

**S**UNRIVER, Ore. — The Little Deschutes River has undergone a restoration program at Crosswater Golf Course to stabilize its banks and create fish habitats and spawning areas. Crosswater's interest is to protect nature's valuable assets, while at the same time, enhance their natural habitats.

Working closely with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Inter-Fluve, a fisheries, hydrology and resource management enhancement company, Crosswater superintendent Jim Ramey oversaw the restoration.

"We are very serious about the respect-

ful treatment of the rivers for which Crosswater is named," said Ramey. "This program is good for the river and we are exercising the utmost care and caution during this restoration process."

Following a thorough evaluation of the Little Deschutes River banks, flow patterns and erosion levels, different treatments were designed for seven sections of the river based on need. Restoration involved the banks or the creation of habitat areas for wildlife.

Banks were stabilized by adding rock at the toe, reconstructing the slope, laying a biodegradable fabric and then sod. The organic, geotextile fabric holds the vegetation in place until roots are re-established and protects vegetation from river flow fluctuations. Willow stakes now anchor the fabric layer in place until mature willows and native plant roots provide permanent soil stabilization.

Two types of habitat restoration were also employed at designated parts of the

river. Riffles, using various sized rocks, were created where solid clay soil beds existed, thereby establishing protected spawning areas for fish. Along other sections of the Little Deschutes, trees with large trunks were placed at angles across the flow to create fish habitat and feeding environments within their branches. This process will not block the natural river flow.

Arlyn Davis Construction Co. of Lake Oswego did the restoration work, with oversight from Ramey and Ted Wise of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers.

## Crosswater GC restores river

## La Cantera GC Texas' 3rd course to be certified

SAN ANTONIO — La Cantera Golf Club has become the third golf course in Texas — and the 123rd in the world — to earn designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS).

The golf club in 1994 joined the ACSS, the educational division of Audubon International which provides golf courses with information and guidance that help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

Bill Bedford, La Cantera's director of agronomy and golf course superintendent, said the certification had long been a goal for the club, which he described as "a great environment for wildlife and golfers to coexist."

Cindy Bradley, environmental educator for ACSS, said, "La Cantera Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property."

La Cantera's efforts are rewarded with the presence of a variety of native animals including black squirrel, coyote, white tail deer, dove, quail, chaparral (roadrunners), hummingbirds and a flock of "about 30 turkeys with chicks," Bedford said.

To keep the environment friendly for wildlife, La Cantera uses organic fertilizers whenever possible. In addition, the La Cantera agronomy staff grows microbes that feed on fungi in order to eliminate fungicide use.

As part of its water conservation program, La Cantera uses a computerized irrigation system with an on-site weather station. The equipment allows the staff to calculate the plants' evapotranspiration rate, so they know exactly how much moisture needs to be replenished.

Still another component in La Cantera's water-efficiency program is use of xeriscape plants like verbena, lantana, butterfly bush, salvia and coreopsis, which are attractive to birds and butterflies and less demanding of water resources.

In certain areas, Bedford said, his staff planted maize for turkeys and deer. Bird houses made for native bluebirds by students at Corbett Junior High School in Schertz also are placed in strategic locations.

Bedford, who is developing plans to work with educators on creating butterfly gar-

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## Policy-making a politician maneuver

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brief look at who really makes policies and how they affect us. Although in this space we can't examine the detailed process of forming governmental policy, we can identify the basic ingredients and major actors in the policy-forming process.

Basically, policies are formed by people for people. There is really no such thing as "environmental policy." There is only "people policy."

The effect of any specific environmental policy is important mainly because of its effect on people. Policy decisions are rarely neutral. Usually somebody gains and somebody loses. In some cases everyone might gain, or everyone might lose as the result of a particular policy decision.

"Politics" is the process of forming governmental policy. All the activities we commonly associate with the term "politics" are carried on with the prime goal of influencing governmental policy. Campaigns and elections, for example, are mainly preliminaries to pick the players for the "policy game." "Governmental policy" is an enforceable decision or set of decisions that determines who gets what, when and how, and who pays for it.

The "what" is not restricted to material things, like a new sewage treatment plant, but may include concepts like freedom or justice or a "healthy" environment.

"Who" may be a single person, group, state, section of the country, or "the general public."

Most policy proposals are created for the "good of the public," or to "protect the public interest." But such proposals will ordinarily benefit one or a few groups more than the rest, and it will be these groups who are most active in supporting the proposal. These groups will sometimes attempt to concentrate public attention on the benefits and tend to ignore the overall "costs."

In society, forming policy is an on-going process in which no decision is truly final. However, the impact of environmental policy decisions may be greater than policy decisions in other areas. In some cases, the cost of reversing or changing a decision may be unacceptably high. We are not likely to destroy a multimillion-dollar project because of negative environmental repercussions identified after the construction.

And, in fact, some environmental policy decisions may be ecologically irreversible. We cannot take back the DDT that

has been deposited in the oceans. We cannot bring back a species that has become extinct.

In the United States, we solve most problems and resolve most conflicts without any action from the government. It is only when such resolutions become unsatisfactory to a politically aware and effective public that they become a matter of government agenda. Believe me, the public is carefully watching the golf industry.

Golfers, superintendents, course architects, developers, and anyone else who believes that properly sited, appropriately designed and environmentally managed golf courses represent a form of sustainable development must become involved in environmental stewardship to demonstrate their commitment. The future of the game of golf and the environment depends on setting high environmental standards for golf courses.

Ultimately, the public, through its governmental voice, may have a substantial impact on forming environmental policies for golf courses. On the other hand, forming policies for golf courses — setting standards for designing, building and maintaining them — can effectively be set by those who love the game of golf, but only if they take the initiative to establish and into action policies that are beneficial to both golf and the environment.

## Aspetuck certified

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long-range projects are enhancing the environment as well as the wildlife in the area."

"Aspetuck Valley Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program," said Joellen Zeh, ACSS staff ecologist. "To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas."

Aspetuck Valley fulfilled requirements in environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, integrated pest management, water conservation and water-quality management.

## La Cantera certified

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dens at area elementary schools, said the golf club's education and outreach program gives him and his assistants an opportunity to spend time with children of all ages. He wants them to see both kinds of "birdies" on the golf course — both the kind that signal a great shot and the ones that rely on the land for their very existence.

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