

Wildlife Links awards first grants for research

By MARTY PARKES

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Three grants totaling approximately \$100,000 have been awarded in the first phase of Wildlife Links, golf's first comprehensive investigation of its relationship with wildlife and its habitat. Administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in Washington, D.C., Wildlife Links funds research, management and education projects needed to provide the game with state-of-the-art information on wildlife management issues. It is receiving financial support from the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) and other golf-industry groups.

The grants were awarded to:

- The Colorado Bird Observatory, headquartered in Brighton, Colo.

- Donald F. Harker and Gary W. Libby, environmental researchers in Frankfort, Ky.

- Audubon International, headquartered in Selkirk, N.Y.

"We're very excited about the awarding of these first three grants," said Dr. Peter Stangel of NFWF, who chairs the Wildlife Links Advisory Committee. "These projects represent the first step in our journey to provide golf course officials with the best possible information about what they can do to enhance wildlife habitat throughout this nation."

The Colorado Bird Observatory will create a manual that will provide golf course architects and superintendents with practical information about how to enhance 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.

Scott W. Gillihan, coordinator of the Colorado Bird Observatory's Forested Ecosystems Program, will serve as project leader. His background includes expertise in wildlife management, as well as horticulture, turf management and urban wildlife issues.

Material for the manual will be collected by examining relevant scientific and popular literature, visiting golf courses, and interviewing superintendents and wildlife management professionals across the country.

The general working procedure of the manual will be two-tiered. The first level will target course architects interested in incorporating bird habitat into a design and superintendents desiring to improve conditions for the bird community in general.

The other level will concentrate upon superintendents interested in managing habitat designed to attract specific spe-

cies or groups of birds.

Region-specific information will complement the basic principles raised throughout the manual. Included will be a discussion of applying the techniques of both levels according to areas delineated on an ecological rather than political basis. Species lists within each ecoregion will provide managers with a starting point for assessing their property. Emphasis will be directed toward attracting groups such as songbirds, hum-

mingbirds, woodpeckers, raptors, waterfowl and wading birds.

In the Harker-and-Libby project, Wildlife Links will underwrite production of another 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 superintendents understand wetlands, and create programs to create, conserve,

restore and manage them.

Harker, one of the authors of the *Landscape Restoration Handbook* published by the USGA in 1993, and Libby have devised an easy reference method for a golf course manager to follow that will appear prominently in the booklet. That method combines drawings with a plant species matrix. The drawing depicts (in aerial and cross-section views) different wetland conditions for various wetland types. A matrix contains a list of the key species for those types



and outlines information about where in the wetlands to plant a particular species, what restoration techniques to use, flower color

Continued on next page

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Marty Parkes is director of public relations for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, headquartered in Far Hills, N.J.



Nooks, crannies and shelving can be put to good use for the storage buff.

Pumphouse a veritable storage gold mine

By TERRY BUCHEN

Superintendents are always trying to find ways to more efficiently use the maintenance facilities, and space utilization usually tops the list. Irrigation pipe, parts and accessories take quite a bit of space which could be used for other storage.

The irrigation system pump house is usually a covered building in most parts of the country — insulated and heated in the transition zone and Northern climates. Most pump house buildings do a

good job protecting irrigation pumps and assorted electrical hardware, but do nothing more.

The modern pumphouse is built 1 to 3 feet wider and 2 to 3 feet longer to accommodate shelving for all fittings, wire and even 20-foot lengths of all diameter pipe if the building is long enough.

Some pump houses have a workbench, with vise; a telephone jack to program the new



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computer-operated pumps, or to simply call the pump manufacturer to help with problems; extra space for a

chemigation system for fertilizers,

acid injection and pesticides; and sometimes even room for the irrigation technician's work vehicle.

Some supers also store their portable gasoline-powered trash pumps; hand-operated diaphragm pumps; gasoline-powered electrical generators; irrigation rolls of hose; food for swans, ducks, etc.; spare field controllers and even 10-foot sections of drainage pipe; drainage fittings; and even a small trencher. Other storable items include a rod and transit; wire locator; pulser; metal detector; shovels, sod strippers, etc.; quick couplers; gate valve keys; isolation valve keys in a nice organized fashion.

Probably one of the greatest assets, besides proper space use, is the irrigation technician will check the pumps twice a day, at the beginning and end of the work day.

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and size, and bloom-period guidelines.

The third grant will be used to help computerize Audubon International's substantial database of statistical information about golf courses that is gathered through its involvement over the past six years in managing the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Course.

Course architects and superintendents will then be able to access various types of information about course sites and management techniques employed successfully at thousands of locales from coast to coast. It is not known exactly how long this process will take and when the database will come on-line for use.

The NFWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of natural resources. 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.

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1984, NFWF awards challenge grants using its federally appropriated funds to leverage private sector donations.

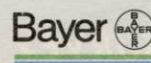
More information is available from Stangel at NFWF, 1120 Connecticut Ave N.W., Suite 900, Washington, D.C., tel. 202-857-5676; or Dr. Kimberly Erusha or Marty Parkes of the USGA Green Section, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931, tel. 908-234-2300.

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