ASGCA donates to three groups

CHICAGO — As part of its second annual President’s Grant Program, the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) Foundation has presented grants to the Indiana Golf Foundation (IGF), Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Tufts Archives in Pinehurst, N.C., houses many valuable drawings and works from famed architect and ASGCA founding member Donald Ross and others.

ASGCA Immediate Past President Alice Dye said the donations represent individual contributions of society members.

IGF will use its grant to help launch its new golf camp for at-risk children.

The GCSAA grant was for its new “Investing in the Beauty of Golf Campaign,” a $5-million effort to support superintendent education.

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Morrish’s River Valley Ranch opens

CARBONDALE, Calif. — Set in the midst of a rich ranching history, River Valley Ranch Golf Club opened for play in June as Roaring Fork Valley’s newest 18-hole public course.

The club is a partnership between Crown Golf Properties of Chicago and Houston-based Hines, who hired Jay Morrish to design the layout. Stretching from 5,294 to 7,311 yards, the course was built along the banks of Crystal River, with four holes playing over scenic rapids and with view of 12,953-foot Mt. Sopris. Finion pines and sagebrush add their unique spice to the setting.

To prevent contaminants from entering Crystal River, Morrish designed the course with dry wells, large retention areas and activated charcoal green filters. Basins and traps catch water that may contain sediments from erosion before it flows into the river.

Audubon projects key future development

Continued from page 29

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In response to our feature story in May on estate golf courses, course architect Mark Mungeam of Cornwall, Silvo & Munegam sent us photos of this course built in the 1920s in Pinehurst, N.C. Called Palmer Woods, it was designed by John R. Buerker for W.A. Fisher.

Audubon will then look for properties in each region which can be built on and study the specified issues. "Some people say when you build a course in a forested area, you fragment the habitat, and when you fragment the habitat you displace forest birds, and cowbirds come in and parasitize their nests, etc," Dodson said. "We actually found more cowbird parasitism at a state park than at Prairie Dunes Country Club [in Hutchinson, Kan.], so we have no data to prove that concern. That information in hand, how would you do research on that project?" "We want to take a piece of property that is forested, build a golf course in the forest and find out what the forest is like now and what it is like later," he added. "That will get some people upset with us. But we say, first, grassland birds are in worse shape than forest birds; and, second, we don't have any data to prove what you just claimed. The only way to prove that to do it." Meanwhile, Woolbright already has enough information to write a book on how to do a rapid environmental assessment of a property. It will inform developers how to look at a piece of land based on slope, soil type, features, etc. and rank it on a scale of 1 to 10 according to its environmental sensitivity and cost of construction.

"Those two projects together will govern where we go with these Golf and the Environment Research Facilities," Dodson said. "We hope to have the rapid environmental assessment handbook available to the public by the end of Woolbright's sabbatical in 1999. The course with dry wells, large retention areas and activated charcoal green filters. Basins and traps catch water that may contain sediments from erosion before it flows into the river.

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