

EGCSA Spring Seminar Supports ACSP for Schools

The Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association hosted their annual Spring Seminar on Friday, April 26 at the LaPlaya Resort in Naples. Over 90 people were in attendance for the full-day seminar.

During the day, presentations were made on a wide variety of golf course and turf management topics. The program was started off with Shelly Foy, USGA Green Section, giving an update on the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program in Florida. Dr. Charles Peacock of North Carolina State University followed with a very good presentation on Best Management Practices. Then Darren Davis, superintendent at the Olde Florida Club in Naples, discussed Environmental Concerns for the Maintenance Facility. Dr. Pat Cobb from Auburn University finished out the morning session with

a very entertaining and informative talk on mole cricket control.

After lunch John Foy, USGA Green Section Director, gave a talk on Trends and Turf Tips for Florida Golf Courses, and then Paul Latshaw, superintendent at Congressional Country Club, told everyone about Preparing a Golf Course for a Major Tournament. Jan Beljan, Fazio Golf Course Design, wound up the day with an update on the Environmental Impact of Golf Courses.

This is the second year that the EGCSA have donated all proceeds from the Spring Seminar to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools. This year over \$3,000 will go to adopt schools into



Speakers for the EGCSA Spring Seminar were from left: John Foy, Shelly Foy, Paul Latshaw, Jan Beljan, Dr. Pat Cobb, Darren Davis and Dr. Charles Peacock.

the program and provide these schools with grant money for projects and supplies.

Shelly Foy

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ACSP: Who, What, Why, Where, When and How



BY SHELLY FOY

These are some of the most common questions asked about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP). I thought they might help motivate some of you to get more involved.

In future issues of the FLORIDA GREEN, we will address other questions you may have about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Send your questions to:

USGA Green Section
P.O. Box 1087
Hobe Sound, FL 33475
Fax: 561-546-4653.

Question: My time is so limited. I want to get involved, I just can't seem to find the time. Any suggestions?

Answer: One of the first things you will do when you get involved with the ACSP is form a Resource Committee. This committee is just that, a resource for you to use. It can be made up of staff, golfers, board members, club officials, community persons such as Native Plant Society members, local Audubon members, a local utility company representative, a person from your solid waste authority, cooperative extension service or our local fish and wildlife agency just to name a few. Let your Resource Committee do their part by helping you out with anything from filling out the Resource Inventory, to initiating projects, locating sources, etc. No where in the program does it say that the golf course superintendent has to do all the work.

Another idea is to have your assistant superintendent or secretary handle the paperwork of the program. These are two people who are also fairly knowledgeable about the golf course and its operations. They could arrange meetings and schedule projects for you.

Don't be afraid to delegate portions of this program! The key to success is when you share the program with others. After all, one of the main things you want to do is to educate people about the environmental benefits of the golf course. If you keep it all to yourself, you have gained nothing and your success with this program will be limited, at best.

Question: My Green Committee already drives me crazy. I don't need more people knowing everything I do. Why is it necessary to have a Resource Committee?

Answer: Again, the Resource Committee can and should be a valuable asset to you by helping with projects, paperwork, resources, etc.. Remember, the whole point of the ACSP is to let others know what environmental stewards you are and how a well managed golf course can be a benefit to people and wildlife. By finding the right community representatives to be on your Resource Committee, they will learn for themselves the benefits of golf courses and will be more than willing to spread the news.

With board members on your Resource Committee, you will have the opportunity to educate them on various

aspects of your job. As their understanding of your job increases, you will gain valuable support for the projects and programs you want to implement on the golf course.

Question: My membership does not think the New York Audubon should be working on Florida golf courses. They can't seem to get past the New York in the name. What can I say to convince them this is a good program?

Answer: The Audubon staff recognizes that this is a concern for some people, so they have restructured their organization and the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program now comes under Audubon International. Audubon International specializes in sustainable resource management.

You can also tell them that this program is sponsored by the United States Golf Association, and has been from the beginning. The ACSP is also supported by groups such as the GCSAA, ASGCA, GCBA, LPGA, PGA, etc.

Besides, I am sure your members do not think the *New York Times* is only a local newspaper either

Question: This ACSP package has been sitting on my desk for months. What is my first step in initiating this program?

Answer: The first thing you need to do after joining the program is to make sure you fill out the Resource Inventory. This form helps you describe your property, the projects you are already involved in, as well as helps identify areas where your

interests may be (birdfeeders, nestboxes, wildlife gardens, etc..)

After completing the Resource Inventory, you need to start thinking about putting together a Resource Committee of persons who will be able to help you with this program.

Next, the Environmental Planning Worksheet takes you through all of the certification categories and should be used as your "map" or "blueprint" of projects you will be working on. This worksheet should constantly be referred to, as it will help you gauge where you are in the program. Then, you should be ready to start implementing projects and applying for certification in the five other categories.

For additional suggestions, be sure to check previous issues of the *Florida Green!*

Question: My golf course is very private and does not want the public on-site. How can we fulfill the public/member involvement category?

Answer: The Audubon staff realizes

that some golf courses are concerned with their privacy. While some courses may have the ability to bring groups of people on-site for tours, this may be the last thing that other courses want.

There are, however, many opportunities to educate your own membership about environmental concerns on and around the golf course. With the average golf course being constructed on 120 - 150 acres, you have plenty of opportunity to enhance and preserve wildlife, conserve and protect water sources, implement IPM programs to minimize chemical and pest pressures as well as reach out to members, their families and guests to help them become more aware of what a benefit a well maintained golf course is to its surrounding environment.

The first thing you should do is let your members know about the ACSP. You can do this by writing an article for your club newsletter, or posting an announcement in the clubhouse or pro shop. You may be pleasantly surprised how

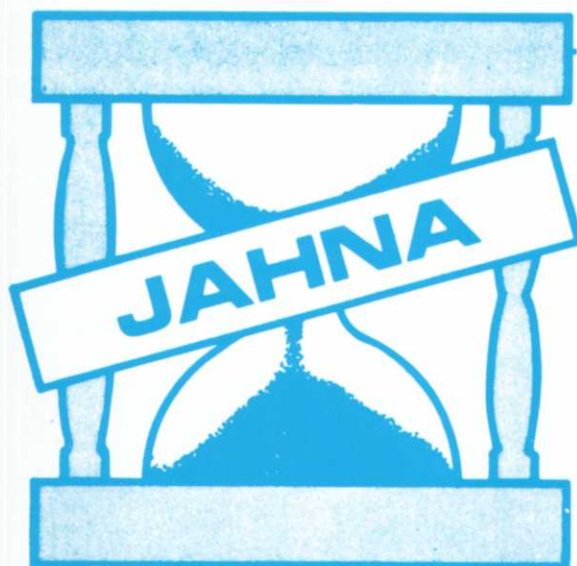
much interest you will receive. Ask for help with projects such as starting a wildlife inventory, building and monitoring nestboxes, or installing a butterfly garden. Your interested members will be glad to help you come up with a list of projects they would like to see implemented on the golf course.

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Question: How many golf courses are registered in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP)?

Answer: As of the end of May, there are over 2160 golf courses who

are registered in the program nationwide. Of these, 72 are fully certified, and another 125 have achieved certification in one or more category.

In Florida, over 180 golf courses are currently registered in the program, 10 are fully certified, and another 15 have achieved certification in one or more category.

When you think about Florida having over 1100 golf courses, the number of ACSP members in Florida should be much higher than it is. Call Audubon International today at (518) 767-9051 and ask for membership information.

Other project ideas are:

- Host an Audubon day at your golf course and invite all members.
- Arrange for wildlife demonstrations (a good way to meet community groups who might be willing to serve on your Resource Committee), composting seminars, information that members might utilize in their backyards.
- Offer "kits" to members which might include a nestbox, birdfeeder, butterfly garden plants, etc...
- Have a designated area in your clubhouse or proshop where members can help with a wildlife inventory by listing species that they see while they are out on the course.
- Host mini-seminars or educational workshops for members. Speakers could be from local Audubon chapters, cooperative extensions, garden clubs. Make sure you encourage them to initiate some of the same programs in their own backyards as you are on the golf course.
- Perhaps start a reference library on Florida birds, wildlife, plants, etc. Make these references available for anyone who might want to borrow them.

USGA announces first wildlife links grant

The United States Golf Association (USGA) has awarded three grants totaling approximately \$100,000 to initiate Wildlife Links, golf's first comprehensive program to investigate its relationship with wildlife and its habitat.

The Wildlife Links program was established in early 1995 to fund research, management, and education projects needed to provide the game of golf with state-of-the-art information on wildlife management issues. The USGA will contribute \$100,000 annually for the next three years. The LPGA has also committed funds for this program.

The program is administered by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) out of Washington, D.C. Congress established NFWF in 1984 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of natural resources — fish, wildlife and plants. Among its goals are species habitat protection, environmental education, public-policy development, natural resource management, habitat and ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration, and leadership training for conservation professionals. To date, NFWF

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has undertaken 1,205 projects in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and 17 other countries. These activities have leveraged more than \$152 million of private funds for fish and wildlife protection.

The advisory committee for the Wildlife Links program includes: Dr. Peter Stangel, Director of the NFWF's Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative chairs the committee. Other members are: Jim Felkel, of the U.S. Forest Service; Dr. Mike Lennartz, of the U.S. Forest Service; Dr. Dan Petit, of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Ron Dodson, President of Audubon International; and Jim Snow, National Director of the USGA Green Section.

The overall goal of the Wildlife Links program is to protect and enhance, through proper planning and management, the wildlife, fish and plant resources found on golf courses. The first three grants awarded by the USGA are to:

- The Colorado Bird Observatory, headquartered in Brighton, Colorado to

create a manual that will provide golf course architects and superintendents with practical information about how to enhance golf course habitat for bird species. The working title of the publication is Golf Courses and Bird Conservation: A Management Manual, and it will appear next spring.

- Donald F. Harker and Gary W. Libby, environmental researchers located in Frankfort, Kentucky, were awarded a grant to underwrite production of a publication with the tentative title Wetlands Management Manual for Golf

Courses that is expected to appear in early 1997. This illustrated booklet will contain narrative, drawings, case studies, and key restoration techniques to help golf course superintendents understand wetlands, and create programs to create, conserve and manage them.

- Audubon International, headquartered in Selkirk, New York, has received a grant to help computerize their substantial database of statistical informa-

tion about golf courses that has been gathered through their management over the past six years of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.

Golf courses, especially in more developed regions, hold great potential as hospitable areas for many species of animals and plants. The Wildlife Links Program represents golf's best mechanisms to examine these issues and develop appropriate strategies.

Complete information about these grants or the Wildlife Links Program may be obtained by contacting either:

Dr. Peter Stangel

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1120 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C.
(202) 857-5676 or:

Dr. Kimberly Erusha or Marty Parkes

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Last year, the Treasure Coast GCSA raised over \$8,000 which was used to adopt ten schools, provide books for each school library, and set up a \$5,000 grant fund for those schools to help pay for projects and supplies. On Saturday, May 4, 1996, they contributed another \$10,000.

“By funding environmental and ecological awareness programs in grade schools from Hobe Sound to Vero Beach, we can inform and educate not only the students, but also teachers, administrators, and parents.”

Dick Gray
TCGCSA President



From left, Ed Davito, Dick Gray, President of the TCGCSA, John Sullivan, owner of Loblolly Pines and Jerry Snetler tee it up for the ASCP School Program.

Blue Pearl Tournament largest single fundraiser for the Audubon Sanctuary Program for Schools

For the second year in a row, the Treasure Coast golf Course Superintendents Association have donated all funds from their annual Blue Pearl Charity Tournament to the ACSP for Schools.

Last year, they raised over \$8,000 which was used to adopt ten schools, provide books for each school library, and set up a \$5,000 grant fund for those schools to help pay for projects and supplies.

On Saturday, May 4, 1996, they contributed another \$10,000 to the ACSP School Program, for a two-year total of over \$18,000. Crystal Lake Elementary, in Stuart, Fla., has received the first grant

to build a nature trail. Other schools are in the process of applying for grants to work on such projects as constructing a slat house for native plant nursery, aquatic enhancement projects around water bodies, and butterfly gardens.

Dick Gray, president of the TCGCSA, says, “By funding environmental and ecological awareness programs in grade schools from Hobe Sound to Vero Beach, we can inform and educate not only the students, but also teachers, administrators, and parents. We can foster and nurture an age of children who grow up knowing the benefits of a healthy environment and the benefits golf courses offer to people, wildlife and the envi-



Mike Wallace of Palm City was the winner of the \$1,000 Golf Ball Drop raffle to raise money for the ASCP School Program.

ronment.”

The Blue Pearl Tournament is hosted by Loblolly Pines Golf Club in Hobe Sound. Owners John and Susan Sullivan are very gracious hosts for this annual event, and course superintendent Fred Hinkle and his staff work very hard to provide top quality conditioning and a very challenging course setup.

“We can foster and nurture an age of children who grow up knowing the benefits of a healthy environment and the benefits golf courses offer to people, wildlife and the environment.”

Tournament winners this year were:

Low Gross First Place:

Roy Kimberly, Coary Fisher, Mark Henderson, and Roy MacDonald

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Third Place:

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When the flag is down

BY JEFF BALL

*Golf Course Superintendent
Panama Country Club*

The storms of life will bring out the best and the worst in a club.

The Panama Country Club is a 67-year-old Donald Ross course on St. Andrew Bay. The American flag flies daily, and when there is a death in the club, the flag flies at half staff in memory of the fallen member. When the chips are down, the members flock to each other's aid with Southern style hospitality that warms your heart. On the days following the passing of Hurricane Opal, the flag was down for our course. This is a story of member stewardship in the face of great adversity.

October 3, 1995 — Tuesday afternoon: We have watched Hurricane Opal float around in the gulf and churn itself up to a Class 3 storm. This is the third storm of the season and my maintenance staff had already cleaned up damage from two previous hurricanes. The look in their eyes was that of a fat Thanksgiving turkey. You know the look. You're going to

get it, and bad. We are spreading out maintenance equipment in various buildings on the course, along with enough fuel in cans to get us through the first week after the storm.

My wife packs our Jeep Cherokee and I finish tying down the last few things that all coastal superintendents know to do — pull all the flags, lower the level of our lakes, and move everything that we can under roof. Having lived in the aftermath of Hurricane Camille in Biloxi, Mississippi, the damage that storms of this magnitude can do is always in the back of my mind.

We are packed and ready to go north to high ground Tuesday night. I watch where the storm will make landfall. We went to bed and tried to sleep. It would not come, so I turned the Weather Channel on. The storm was a category 4/5 and the pressure was dropping. I grabbed the family and jumped in the Jeep. As I closed the garage door to our home, I wondered



Hurricane Opal topples an ancient oak across the 8th tee at the Panama City CC.

The club is 67 years old and is filled with live oaks and longleaf pines... The FEMA estimates were over \$1 million in damage to the course, and months later we are still finding things that do not work properly.

what we would have to come home to.

On the way out of town, I stopped by the club to make one final check. The crew was sent home with my prayers for their safety and with instructions to come back when the storm was over and their families were secure.

The storm made landfall about 6:00 p.m., and the old course took it right on the chin. The club is 67 years old and is filled with live oaks and longleaf pines. The damage to the Gulf Coast was extensive, and repair crews would be hard to

come by. The FEMA estimates were over \$1 million in damage to the course, and months later we are still finding things that do not work properly. To compound matters, my home was in a restricted area equipped with Florida National Guardsmen. We could not even go look and see the damage to our home. We were really frustrated and the work load was unbelievable.

The pump station had 3 feet of water in it, and we had several greens covered by the surge. We finally got the power on

and I was going to flush the greens with a deep well that was tied to our irrigation system. That ran for about one hour when a broken limb fell out of one of our large pine trees across the line. We only have 400 yards of power line above ground, and the limbs found it. Balls of fire raced toward the wells and destroyed any hopes of flushing our greens.

"I quit," I said to the Green Committee Chairman, Ted Buckley.

He laughed and said, "Tomorrow will be better."

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Panama City CC Superintendent, Jeff Ball (left) and member, Gary Walsingham (right) admire the work of sculptor Ken Bauldree as he turns the old oak stump into a fox squirrel.

I said, "It better be. It can't get any worse."

Just as the words came out of my mouth, Charles Commander drives up and asks, "When do you think the course will be open?"

I told him that it would take at least two weeks just for debris removal from the fairways and intermediate rough. He said that he wanted to play before he went to the Florida State University football game Saturday. (At this club they take two things very seriously—golf and football.) In the meantime, Buckley knew

that I could not go home and invited me to stay with his family. We dined that evening with candlelight and watched the Braves game on a battery-powered TV at a neighbor's house.

Mr. Commander had exercised his leadership ability by recruiting 75 members ready to work. We started the next morning at 7:00 a.m. and looked like Sherman on his march to the sea. Members arrived equipped with golf carts, rakes and sheets to haul off the limbs, pine needles and Spanish moss. We removed 200 tons of debris in a day and a

half. Our maintenance crew drove the tractors and utility vehicles while the members loaded. We cleaned the fairways and surrounds in eight hours. Ross Weaver, the General Manager, cooked up a great feast, and members insisted the crew join them at the club for barbecue.

The next morning we finished the green and tee surrounds. Then at noon we had a shotgun golf tournament. Two days after the storm, we were playing golf. We had saved ourselves from the defeat nature had handed us and decided to make lemonade with the lemons.

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