



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.

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

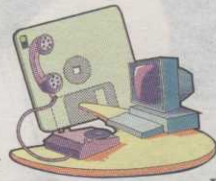
By MARK LESLIE

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.

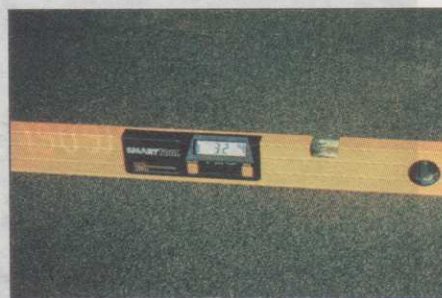
Digital maps would have found their way into course superinten-
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Gadgets can make jobs more efficient

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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Wildlife Links program's firstfruits coming

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USGA each of the first two years of the program and we moved up to \$200,000 for 1998. I guess Tiger Woods has helped us out," foundation spokesman Katie Distler said with a chuckle.

The non-profit foundation, devoted to the conservation of natural resources, has recommended that a study on the impact of pesticides and nutrients on ponds, streams and lakes associated with golf courses be funded in 1998. It will also recommend two additional projects this year, Distler said.

"The USGA has realized that the amount of land they are involved with is significant and that there are environmentally sensitive issues such as the effect pesticide and fertilizers have on runoff water. Wildlife Links goes one step beyond the USGA's Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program. That program is excellent, but Wildlife Links is designed to supply specific information to be used at the ground level by management at existing courses and at those that will be built in order to protect the environment."

"For years," Distler said, "there wasn't much interaction between golf course managers and the environmental community — until this. These studies will answer questions that people have been grumbling about for years."

For instance, she observed, the study on amphibian conservation on golf courses has involved construction of six experimental wetlands, 70 to 120 yards into the rough along the 15th fairway of a course under construction in the Baltimore, Md., area. Researchers will study the effect golf course chemicals have on tadpoles and frogs in the ponds. Frogs, because of their permeable skin, are especially susceptible to even the slightest environmental disturbance.

It is believed the study will lead to new pond design and knowledge about the overall effect of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides on the golf course environment.

Distler said a wetlands management manual, to be published this year, will not only be useful for golf course superintendents but for other land-use managers as well.

Dr. Kimberly Erusha, director of education for the USGA, said the Wildlife Links program is "an extension of our efforts to reach out to other groups and our long-standing commitment to the environment."

"There are obvious concerns with pesticide and other chemical applications on golf courses and we need to study how those things affect wildlife," she said. "I think everyone will be able to

benefit from the findings of these studies."

Under the Wildlife Links program an advisory panel of experts representing federal and state agencies, conservation organizations and universities defines research priorities, reviews proposals from researchers and monitors and evaluates approved projects. Projects tabbed for priority are

those that will determine how golf courses can be maintained as "biologically productive sites," and those that will produce recommendations regarding wildlife issues that can be incorporated into long-term management strategies and golfer education.

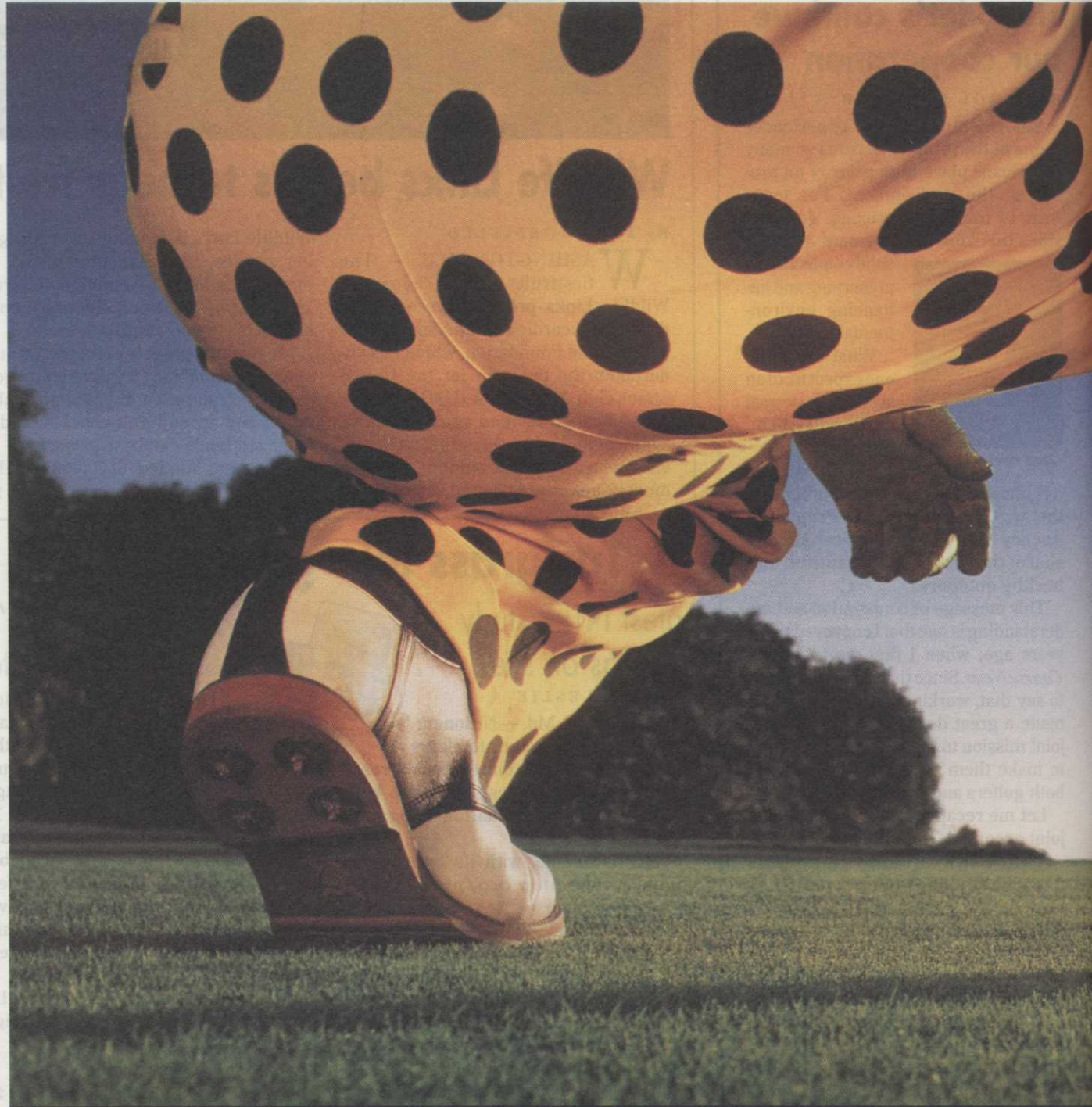
The USGA makes the final decision on what programs will receive funding. Dr. Peter

Stangel, director of the neotropical migratory bird and conservation initiative for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, chairs the panel.

"We are truly excited," said Distler of the foundation's partnership with golf. "The USGA is totally committed to Wildlife Links and we feel like we are going to be able to get the very best programs out there because of that commitment."

For years, there wasn't much interaction between golf course managers and the environmental community — until this. These studies will answer questions that people have been grumbling about for years.'

— Katie Distler
Nat'l Fish & Wildlife
Foundation



We never said you wouldn't see unattractive spots on your course. They just won't be dollar spots.

NTEP on the Net

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The mainstay of the web site will be current progress reports, containing each of the many tables on bentgrass, ryegrass, bluegrass, fescues, zoysiagrass, St. Augustine grass and the other turfs being tested around the country by NTEP.

"Also, we wanted a place for people to get other information

about us — our mission and what we're doing — and a way to correspond with us easily, to offer suggestions and constructive criticism, and other items of interest," Morris said.

NTEP's newsletter will also be posted on the site, along with a links section to connect readers to related web pages. "We're still building the links section," Morris said. "It includes a directory of seed companies and the

grasses they sponsor. That has developed from the turfgrass variety list we have published for years. It allows you to pick a species and see all the varieties available in it and the companies that sponsor those varieties.

"We're looking for ideas on how we can make it more useful, and hope for input from readers. We're considering a database."

TGIF data on-line

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Initially a cooperative project of the USGA Turfgrass Research Program and the Michigan State University Libraries, TGIF was intended to provide online access to all published materials reporting on aspects of turfgrass and its maintenance. TGIF has grown steadily in size and accessibility, beginning with dial-up

modem access in 1988 and Internet (Telnet) access in 1993. TGIF content is based primarily on the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection at the Michigan State University Libraries. Online content and services will be added steadily to the website.

Some sections will be "public," while others, including full access to TGIF itself, will be available to subscribers only.

Conservators

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and streams to be lost in the oceans. The running waters were kept under control by this cover of vegetation and by the spongy humus in the ground, so that droughts and floods affected them much less than they do today. And clear, instead of muddy, water furnished the suitable home for huge numbers of trout and other fresh water animals.

The extraordinary richness of the North American plant life in field, woodland, and river valley was unequalled in any other temperate part of the world and the abundance of animal life matched that of the vegetation. The accounts of all the earlier discoverers and travelers are filled with wonder at the richness of food resources in the oceans, the hoards of wild fowl, fur-bearers, deer and many other kinds of beautiful and useful animals that flourished everywhere in this New World.

As stewards of our much altered landscape, each of us carries a responsibility. Human beings are part of our living environment, and play a consumptive role. In order to sustain ourselves economically and environmentally as the population grows and our natural resources dwindle, a "conservation ethic" must be renewed. Not an "anti-everything ethic," but a realization that the very systems that we are polluting and using up are the systems we depend upon for our lives.

Some people would lead you to believe it is impossible to have jobs and a clean environment — that human actions are inherently bad for the environment and that all of our actions create a negative impact on the environment. But that simply allows us to duck the responsibility for our own actions. We can do our jobs — on the course, at home, at schools, and in and around office buildings.

The simplest activities can reduce our own environmental impact. All you have to remember is the word "conservation" — to not be wasteful and to be aware of how each of our daily activities impacts the world around us and the people around us. And to be aware that what we do in our life is more important than we sometimes think, not only those closest to us, but as a legacy to those yet to come.



Just a reminder that BAYLETON® Fungicide is still the most proven dollar spot control and tank-mix partner around. Because the last thing your course should do is clash with golfers. For more information, contact Bayer Corporation, Garden & Professional Care, Box 4913, Kansas City, MO 64120. (800) 842-8020. <http://usagri.bayer.com>

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