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Loblolly Pines
Clubhouse and
Hole #18

ACSP

In six prior installments, each of six categories of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf course certification were presented. In this follow-up article, a single course's successful approach to certification is reviewed.

ONE WITH NATURE —

Loblolly Pines Golf Club

BY SHELLY FOY
USGA GREEN SECTION

I go to Nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more.

- John Burroughs (1837-1921), American Naturalist

To those of us who are fortunate enough to spend time on a golf course, whether it is every day with our jobs, or occasionally for pleasure, no where is the above quote more evident. ➔



Note the bahiagrass buffer on Hole #15 which requires less maintenance and provides habitat for cotton rat, rabbit and quail.

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Whether BANOL® Fungicide is used as a preventive or curative treatment, the secret to its success lies in its ability to protect plants from within and to disrupt the normal growth of pythium. Although a powerful, systemic fungicide, BANOL has also proven to be safe for use on all kinds of turf.

AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE on established turf, BANOL guards against the onslaught of pythium, even during periods of high temperature and humidity — conditions usually considered perfect for pythium. ON OVERSEEDED AREAS, BANOL can be safely applied after germination to control pythium damping-off.

AS A CURATIVE TREATMENT, the same BANOL can be applied at higher application rates to control this fast-moving disease. BANOL won't wash off and maintains a residual effect (protecting plant crowns, roots and tissues), yet BANOL shows no sign of resistance development over time.

Easy, flexible application by hand or power sprayers means turf managers can use BANOL in rotation or in tanks mixed with other systemic fungicides for resistance-management programs. BANOL needs no agitation after the initial mix, and watering-in after application is not required.

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IMPORTANT: Please remember always to read and follow carefully all label directions when applying any chemicals.

In July of this year, they became the 4th fully certified Cooperative Sanctuary in Florida

In Hobe Sound, Florida, golf and nature blend together in a special place called Loblolly Pines Golf Club. For Loblolly, there is but one philosophy: **one with nature.**

Loblolly is a residential development and private club with 200 members. The property is located on a sand ridge just west of the mangrove swamp flood plain of the intracoastal waterway. There are 305 acres consisting of 200 acres of non-play area, 50 acres of fine turfgrass and 55 acres of rough. Loblolly Pines is surrounded by several hundred acres of sand pine/scrub oak stands to the north, wetlands to the east and residential property south and west of the golf course. There are approximately 28 acres of woodlands (scrub oak and slash/sand pines) and 20 acres of open water.

In March, 1992, Dick Gray, then superintendent of Loblolly Pines, now in the middle of construction of The Florida Club in Stuart, joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP) and took that first step of sending in the Resource Inventory. In February of 1995, Loblolly became certified in three categories and then in July, they became the fourth fully certified Cooperative Sanctuary in Florida.

The following is a summary of the information submitted by Loblolly Pines Golf Club in their quest to become a fully certified Cooperative Sanctuary.

One of the first and the most important steps in the ACSP is forming the resource committee. Loblolly is fortunate in that they have so many talented people that are a part of their family.

NAME: AREA OF INTEREST

Ralph and Mabel Vogel: Research of new environmental practices for area wildlife, liaison for Landscape & Architectural Review Board, wildlife inventory.

John and Janey Pratt: Resident watch of animals and birds; such as current migrations and wildlife sightings, Garden Club liaison.

Bill Wigton: Habitat resources, wildlife inventory.

John Jones: Nestboxes.

Tom Lucido: Habitat Naturalization, Publicity.

Dick Gray: Course Superintendent, ACSP Project Coordinator.

John and Susan Sullivan: Educational displays, golfer awareness of Audubon project, Photographer.

"The Resource Committee is extremely critical to the life of the movement. Superintendents come and go, members move, changes are inevitable. So it is very important that a large network of people are involved." — Dick Gray ➔

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Snags provide habitat for cavity dwelling birds like this yellow-shafted flicker.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Philosophy: *One with nature. Leave it alone or restore it to its original condition.*

Below is a list of things that Loblolly does to encourage wildlife and habitat enhancement:

- Homeowners are required to dedicate rear 30 feet across their lot to a native buffer.
- Dead trees are topped and left standing on the golf course; branches are dropped and left for cover.
- Homeowners are encouraged to plant native plants which attract birds.
- There is a 20-foot buffer edge along lakes and ponds.
- Maintains specific habitat by replanting only with native species. Have planted over 2000 slash pines, sand pines, loblolly pines, southern red cedar and wax myrtle.
- Removal of invasive exotic plant material.
- Maintain wildflower areas on and around the golf course.
- Planted bahia buffer between bermuda fairways and native periphery which serves as habitat for cotton rat, rabbit and quail.
- Preserved extra acreage for gopher tortoises.
- Piles of coral rock and trees were added along lake banks for cover.
- Osprey platform constructed on golf course (have had sightings, no nest to date).
- Nest boxes include: wood duck, kestrel, owl, and bat.
- All lake areas provide cover for aquatic residents. ➡



A gray fox. One of many mammals calling Loblolly Pines home.



In December of 1994, the Ocean Course at Sea Pines Plantation was closed for a complete renovation. The Ocean and Sea Marsh courses share pro shop and driving range facilities. The driving range was closed for renovations, also in December, and members and guests at both courses were compelled to use the driving range at Harbourtown Golf Links. Naturally, there was a big push to re-open the driving range facilities as soon as possible.

We had already decided to use the ROOTS 1-2-3 Program to enhance our grow-in on our greens, so in order to facilitate the opening of the driving range, we decided to use 1-2-3 on the driving range tee.

As we finished sprigging the driving range itself, we had extra sprigs so we doubled the rate on the right side of the range, i.e., left side 400 bu/a, right side 800 bu/a. We then decided to use ROOTS 1-2-3 on the left side, in addition to the tee area. The left side caught up and passed the right side and the tee area grew in so well we were able to open early.

We are extremely pleased with the results from using the ROOTS 1-2-3 Program.

Jim Cregin, Superintendent
Bart Miller, Assistant Superintendent
Ocean Course, Sea Pines Plantation
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina



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'Our goal is to completely eliminate contamination of ground water from pesticide applications'

PUBLIC/MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

Philosophy: *On this blue pearl, we are all accountable. Every effort is measurable, every animal is an owner. Everybody must be involved, the younger the better.*

• Hosts the Blue Pearl Tournament in cooperation with the Treasure Coast GCSA. In 1994, \$9,000 was donated to the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital. In 1995, \$8,000 is being put into the ACSP for schools.

• Displays ACSP registration, wildlife inventory, project info, etc.

- Regular articles in club newsletter.
- Member involvement in Nest Box project.
- Member involvement in native planting projects.
- Working on nature guide for members.
- Formed a garden club.

WATER CONSERVATION

Philosophy: *Water only as needed: it's easier to add than subtract.*

"Because we are located on a sand ridge, there are a few drawbacks. One is moisture holding capacity. Our yellow sand, basically our parent material, has a perc rate of 20 inches per hour. Our white sand, an 18-inch mantle over the yellow, percs 30 inches per hour. Consequently, irrigation water is a precious commodity." — Dick Gray

The primary water source for Loblolly Pines is a local water company, which supplies the property with 400,000 gallons of effluent daily. A secondary water source is a deep well which is used on an *as-needed* basis. The storage lake is lined so no water is lost through percolation.

Conservation methods utilized:

- Watering on an *as-needed* basis, deep and infrequent.
- Use of drought-tolerant grasses.
- Higher cutting heights.
- Higher tolerance to dry spots in fairways.
- Use of moisture retaining soil amendments and wetting agents.
- Thatch reduction.

- Mulch around newly-planted material.
- Fertility programs emphasizing root mass.
- Roughs are not watered.
- Native plant material only.
- Computer operated irrigation system governs volume and pressure; low-trajectory adjustable arc impact sprinklers utilized.
- Irrigation technician scouts the system weekly, checking for leaks and faulty heads.
- Nozzles are changed with the season, small in the winter, larger in the summer.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Philosophy: *Our goal is to completely eliminate contamination of ground water from pesticide applications and minimize contamination from parking lot/roadway runoff.*

- Seven lakes, four are lined. All contain natural structure, coral rock, trees, etc. on the bottoms.
- Lakes separated from fairways by 10- to 12-foot border of 3- to 4-inch rough grass. This border serves as a filter from runoff into the lakes. On residential side, 20- to 30-foot natural buffer protects the lakes.
- Drainage from parking lots and roads percolates through high-sand parent material before reaches drains. Clubhouse parking drainage is directed into two sand traps and filtered into the water table.
- Annual water quality monitoring in place. Test regularly for pesticide residual, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), plus our basic water quality tests.
- Lakes were stocked in 1989 with bream, bass and catfish in all seven lakes, sterile grass carp in the lined lakes.
- Pond perimeters opposite of playing surfaces are allowed to develop naturally.
- Littoral shelves have been planted along all residential waterfront.



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'IPM is more than an on-again, off-again concept'

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

Philosophy: *To us, IPM is more than an on-again, off-again concept. It is our method of operation.*

"The original theme here at Loblolly Pines was *back to nature*. From the beginning, we were committed to a golf course and residences that appeared to be a part of nature. We wanted to build a golf course that simply *fit in, naturally*.

"Because of this desire we committed to a native buffer, as a means to frame each hole, that ranges from 30-foot to over 100 feet deep along the entire boundary of nearly every hole. To this we added native trees and grasses, along with a covenant in our POA agreement that restricts the use of exotics near the rear of any residence.

"So in effect, we have a 21,000-linear-foot ribbon of golf course, bordered on both sides by a thick native habitat of scrub oak, slash pines, sand pines, rosemary, cabbage palms, myrtle, native grasses and water, over 40 acres of habi-

tat, most of it continuous.

"Our original concept is still our concept. Not only does this concept stress the philosophy of co-habitation, it also stresses higher tolerance to pests. We'll live with a few more weeds; we'll tolerate more insect damage, we'll lower our standards in certain areas in an effort to reduce the use of pesticides and increase the number of birds, mammals, snakes, turtles, frogs, fish, etc.

"As to pesticide application, *as needed* is the code word. We apply pesticides *as a reaction to* and not *in case of* as a general rule. Scouting and record keeping have given us enough historical data that we can anticipate trouble. This allows us to nip it in the bud—or nymph stage. As for rates, we apply the lower third of the recommended rate and add whatever materials we can to increase our efficiency."

—Dick Gray

IPM practices utilized –

IRRIGATION:

- Effluent, nutrient rich, so algae is

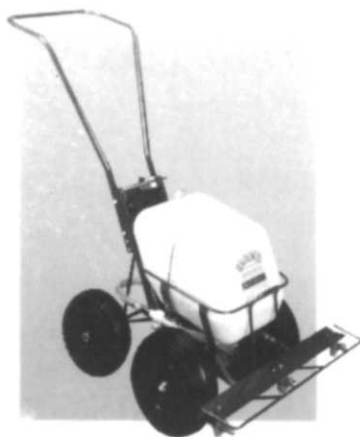
always a threat. To compensate, water is used only as needed, and the turf is never allowed to thin to the point of soil exposure.

- Judicious water use, cutting height, aeration and verticutting keep algae to a bare minimum.

FUNGICIDES:

- Keeping the course on the dry side also keeps fungicides to a minimum.
- When required, *as needed* only.
- Alternate contacts with systemics and combine them when possible to make fewer applications.
- The decision to use fungicides is made after determination that favorable weather changes are not probable.
- Raise cutting height during winter to compensate for chlorophyll shortage. This procedure reduces vulnerability to fungi and therefore reduces reliance on fungicides.
- Use of improved varieties of bentgrass and ryegrass.
- Judicious use of fertilizers. ➔

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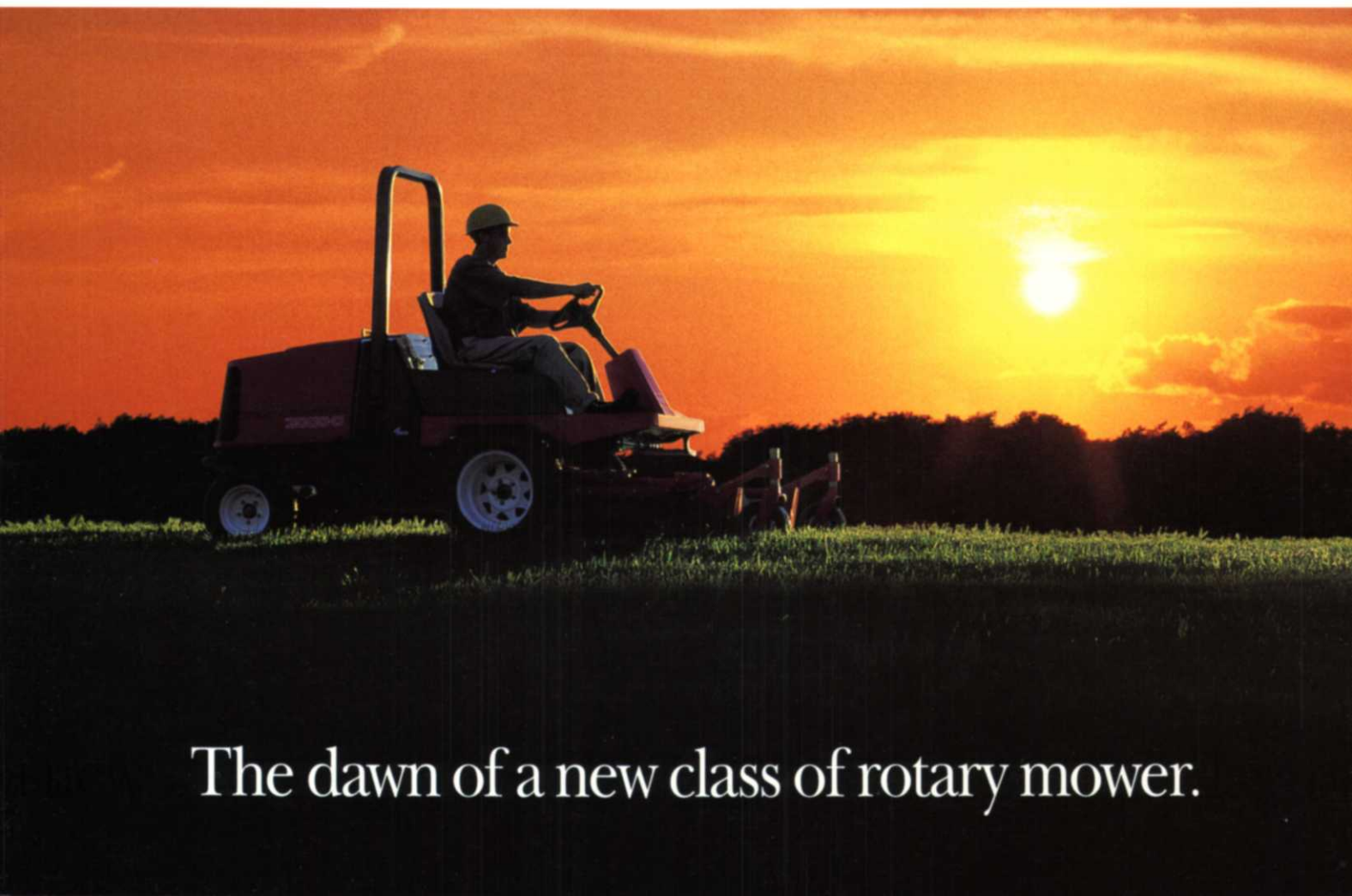
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Groundsmaster[®] 3000



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The Toro Grounds can do more by noon than

We burned the midnight oil to spark the dawn of a new class of rotary mower. We overlooked nothing. Engine. Transmission. Cutting deck. Attachment system. Wheels. Everything it takes to make the Grounds[®] 3000 a rotary mower of unprecedented productivity.



Every inch a Grounds[®].

For almost 25 years, turfcare professionals have preferred Toro Grounds[®] mowers because of their proven productivity even in the most difficult cutting conditions. Add in their superb quality of cut and famous durability, and you have many of the family traits inherited by the new Grounds[®] 3000.

But every inch its own class.

It's not a replacement but an addition to the Grounds[®] family. The new 3000 is truly a new class of rotary mower. A giant step forward with more horsepower. A Guardian[®] Recycler[®] deck with 84 inch productivity. State of the art one or two speed axle with Integrated Hydrostatic Transmission (IHT) and PTO. An innovative quick-attach system. Ergonomic design. And more.

Starting with advanced cutting.

The 3000's advanced Guardian Recycler cutting unit is perfect for large formal areas. For example, its 84 inch wide coverage means 35% more productivity than a similar 62 inch deck. What's



Groundsmaster® 3000

in most mowers can do in a day.

more, it features hydraulic counterbalance, soft ride pneumatic castor wheels and a responsive design that adjusts to ground contours 15 degrees upward. To provide uniform flotation for a smooth, even cut. You can also standardize your cutting patterns because the deck's extra width gives you dual sided offset and trimability on both sides. More convenience: the Guardian 84" Recycler has new quiet castor forks that better follow contours and permit easy height of cut adjustments with one pin placement. And, of course, recycling dispenses with collecting and disposing of clippings. Boosting productivity even more.

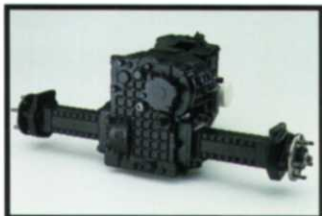


Combined with power to spare.

Take your choice. A rugged 33 hp, liquid cooled Peugeot diesel, two or four wheel drive. Or a 45 hp, gasoline fueled Ford engine renowned for its long life and vibration free performance. Either choice supplies power to spare and will transport your 3000 up to a brisk 15 mph.

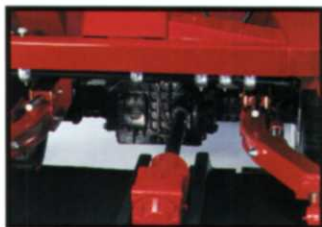
And precision transmission.

Toro asked Sauer-Sundstrand® to design an Integrated Hydrostatic Transmission (IHT) that performs with the power you need. It combines the transmission, axle and PTO in a single housing. A PTO, by the way, that drives either mechanical or hydraulic attachments. There are stronger, fewer parts. A greater direct transfer of power. And oversized hydraulic components that reduce heat and noise. This incredibly reliable transaxle has what it takes to move bigger decks and year 'round accessories.



Plus a new quick-attach system.

Toro's new quick-attach system makes implement changing a breeze. Just unlatch the lever of each lift arm, pull away the deck and you're ready to attach whatever implement you choose.



Fit for excellent performance.

A mower is only as good as its operator. So you'll find key features that make the Groundsmaster® 3000 and operator fit each other. Its lower center of gravity provides enhanced sidehill stability. It's noticeably quieter, too, due in part to the 3000's isolated platform. Vibration is minimal and hydraulic sound is masked. Easy to reach controls feature joystick finesse. Maneuverability that rivals smaller Groundsmaster® mowers. Plus more safety features including the optional integrated ROPS.



Catch a cab to all weather versatility.

Completely enclosed cab with ROPS loaded with standard features turns your Groundsmaster® 3000 into an all weather wonder. Easy on and off with only 6 bolts. Seals well and is visually part of the 3000. Lots of window for better visibility. Standard lights for early and late day operation. Low noise with isolated, rubber mounted platform. Options include heater, wiper and soft panels.

The Toro Groundsmaster® 3000 has all it takes to be in a class of its own.

- Advanced Guardian® 84" Recycler® cutting unit means 35% more productivity than a similar 62" deck.
- Hydraulic counterbalance, soft ride pneumatic castor wheels, and a responsive design adjusts to ground contours for a smooth, even cut.
- Quieter operation with 3000's isolated, rubber mounted platform, smooth-running engine, and oversized hydraulic components. Less vibration throughout mower.
- Powered by 33 hp, liquid cooled Peugeot diesel engine. Or 45 hp, gasoline fueled Ford engine.
- Integrated Hydrostatic Transmission (IHT) combines transmission, axle and PTO in a single housing.
- Enhanced sidehill stability with low center of gravity. Easy maneuverability. Many safety features such as optional ROPS.
- Quick-attach system means even more productivity. Just unlatch levers, pull deck away and it's ready to attach another implement.
- Enclosed cab seals out snow and rain. Easy on and off with 6 bolts. Lots of window for better visibility. Lights for dimly lit operation.

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