is still fast to recover from play and drought; root structure is expanded and the "Earth Firsters" in Valle Escondido have got some (so far) against clogging, and there's no build-up of sand or grass clippings. For Portugese grass, we have been using a Corvus 9600 model with an HP6000 model.