

Member of Audubon? Why Not!!

by **Tod Hoppfan, Assistant Supt.
Evanston G.C.**

As we all know and have seen and heard, golf courses are not necessarily viewed with a favorable eye these days. Environmentalists are pushing their agendas harder and harder every year and they don't show signs of letting up. With the Paul Harvey's and the Wall Street Journal's of this world, spewing their beliefs over the airwaves and newspapers, we hardly have a chance to get our side of the story told. I'm sure that most of us see these situations as a problem looming on the horizon and if we continue to do nothing about it, it will only get worse.

We all seem to tell a good story and have a lot of ideas about what to do with this situation, but we end up doing nothing about it. My feelings are we never will win a head-to-head fight against these adversaries. They believe what they believe and nothing we say will change that. What we have to do is steer around them and start a positive public relations campaign to show our communities that we are not the environmental hazard that our enemies say we are. We must all work together and show unity if we are to succeed. Many ideas have been kicked around over the years and some could possibly work, but the key is to get organized and do it!

I have had the opportunity to serve on some of the MAGCS committees and it has been very rewarding. This year I decided to put my money where my mouth is and do something about this situation by signing up for the Public Relations committee. In my opinion, this committee and the work that comes from it should be one of the most important in the entire association. With the onslaught of negativism coming our way, we need to get organized, set an agenda, and accomplish what we can as soon as possible.

One of the first areas, we are addressing is our involvement with the Audubon Society of New York State (ASNYS). Currently, over 69 courses in Illinois are members with 54 being from the MAGCS. With these numbers we are putting together a survey to collect data and compile it for future press releases. Since numbers can carry more weight than words, what we collect from each course will carry more power with the media than individually presented.

As you have probably read in the past, Evanston G.C. has been involved with the ASNYS for 3 years. For the first time, we have an ally in the environmental world. I want to see this organization not only survive but prosper. With increased involvement from the MAGCS, we can finally have a voice that is loud enough to be heard.

Over the years, I have talked to a lot of you about being members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. It still seems that there are a lot of misconceptions about this program. If I had a dollar for every time someone said to me "we can't join because we can't have boy scout troops on our fairways" I would be a rich man. There are no complicated requirements of membership with this program. You can do as much or as little as you want. My hat is off to what Peter Leuzinger has accomplished

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(Audubon continued)

at St. Charles C.C. What he has done is a shining example of what golf courses have to add. But not everyone has to do this. The fact that we maintain hundreds of green acres, surrounded by concrete jungles, and supply a home for a variety of wildlife species is a benefit in itself. Whatever you can add beyond that is only a greater benefit to your members and community.

This leads into a positive stance and going with it. Right now, we are 69 strong and growing, but that leaves a lot of us not being members of this organization. I feel if everyone at a minimum was a member of the ACSP, we could strengthen our position and show a solid front to our adversaries. I am confident and proud of what we all have accomplished in our industry. I know we are responsible managers of our land and environmental stewards. Our problem is that we don't know how to pat ourselves on the back. With increased membership in the ASCP and organizing our efforts together, hopefully we can finally get the attention, we so richly deserve. In closing, I am offering my services to anyone who has questions about the ACSP and its involvement. If Evanston Golf Club can become certified, there is no reason anyone else can't either!



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3. Your supply of oxygen is curtailed. Your muscles stiffen and ache. Muscles atrophy.
4. Your body pressure is exerted incorrectly. Your back and stomach muscles sag, causing lower back pains and poor digestion. Spinal muscles tend to spasm.
5. Your shoulders and neck remain inactive. Your muscles tense, causing a stiff neck and headaches. The liquid that lubricates your body's joints is produced only through movement. Motionless sitting causes the vertebrae to dry and spinal problems to follow. Both the dryness and the tenseness may trigger arthritis.
6. Your emotional and physical vigor dissipate.

Taken from: *Stress and Wellness*
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