Audubon jumps into course development
By MARK LESLIE

SELKIRK, N.Y. — When Audubon International (AI) entered the world of golf, no one would have dreamed of the heights it is about to reach — no one except, perhaps, President Ron Dodson.

AI has created the Audubon International Golf and the Environment Land Trust to accept "real property interest" that will be used to facilitate development of Audubon golf courses as environmental research and demonstration centers.

"We asked, 'Who better to implement our beliefs than us?" said Dodson. "One of the criticisms we've had about our Cooperative Sanctuary System is that we have no assurance that our

One-stop equipment deals on rise
By M. LEVANS

BLOOMINGTON, Minn./LINCOLN, Neb. — As the industry sees more courses gathering under management umbrellas, the number of exclusive provider deals between management companies and manufacturers — including equipment, equipment maintenance and ancillary services — appears to be following suit.

In the past month, both the Toro Co. and Ransomes America Corp. have added substantial new agreements to their growing list of exclusive arrangements.

Toro cut a five-year deal with Whitbread/Marriott.

Public Golf Forum sessions take shape
By MARK LESLIE

Maintenance Track: Technology steps into the spotlight
By M. LEVANS

OAK BROOK HILLS, III. — Pioneering technology for quickly "mapping" a golf course to optimize irrigation and chemical and fertilizer applications is one of several topics in a full package of maintenance sessions planned for the 1997 Public Golf Forum here, Oct. 27-28.

Golf course superintendents around the country, taking advantage of special registration offers, are expected to attend the forum at Oak Brook Hills Resort for public-access golf course superintendents, owners, operators and developers.

Along with a half-day session on "Biological Controls: Current Status and Future Prospects," led by Dr. Eric Nelson of Cornell University, they

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Tour's 16 Tournament Players will hear: 
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all needs and can be configured
for CourseCo Inc. in Cali-
mist for CourseCo Inc. in Cali-
signed a sort of template that fits
while at the same time keeping
prove a maintenance operation
imagine new ground
foremost researcher in this field
in the world.
he will be joined by Dr. Janet
Andersen, director of the
Biostatistics and Pollution
Prevention Division of the federal
Environmental Protection
Agency, and Dan Dinelli, su-
preintendent at North Shore
Country Club in Glenview, Ill.,
who has been a part of several
and field research projects pertain-
ing to various biological controls, including the Białystok system.

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Ray Davies, regional agronomist for CourseCo Inc. in California and former president of the California Golf Course Superintendents Association, who will tell how to turn "a pain" into a "gain" while working in a positive way with OSHA regulations. He will share numerous opportunities to improve a maintenance operation while at the same time keeping government regulators happy.

Kevin Ross, director of golf course management at Country Club of the Rockies in Edwards, Colo., speaking on "the perfect course," will be presented by Larry Rodgers, president of Larry Rodgers Design Group in Lakewood, Colo.

Always at the forefront of technological advances that can be applied to golf course irrigation and maintenance, Rodgers will discuss mapping a course quickly through the new marriage of Global Positioning Systems technology. He will demonstrate how the technology can be manipulated into a Spatial Data Information System for use in irrigation central control, chemical and fertilization application and robotics maintenance equipment.

The half-day seminar on biologicals will be led by Cornell's Nelson, considered a foremost researcher in this field.

Event covers GPS, biologicals, other new ground

The Confidential Guide to Golf Courses By Tom Doak
Written in the inviolate style of Golf Magazine's golf course design editor, this book describes, uncovers and rates more than 1,000 courses worldwide that the author has visited and photographed. With more than 180 full color photographs, it might be the best collection of worldwide photos ever published. It starts with a "Gourmet's Choice" selection of 31 of Doak's personal favorites, each by a different designer, followed by a detailed review of courses from Pebble Beach, Calif., to Kepo Valley, Maine, and from St. Andrews, Scotland, to Joondalup in Western Australia.

$45.00, 400 pages, hardcover.

Guide to Golf Course Irrigation System Design and Drainage By Edward Pira
As a working reference or as a textbook, the Guide to Golf Course Irrigation System Design and Drainage covers every important aspect of the subject in an easy-to-understand format. It is perfect for the practicing turfgrass manager, superintendent, consultant, soils representative or student. Used in numerous academic courses for years, this is the first commercially available version of a perennial bestseller, and is completely revised with new exercises, practical examples, numerous new figures, and expanded sections covering a wide variety of irrigation system components. A hands-on manual, it guides the reader through every phase of an irrigation program. Turfgrass managers and golf course superintendents will refer to this handy book often to plan effective irrigation systems, ensure appropriate capacity, easy installation, and practical operation and maintenance.

$59.95, 400 pages, hardcover.

The Course Beautiful By A.W. Tillinghast
A prolific writer, Tillinghast delves into his philosophies on golf course design and maintenance, and his thoughts on what makes a championship course. It is loaded with vintage photographs and original title sketches of such of his creations as San Francisco, Winged Foot and Baltusrol golf clubs.

$34.95, 120 pages, hardcover.

The Captain — George C. Thomas Jr. and His Golf Architecture By Geoff Shackelford
The creator of Riviera and Los Angeles country clubs and author of the classic book, "Golf Course Architecture in America, Its Strategy, and Construction," George Thomas has deeply affected the golf industry even since his death in 1932. Thomas worked on single projects with Donald Ross and A.W. Tillinghast, learned from friends Hugh Wil- son and George Crump, and designed more than two dozen courses on his own. At the same time he was recognized worldwide for his books about and breaching of roses, his first love. Call him brilliant, or enigmatic, but in his last years his work was on a book about Pacific game fish. Shackelford reveals the man behind the work.

$35.00, 207 pages, hardcover, limited edition of 1,200 copies.

Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases on Golf Courses By Dr. Tohokazu Ton, Colloque Internationale, Dr. James B. Beard
The Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases on Golf Courses presents more than 540 high-quality color photographs of all the major turfgrass diseases that occur on both warm- and cool-season grasses. It is international in scope. This book will likely become the standard color-guide to disease diagnosis and pathogen identification for golf course superintendents and turfgrass practitioners. No other book contains as many color photographs of all detail and quality. Helpful maps are included to assist in disease identification by providing graphical locations where each disease/pathogen is likely to occur. A unique feature of this easy-to-use field guide is that it provides color photographs of step by step guidance on diagnostic techniques for laboratory analysis which can be used by practitioners.

$79.95, Approx. 250 pages, hardcover.

Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases

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Public Golf Forum: Development
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A riddle for the ages? Smart, economical development, topped off with a “learning center” to convert occasional players and juniors into core players, may sound like a simple, logical business plan. But if the current National Golf Foundation (NGF) figures tell us anything, it’s that new players are not being converted and are not sticking with the game.

According to the NGF, since 1990, golf participation rates have remained within a consistent range from 11.3 to 11.9 percent. During that time, the number of golfers has hovered around 24.5 million.

To help break out of this rut, Public Golf Forum, Oct. 27-28 here, has aimed this year’s Development track at bringing an economical, but fun experience to the existing players and “wanna-be” players.

The goal, of course, is to keep them players.

Denis Griffiths, president of Denis Griffiths & Associates and immediate past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, is a firm believer that developers don’t have to sink $10 million into a project to make it a great golf experience, thus making it unaffordable to the average player.

Griffiths will lead the session “Building the Affordable Golf Course,” Monday, October 27 at 3 p.m.

"That’s just not the case." The building of an affordable golf course—one that is, and can remain accessible to a veteran or beginner—starts with the proper site selection.

“Property is absolutely the most important ingredient,” said Griffiths. “If I’m looking to build, I look for the best piece of property instead of the best location. Then you design the golf course to fit the property.”

Sounds simple enough, but unfortunately, Griffiths doesn’t have many clients looking to build such projects.

“I wish I did,” said Griffiths. “because I feel so strongly about the importance of keeping golf affordable. If we want the game to grow, we have to keep it within reach. I’m concerned that if we keep building expensive golf courses we’re going to see participation in the sport dwindle.”

Tom Kendricks has devoted his work as Golf Manager for the Hamilton County Parks District in Greater Cincinnati to developing participants.

Kendricks will conduct the session “Developing a Learning Center Environment,” Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 4 p.m.

Prior to 1990, Hamilton County had conventional 18-hole golf courses, but lacked a facility that would accommodate the entry-level golfer. “Traditional 18-hole courses aren’t the best places to get golfers started,” said Kendrick. “There’s a lot of frustration and intimidation there that has to be overcome.”

To accommodate the entry-level player, Hamilton County built Meadow Links Golf Course, a mid-length track (all par-4s and par-3s) with short-distance front tees, making it more approachable for beginners.

At Meadow Links, the learning-center hub, Hamilton built three separate areas: a natural-turf practice area, artificial mat T-line, and an area where all instruction is done.

The program center, where we do the instruction, is completely separate from the practice areas,” said Kendrick. “That was done to remove some of the intimidation of taking lessons.”

According to the Kendrick, course owners need to eliminate any intimidating factors and make teaching areas accessible.

With that philosophy, Kendrick is seeing results in his bottom line. “Our driving range usage at Meadow Links is up 35 percent over projection over last year,” said Kendrick. At Hamilton’s two other range sites, usage is up 15 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Rounds played at Meadow Links is up 13.8 percent over projection.