SELKIRK, N.Y. — It’s official. Audubon International — Center for Sustainable Resource Management (AI) has been formed and is operating, bringing under one umbrella the national and international programs formerly managed by the Audubon Society of New York State (ASNY).

Citing a mission of improving the quality of the environment through research, education and conservation assistance, AI expects the public to better understand the breadth of the society’s programs through its name change.

“My goal is to make the transition so seamless and effective that people will not even notice it,” said Ron Dodson, incoming ASNY president.

Dodson said the AI Board of Directors was formed from a committee of ASNY Board members. The board’s first order of business was changing the name of the organization.

“Any organization that has a name like ‘New York’ and is operating in a global situation is really a misnomer,” he said.

While AI’s name has changed, much of the organization’s staff and activities will remain similar. It will still have a wide range of programs, including Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, Audubon-Sierra Institute, Sustainable Resource Management, Audubon Signature Program and Audubon Conservation Services.

“While our mission is much broader than that of ASNY, it is recognized that much of the transition will be phased in over time for the sake of utilizing program materials already in existence and for the opportunity of educating existing members as to the new structure being established.”

Audubon expands horizons, goes international

By PETER BLAAS

BALTIMORE — With completion of its new cart-storage facility, city-owned Pine Ridge Golf Course converted its 70-vehicle EZ-Go golf car fleet from gasoline to natural gas in early December, an environmentally friendly move that is meeting with mixed reviews.

“It’s really been more show than substance,” said Art Slusark, public information director with Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE), which partnered with Baltimore Municipal Golf Corp. (BMGC) in the original pilot program to test four compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles at Pine Ridge.

“We were looking for highly visible test natural gas units. Pine Ridge is considered one of the premier public courses in the country and gave us the opportunity to get exposure for natural gas vehicles with the many business people who play the course. We knew they could help us break down some of the barriers to their use. But economically, it’s really not a cost-effective system enough miles on the carts to make it worth putting in the pumping station.”

For BMGC, the non-profit entity that operates the city’s five courses, the switch to natural gas is more environmentally than economically motivated, according to Execu-tive Director

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Roberts urges more carbon use in root-zone mixes

By MARK LESLIE

SPARTA, Tenn. — Saying researchers “haven’t begun to explore the use of grasses as a depository for effluent and other materials,” Dr. Elliot Roberts declared: “Anything with carbon in it ought to be processed and mixed into the soil and utilized as a soil nutrient.”

Roberts, retired executive director of The Lawn Institute and former head of turfgrass programs at Iowa State University and the University of Rhode Island, spoke of other promising turfgrass materials already in exist-ence and for the opportunity of educating existing members as to the new structure being established.”

NY TURF SHOW PLANNED

SUFFERN, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association is holding its annual Grounds Exposition II at the Holiday Inn-Suffern on Feb. 28 and its annual Grounds Exposition II at the Wyndemere Country Club operation in Rochester, N.Y.

Full information on speakers and seminars will be available by calling NYSTA at 1-800-873-8873.

MEANE GCAS READIES SHOW

ROCKPORT, Maine — The Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association will host its annual Turfgrass Conference on March 6, 7. For more information call 201-761-7878.

NYSTA ELECTS SMITH

LATHAM, N.Y. — Stephen Smith of Old Colony Landscaping of Taunton, Mass., has been elected president of the New York State Turfgrass Association. Also elected were: Vice President Anthony Peca Jr. of Batavia Turf Farms and Secretary-Treasurer John Fik of Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, N.Y.

MANAGEMENT SCHOOLS SET

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School has one final educational session this academic year. Planned for Feb. 27-28, the Advanced Turfgrass Management Symposium will be held at the campus here. Interested people may contact Miss Marcinte at 908-932-9771.

COVE CAY CC INKS ISS

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Cove Cay Country Club has signed ISS Golf Services to maintain its 18-hole golf course and surrounding landscape. Cory McDonough will transfer from ISS Wynedeme Country Club operation in Naples to oversee the maintenance operation of Cove Cay. ISS is a Tampa-based golf course maintenance firm.

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