

Hiers spreads golf's message

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there are superintendents who have been doing it for years and are continuing to enhance and fine-tune their skills...

"I'm encouraged that we're seeing more and more people in our profession taking the message to the streets," he added. "You will see more superintendents talking to school children, public officials, Rotary Clubs and telling

them the benefits [of golf courses]. Otherwise, they really are not going to hear it, and that has been borne out so far. They have basically heard only one side of the story."

...

Meanwhile, Hiers and fellow certified superintendent Robert Painter of La Rinconada Country Club in Las Gatos, Calif., have earned certificates in the Integrated Plant Management specialization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Environmental Management Program.

Munis unusual, but wanted, in Sanctuary Program

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of birds singing out there. There's nothing like it."

A number of courses around the country have joined ACSP, but only 23 have gained full certification, completing programs in environmental planning; public involvement and education; wildlife and habitat management; water-quality management; and Integrated Pest Management.

The only other municipal tracks are Breckenridge (Colo.) Golf

Club, under superintendent Jack Pendleton, and Village Links of Glen Ellyn (Ill.), under superintendent Chris Pekarek. Now that Miller's 18-hole Hindman Park Golf Course has won certification, he intends to do the same for his other 45 holes — 27 at Rebsamen Golf Course and 18 at War Memorial Golf Course. Rebsamen is in the ACSP now, and War Memorial — in the heart of downtown Little Rock surrounded by freeways and

hospitals — will be registered in 1995, he said.

The Sanctuary Program "is economical as well as environmentally correct," Miller said. "It's been a real joy to me."

Saying he has always been an environmentalist, Miller added that he uses no insecticides and few herbicides and fungicides.

"I'm at an advantage because I have Bermudagrass greens," which require fewer pesticides to survive, he said.

In 1993, Miller was one of only 14 superintendents in the country chosen for the first Environmental Steward Awards. He was cited for creating a strong focus on wildlife by maintaining a lake and its islands in an almost natural state, and attracting many species of waterfowl, birds and other wildlife.

"I've always loved birds and wildlife on golf courses. When John [N.Y. Audubon Executive Director Santacrose] spoke on the program in Little Rock, I got some money and signed right up."

Miller spends \$800 a year for bird seed and has counted 50 varieties of birds on his course. "We take the best care of the purple martins," he said, adding that his crew built six different kinds of bird houses — 24 in all.

Foxes, beavers, muskrats, deer and a lot of black and white squirrels also roam the property.

Santacrose said the Sanctuary Program is "structured so we can involve cemeteries, schools, parks, golf, resorts, corporations and businesses."

Earning certification is a lengthy process — 3-1/2 years in Miller's case. This all with a mere 13-person crew for 63 holes that host 200,000 rounds of golf a year.

"It's not easy to do," Miller said. "There's a lot of paperwork. The manual is the fun part. In my case, it is good therapy for stress."

Audubon video done

WEST BEND, Wis. — Video production firm EPIC of Wisconsin has produced a video to inform organizations about the requirements and benefits of achieving Signature Award status from the New York Audubon Society.

The video features interviews and wildlife footage shot at Signature Award-winning Collier's Reserve Golf Club in Naples, Fla.

EPIC produces a video magazine, *Golf & Environment*, and recently developed and brought to market a successful series of training videos for superintendents and their staffs.

Under the Signature Program, the NY Audubon Society works with landowners in the development stages, to devise workable standards for landscape design, wildlife conservation, energy efficiency, and water and waste management, NY Audubon Society president Ron Dodson said.

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