



## 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

Continued on page 37

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  
Continued on page 20

## 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

Continued on page 21

## Turfgrass info goes on-line

### Latest NTEP study findings on site

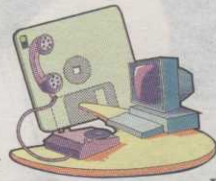
By MARK LESLIE

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](http://www.ntep.org/ntep) OR [hort.unl.edu/ntep](http://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."

Continued on page 21



### 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>.

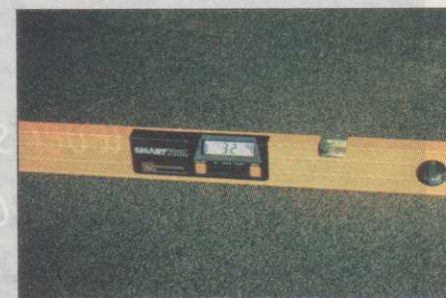
Continued on page 21

## 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.

Continued on page 28



## 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-

Continued on page 26



## Wildlife Links program's firstfruits coming

Continued from page 19

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.

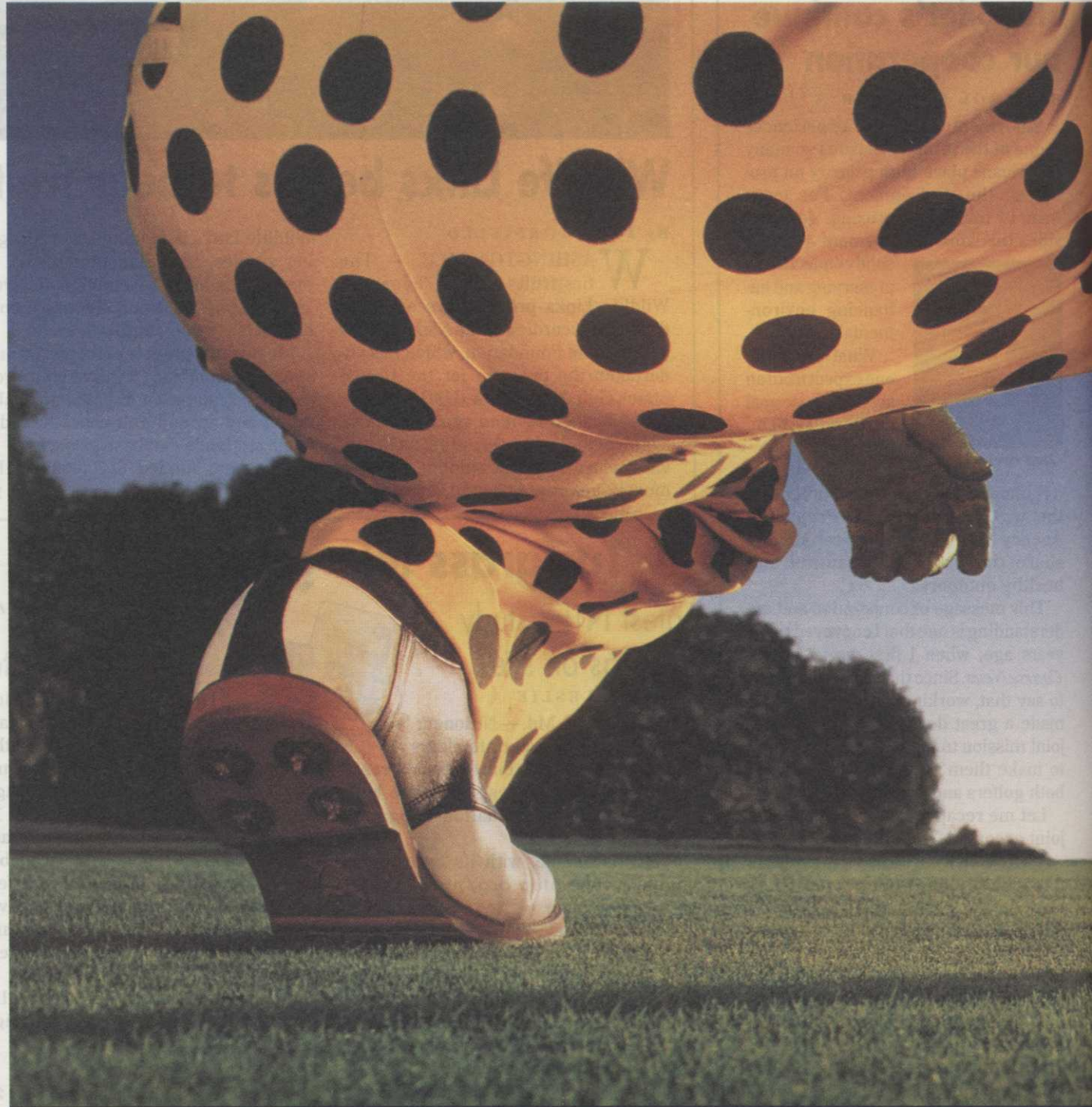
The USGA makes the final decision on what programs will receive funding. Dr. Peter

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.*