

NORTH OF THE BORDER

Royal Canadian Golf Association, N.Y. Audubon create program

By MARK LESLIE

OAKVILLE, Canada — The Audubon Society of New York State and Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) have teamed to create the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada, Inc. (ACSSC).

The system will encompass golf facilities, corporate business complexes, schools, farms and backyards, according to New York Audubon President Ron Dodson. It will draw on the expertise and financial support of the RCGA Green Section and the experience of the Audubon,

which has pioneered wildlife and ecological preservation efforts at golf course facilities in the United States and abroad.

"People are more comfortable working with a national group of their own country," said RCGA Green Section National Director Teri Yamada, who is also national coordinator of the new system. "We have 88 Canadian golf courses cooperating with the New York Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. They will automatically switch to our system. It will be very parallel to the New York program but operate separately."

Incorporating as an official, not-for-profit organization, the ACSSC will be based in RCGA's offices in this Toronto suburb.

"It will be up and running in May, and we will hire a biologist in May or June," said Yamada, who added the initial contract with the biologist will run for eight months.

"We want to operate at arm's-length," she said. "Ultimately, we hope to set up the system to do its own fundraising, and to look for other contacts outside golf — such as industrial-commercial properties,

schools..."

RCGA has given \$15,000 in seed money to the Sanctuary System — much as the United States Golf Association Green Section did for the popular Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

While the Canadian system will be a subsidiary of the Audubon Society of New York State, "the key is that it is a Canadian company and will have a Canadian board of directors," Yamada said.

Further information is available from Yamada at the RCGA, 1333 Dorval Dr., Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6J 4Z3.

Nature Links seeks National Fish & Wildlife Foundation input

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USGA will dispense between 1995-97 as part of the Nature Links program, Snow added.

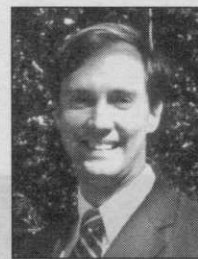
"Wildlife research isn't the same as putting out turf test plots and measuring the results," the Green Section executive said. "It's more complicated than that."

"As we came around for this second round of research funding, we realized agronomists are not in the best position to determine what should be done in terms of wildlife research."

Green Section staff met with environmental and wildlife groups last November in Washington. The issue of how to allocate wildlife research funds came up near the end of the meeting. Snow said one of the major contributors to the discussion was Peter Stangel, director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Congress established Stangel's group in 1984. The foundation receives federal money that can be used as matching grants to fund conservation programs and research to enhance wildlife habitat. The foundation has excellent contacts within the environmental community and is well-respected by those groups, Snow said.

"National Fish and Wildlife doesn't have



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— Jim Snow, national director
USGA Green Section

an agenda. It isn't out to prevent development, for instance. Its goal is to promote wildlife, period," Snow said.

Snow sent Stangel a final draft of a proposed agreement with the foundation in early March. If all goes as planned, the foundation will first help the Green Section develop a panel of wildlife experts who can determine areas needing research and set priorities.

Ron Dodson, national director of the Audubon Society of New York and developer of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, will be on the panel, Snow said. So, too, will Snow or USGA Director of Research Mike Kenna. Joining them, Snow predicted, will likely be representatives from such traditional golf industry antagonists as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and various environmental groups.

"People support what they help create," Snow said. "That's why we're trying to broaden our range and invite in other environmental groups. The New York Audubon Society has done a tremendous job. Here's an opportunity for us to work with some other groups. Every public relations firm we've talked to said the thing we need to do is reach out and involve more environmental groups if we want to gain their support."

Once the panel is established and priorities set, Requests for Proposals will be sent out to researchers capable of doing the work. Snow hopes the panel will meet and begin evaluating those proposals during the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee's annual meeting scheduled for May 8 in Oklahoma City.

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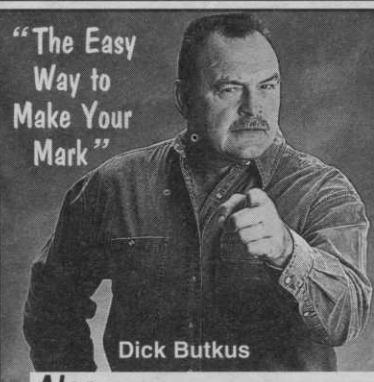


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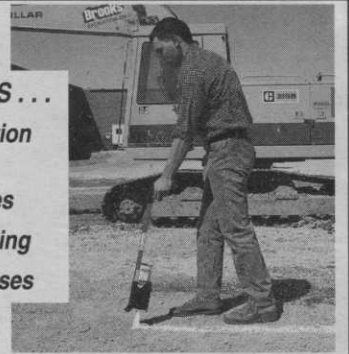
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