Biocentric environmentalism threat to man, PhDs tell superintendents

By JOEL JACKSON

NAPLES, Fla. — A couple of Ph.D's gave an audience of golf course superintendents and vendors a one-two punch presentation on environmental activism and mass communications at the September meeting of the Everglades GCASA meeting held at Collier's Reserve here.

Speaking first was Dr. Michael Coffman, whose book The Sav- iors of the Earth details how environmental extremists are introducing regulations through international and United Nations global policies without ever going through legislative processes. Coffman believes that 97 percent of the people who engage in well-meaning conservation efforts are decent human beings trying to find the right balance between man and nature. He also believes the career activists who head up many of the large environmental foundations have a more sinister agenda.

And Coffman, a former forestry pro- fessor, is devoting his time and energy exposing this shadow world of envi- ronmental duplicity.

At the heart of this agenda, according to Coffman, is an almost religious zeal by the extremists, which he labels Biocentrism. This philosophy contends that 97 percent of the people who engage in well-meaning conservation efforts are decent human beings trying to find the right balance between man and nature.

By KEVIN P. CORBLEY

A digital map on a computer screen — the component most often associated with geographic information systems (GIS) — is already widely used on golf courses in cart tracking devices and electronic irrigation systems. But those applications just scratch the surface of GIS, an interactive management tool that generates information from geographic data.

GroundLinkx LLC of Littleton, Colo., and its joint venture partner, IntraSearch Inc. of Denver, are the first to harness the dynamic nature of GIS and develop a cus- tomized computer program and digital map sets for course management. Superintendents at 21 courses now use the GroundLinkx system regularly, and the U.S. Golf Association will use it to plan four upcoming tournaments.

"GIS is a geographic data-processing system that gives the superintendent the information he needs to do his job more quickly and efficiently," said David Mikesh, GroundLinkx president. "It saves money by allowing instructors to allocate staff and re- sources more effectively."

A GIS is composed of a layered digital map or air photo whose features are linked to a database of at- tribute information. The user can click on any feature, such as a fairway in...