

N.Y. Audubon launches environmental, agronomic service program

By MARK LESLIE

CARY, N.C. — The Audubon Society of New York State (ASNY) has launched a national conservation service program to provide environmental and agronomic services to members of its Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS).

Called Audubon Conservation Services (ACS), the program will "promote environmental land management and conservation of our natural resources through on-course education and services for ACSS-member golf courses," said ASNY President Ron Dodson.

"Every aspect of the ACS program will promote sustainable resource management objectives dedicated to maximizing the quality and playability of the golf courses while minimizing environmental exposure."

Using a team approach, it will deal with course management issues through environmental planning; wetlands, water-quality

and storm-water management; fertilizer and pesticide programs; and agronomic and environmental integration.

ACS will not compete with the U.S. Golf Association Green Section advisory services, Dodson said, because "we are going to be doing things they normally don't look at."

In fact, Green Section National Director Jim Snow, giving "100 percent endorsement" for ACS, has asked Audubon personnel to do "a training session for their people this fall," Dodson said. "We will develop a check list for their regional agronomists to use when they do their turf advisory visits. They will look for things that we are going to focus on, such as maintenance complex design, wash-down areas and pesticide storage."

The cornerstone of ACS is to provide technical leadership by professionals with agronomic and environmental experience

in golf course development and management. It will be led by senior scientist Dr. Miles (Bud) Smart and Dr. Charles H. Peacock. Each has more than 17 years of experience in his field.

Collectively, they have provided services at more than 100 golf course and land-use projects.

"We've essentially signed a unique partnership agreement with Charles and Bud," Dodson said. "Their Turf Science Group is a member service for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. So when Charles and Bud and others do their work for a fee, they will be representing Audubon Society of New York."

"Additionally, doctorate-level scientists will provide expertise in areas of aquatic ecology, toxicology, risk assessment, environmental statistics and modeling, wetlands ecology, hydrology and remote sensing," Dodson said. "GCSAA-certified

superintendents will provide expertise on a regional basis."

The specific services ACS will offer are:

- Development of written plans for Integrated Pest Management and Best Management Practices (BMP) to develop an ecologically based approach to course management as well as incorporate BMPs to protect ecologically sensitive areas.

- Risk assessment to select the best materials for effective fertilization and control of pests in order to integrate sustainable resource management objectives.

- Constraints analysis for selection of pesticides and nutrients.

- Monitoring programs to develop systematic measures to assess golf course and environmental interactions.

The result, Dodson said, is a low-risk approach to golf course management and pesticide use.

Audubon research: golf and wildlife

Continued from page 13

research will augment, rather than duplicate, one another, Dodson said, adding that the USGA Green Section supports the Audubon effort.

"Wildlife Links exclusively looks at wildlife on golf courses," he said. "We will look at that but many other things as well. We are revolving everything around sustainable management: plants, waste, technology, energy efficiency... We want [scientists] and others to look at our principles of sustainable resource management and see if they are adequate, if we have the answers to put these principles on paper and try to hold land developers to those standards."

"Wildlife Links is focusing on broad-brush wildlife and golf research projects. I'm interested in more long-term wildlife biology efforts. I want to know, for example, if there are songbirds nesting between fairways? Are they producing young birds? At what rate? How does that

rate compare to wildlife refuges and national parks that are managed with wildlife in mind?

"Wildlife Links will discover what kinds of birds are found, if amphibians are found, if there are more on wetlands than inland. I want to get into the biology of the critters."

Dr. Charles Peacock expects to take a sabbatical year off North Carolina State University in 1996 and volunteer as plant science research director, while Dr. Larry Woolbright of Siena College will assume duties as wildlife research director.

"Schuyler Meadows Golf Course here will serve as the home-base study course, and Siena as wildlife golf research center."

"We have seven research associates involved already, and we're not even off the ground," Dodson said.

The plan is that Peacock will perform a thorough literature review on what information is available, and write a book called Best Management Practices for Golf

'Wildlife Links is focusing on broad-brush wildlife and golf research projects. I'm interested in more long-term wildlife biology efforts.'

— Ron Dodson, ASNY president

Courses, which the USGA will sponsor.

The literature review will determine "what holes there may be in research as it relates to private landowners and golf courses," Dodson added. "My job is to get funding to make the research happen."

The ASNY mission is research, education and information exchange, Dodson said, adding that its personnel will conduct workshops and seminars, and share computer bases with government agencies and others to foster good decisions in finding and developing appropriate land.

ACSRM will be a mechanism to fulfill that mission, he said.

Meanwhile, ASNY officials are proceeding over the next 10 to 12 months to incor-

porate Audubon International Signature as a not-for-profit association that will become the parent organization of ASNY and its various programs. ASNY has hired zoologist Nancy Richardson to run the Signature Program from a technical point of view. Her office is at 2045 Alves Ferry Road, Henderson, Ky. 42420; 502-546-9419.

"We will put together a budget and have the opportunity for individuals, corporations, companies, associations to become sponsors of the Signature Program and of the Audubon International Center for Sustainable Resource Management," Dodson said. "Some of that money will be put toward research. We may have grants available and will be looking for research associates."

Tee & Green & In Between

Whether your challenge is a deadline, a tee, a green, a fairway, a rough, or a bunker surround, we have a blend that fits your needs.

We understand the variety of problems you face because we have spent a great deal of time listening to golf course superintendents. As a result, Tee & Green Sod offers the most complete product line

available to the golf course industry—even a four-foot wide washed roll!

Give us a call for information about our selection of products, and our unique harvesting and washing techniques.

- Bentgrass
- Bluegrass
- Washed sod
- Bluegrass-Ryegrass
- Bluegrass-Fine Fescue

**TEE &
GREEN SOD**
— INCORPORATED —

401/789-8177 • 401/789-3895 (fax) • PO Box 418, Exeter, RI 02822

CIRCLE #118

**RESTROOM
FACILITIES
CORPORATION**

GOLF MID COURSE RESTROOMS



ANSWER THE NEED!

- Designed for 6-8 minute starting times
- Connects to irrigation or potable water
- Waterless version available
- Standing seam steel roof, spike mat floor
- Rugged proven finishes (Tile interior walls, Wood-grained fiber/cement exterior)
- Shipped fully constructed, plumbed, ready for site installation on concrete slab
- 3 week ship date

(800) 447-6570 ext. 200
Call For Catalog

CIRCLE #142