



After a successful start, let's continue our cooperation

By CAROL BROWNER

Enjoyment of outdoor experiences is one of the primary reasons so many Americans place high priority on protecting the environment. For more than 14 million Americans, golf provides this kind of enjoyment — and a solid connection to preserving and enhancing environmental quality.



Carol Browner

What else would one expect from an activity whose goal is literally, "The Green"?

For that reason, it is important for us to remember that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the golfing community share the goal of a beautiful and healthy outdoors.

This message of cooperation and understanding is one that I conveyed three years ago, when I first wrote in *Golf Course News*. Since that time, I am proud to say that, working together, we have made a great deal of progress on our joint mission to build stronger ties, and to make them work for the benefit of both golfers and the public at large.

Let me recap some of our proudest joint accomplishments:

- The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) signed on as a full partner to the EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP), while the U.S. Golf Association has become a supporting partner. GCSAA has developed a pesticide safety training course for members under a grant from PESP.

- With GCSAA's support, EPA has launched a program of fast-track registration of reduced-risk pesticides. This program is already paying off for all parties by reducing environmental risks and product development costs for registrants and making new pesticides available for users.

- Three years ago, EPA joined with environmental and golfing organizations to convene the first-ever Golf Environment Summit Conference, which was held at Pebble Beach. This commitment continued through to the following year, when a second conference was held at Pinehurst. Those conferences produced an excellent

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Carol Browner is administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Photo courtesy of Audubon International

Wildlife Links begins to bear fruit

By JOHN TORSIELLO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The firstfruits of the 3-year-old Wildlife Links program are expected this year, according to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which has undertaken the program for the United States Golf Association (USGA).

Established to fund research, management and education projects to provide information on wildlife management issues on and around golf courses,

Wildlife Links is funding several ongoing studies, including preparation of manuals on bird conservation and wetlands management for golf courses, both of which are due out this year.

Meanwhile, progress is reported on a study on amphibian conservation on golf courses; restoration of pollinator habitat on and around golf courses; and a managed lands database project.

"We were funded \$100,000 by the
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On being a conservator

By RON DODSON

The word "conservation" has a thrifty meaning. To conserve is to save and to protect, to leave what we ourselves enjoy in such good condition that others may also share the enjoyment. It is an expression of good manners to nature and to our fellow citizens, including those generations that have not yet been born. Why shouldn't that politeness extend beyond our own parents and offspring to our great-great grandchildren?

Only a little more than 300 years ago, the whole North American continent had been little altered by human activities. It was a temperate-zone Garden of Eden, the last of the sort that existed on earth. In the forested parts of what is now the United States, trees not only covered the ground, but they also grew to their greatest size and then continued to live until storms or lightning overthrew them, or until they died of old age. Other areas of the continent were carpeted with long prairie grasses, which served, like the forest and its undergrowth, to bind the soil and thus prevent it from being washed away by rainfall
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Turfgrass info goes on-line

Latest NTEP study findings on site

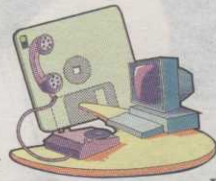
By MARK LESLIE

BELTSVILLE, Md. — No longer will golf course superintendents need to wait month on end to see progress reports on turfgrass tests from the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP).

NTEP is on-line, with its own home page: www.ntep.org/ntep OR hort.unl.edu/ntep.

"It makes sense that we allow people easy access to the information we have," said NTEP National Director Kevin Morris from his office here. "We can post updates, corrections, etc. much quicker than in print. It is a way to circulate information accurately and quickly."

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Michigan State's TIC full of data

The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) at Michigan State University has announced the global debut of the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database online through the World Wide Web. The continuing 10 year project to provide access to turfgrass research online is now fully available through almost any computer and features easy search capability and convenient access. Over 40,000 items are searchable using more than 300,000 keywords.

For full details about TIC and TGIF, Turfgrass Information Center homepage on the Web is at: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/tgif>.

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Taking advantage of GIS & GPS

By KEVIN P. CORBLEY

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — What good is a computerized map of a golf course, anyway?

"Ninety-five percent of golf course maps are no good at all because they're paper and they're out of date," said Larry Rodgers, president of Larry Rodgers Design here.

Computerized digital maps, on the other hand, are accurate, easy to update and gaining wider acceptance every day among golf course superintendents.

People are finding new uses for them in maintenance, construction and daily operations at courses around the country.

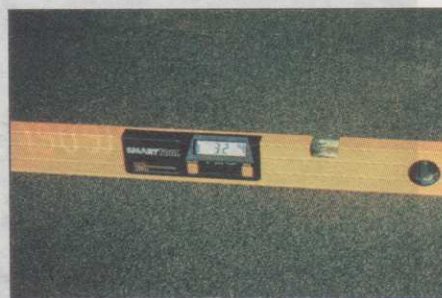
Digital maps would have found their way into course superinten-
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Gadgets can make jobs more efficient

By MARK LESLIE

EDWARDS, Colo. — Some of the most effective tools for golf course superintendents are found, not at the turf equipment supplier's, but at your friendly neighborhood electronics and hardware stores.

Kevin Ross, the Country Club (CC) of the Rockies superintendent who has gained a reputation for innovations that solve problems on the golf course, told a Public Golf Forum audience they can save time — and anxiety — with a few purchases from this unlikely source. Among



Kevin Ross photo

The Smart Level at work.

the items, he numbered:

- The Smart Tool, which measures slope.
- The Pocket Secretary voice organizer.

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"principles document" that is a major part of the foundation for our common effort.

• Across the nation, many high-quality golf courses have been (and are being) developed on reclaimed Superfund, Brownfields and sanitary landfill sites — areas that had been holding their surrounding neighborhoods back. These projects have become beacons of hope for many other communities now looking to transform their own troubled sites into magnets for jobs, prosperity and reaction.

These various accomplishments have a common theme — that environmental protection and economic progress go hand-in-hand. And no one knows that better than the superintendents of those golf courses that have adopted environmentally progressive techniques such as integrated pest management, state-of-the-art water conservation, wetlands creation and restoration, species habitat programs and native plant landscaping. These courses are reaping cost savings in pesticides and irrigation, and becoming more attractive to players and avoiding expensive battles with neighbors and government agencies.

While we have every right to be proud of these and other achievements, our job is not done.

For example, with regard to water quality, there are some issues of special interest to golf course owners and operators.

Ground-water contamination, much of it caused by the leaching of chemicals from surface to aquifer, is a double-edged sword for golf courses. On one hand, the pesticides used on a course can leach into aquifers and, in turn, travel for miles and cause contamination in nearby communities. In addition, because many golf courses depend on underground water supplies to meet at least some of their irrigation and drinking-water needs, the contamination of these supplies could add tremendously to the cost of operations as they become more dependent on municipal water.

With some aquifers already in grave condition, let us intensify our efforts to advance pollution-prevention strategies that will reduce pesticide use and protect water supplies.

A second important issue is wetland protection. *Golf Course News* readers are well aware of this issue, and finding a resolution satisfactory to all parties will challenge us greatly. But we must do everything we can to find common ground and take necessary steps to protect wetlands, which serve as a natural buffer and filter for runoff pollutants from courses and other resources, and which are so critical to ensuring a safe, healthy environment.

Thanks to the surging popularity of golf among young people — intensified even further in the last year by Tiger Woods — members of the golfing community have an enormous opportunity to use this sport as a tool to reach out to youngsters and help build a better future for the country. And many in golf are stepping up and contributing in a big way. In addition to programs aimed at getting more young people to take up golf, some courses are offering themselves for use as outdoor class-

rooms for nature study — and are working with schools, garden clubs and community groups to help young and old alike learn about the hundreds of species of flora and fauna that constitute a golf course's ecosystem.

I am certain this link between golf and community education is going to pay huge dividends in the future, and I commend all of the course operators and superintendents who have undertaken these types of initiatives. They are making a real difference.

At the same time, there is even more that must be done in the educational arena. The demand by many golfers for a stereotype course of manicured lawns from tee to green underlies some excessive use of pesticides and irrigation. Educating them about consequences and options is a monumental challenge, to be sure. But addressing that challenge will go a long way toward resolving the difficult issues courses will otherwise face in the years ahead.

I urge course and club manag-

ers to give special attention to this issue, and I welcome your suggestions on how EPA can assist you in this effort. As always, we stand ready to work with you toward finding creative solutions.

As recent history demonstrates, we can accomplish more through cooperation and understanding than through confrontation. Let us build on that foundation and continue to work together toward enhancing both the game of golf and the quality of the environment.

SOME OF YOU NEED A DIVERSE LINE OF SUPERIOR HOMOGENEOUS FERTILIZERS WITH HYDROLYSIS-ACTIVATED ISOBUTYLIDENE DIUREA.

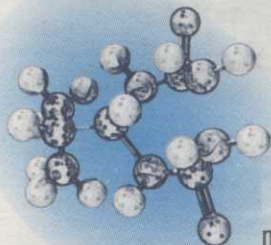


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