

## Sadlon hangs shingle as consultant

By HAL PHILLIPS

UNION, N.J. — Former United States Golf Association (USGA) Environmental Specialist Nancy Sadlon, one of the driving forces behind creation of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, has formed her own environmental consulting firm here.

The Golf Division at Sadlon Environmental will specialize in environmental regulations and requirements associated with development of new courses in addition to responsible, environmentally sensitive course management at existing clubs.

"I hope to help new courses evaluate

what they have and which regulations they need to pay attention to," said Sadlon. "I can provide guidance to municipalities as to the balance between development and environmental concerns. I feel I can help cities and towns set up guidelines for golf development..."

Sadlon said her services are also suited to existing courses seeking to improve their management practices.

"Golf courses can use better advice, better fitted to the course and its particular needs," she said. "I've been working with one golf course here in New Jersey to determine whether it has wetlands on

the site. [The owner] wants to add nine new holes, and he wants to know where he stands."

Sadlon Environmental will focus on guiding municipalities through the regulatory maze associated with construction, including preparation of generic environmental impact statements and request-for-proposal documents. However, Sadlon's Golf Division is also prepared to provide assistance with regard to: land development analysis regarding environmental constraints; wetland regulation; pond management and restoration; habitat enhancement; and landscape architecture.

Sadlon helped create the Audubon Co-



Nancy Sadlon

operative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), with help from the Audubon Society of New York State, and plans to continue preaching its gospel. (See stories, pages 1 and 70).

However, officials at ACSP and those at various local Audubon chapters around the country have very different

views of the golf course habitat.

"That's where New York Audubon sets itself apart — it supports new golf development. I continue to promote the program because I think it's a good program. If you can get the support of your local Audubon, go right ahead. The point is conservation."

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## Q&A: Joe Finger

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been right yet. I don't see how we can continue to develop 350 to 400 courses a year.

The demand for less-expensive courses, daily-fee and municipal, should remain strong as medium- and lower-income groups swell the ranks of golfers and watch the game on television.

The residential development market for courses will depend on the housing market, which depends on interest rates and taxes. If the Republicans succeed in cutting taxes, the market should stay up awhile longer. But if taxes keep going up, it makes it that much tougher for people to buy homes.

GCN: What is your relationship with Kenneth Dye and Baxter Spann? What do you think of their work?

JF: Except for occasional engineering and legal consultation, I am "President Emeritus in Consultation."

Ken Dye built Pinon Hills in Farmington, which *Golf Digest* rated No. 1 in value. He brought that in at \$2 million, which was within 1 percent of budget. Now that's architecture. If Ken learns to soften his greens designs a bit, he will soon be the No. 1 architect in the United States, maybe even internationally.

Baxter complements Ken with softer designs and more attention to certain business aspects. Baxter worked on a course near the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport called Timmarron, which has been a great success.

They balance each other very well. You're going to hear a lot more from them.

GCN: What's your favorite club in your golf bag?

JF: I hate them all. Just as I think I'm going to finish with a 76 or 77, I skull a wedge and end up with an 81. My clubs and I have a mutual hate society.

Actually, with everything else I do, I only get the chance to play once a week. I've got a book coming out this fall called *Golf Course Architects and Other Unplayable Lies*. It should be fun. I just hope I don't get sued.

I enjoy my work and everything else I do. I see a new challenge every time I turn around.