

The Northeast Golf Course Superintendents Association (NGCSA) has become the first organization to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System's Supporting Membership Program for Golf Associations. This new program gives superintendents the opportunity to financially support the education and research programs of Audubon International, while encouraging and publicizing their environmental efforts.

"When it comes to golf courses and the environment, there is probably no link as important as the golf course superintendent," said John Risler, NGCSA spokesperson and superintendent at Pinebrook Golf Club in New York

Northeast GCSA 1st group to join Audubon membership program

state. "By becoming a supporting member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, we can only further connect the two in a positive way."

Added Jean Mackay, director of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System: "The involvement

of the Northeast chapter and other golf associations is so valuable — not only because it will directly benefit our programs, but because it is a positive way to show people that superintendents are environmental stewards."

Risler and his colleagues pro-

posed the greater role for golf associations within the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System last summer. In cooperation with Audubon staff, they designed the Supporting Membership Program for Golf Associations to support Audubon's mission and help superintendents practice and communicate good environmental stewardship.

To join the Supporting Membership Program, a golf association makes a financial contribution based on its number of Class A & B members. Funds raised through the program go directly to expand and improve Audubon's research, education, and member services such as site visits, workshops, Internet and web-site communication, and new publications.

Yet finances aren't the only focus of the Supporting Member Program for Golf Associations. The golf association can work to achieve several Levels of Accomplishment by getting members actively involved in Audubon's Golf School and Backyard programs. "By reaching each Level of Accomplishment, the superintendent's association achieves greater public awareness of its commitment to the environment," said Mackay.

"Becoming a supporting member is a win-win situation," Risler said. "Audubon continues to receive much-needed financial support, the golf industry receives many benefits, and the environment continues to thrive because of stewards like us."

Information on the program is available from Audubon International at 518-767-9051.

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CIRCLE #165

Don't eat my dust

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it would have come out better."

Erosion-control mulch from BFI Organics also came in handy in certain spots around Sugarloaf, Michaud said. The product is mostly bark, but contains some aggregates. Since the bark pieces are elongated and fibery, they lay over each other like shingles on a roof, and when it rains the water runs right over it.

"The only problem," he said, "is that metal-spiked shoes sometimes pick up the bark and it gets carried onto the turf. In areas where there is no turf nearby it works well. It has the feel of a garden or woodland path. It's a nice aesthetic effect for up here."

Finally, Michaud said, mixing concrete with stone dust, soaking it down and rolling it in "doesn't work as well as these other products. But I may continue it on hills for erosion and dust control, upping the ratio, because it is quite a bit cheaper."