

ASGCA donates to three groups

CHICAGO — As part of its second annual President's Grant Program, the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) Foundation has presented grants to the Indiana Golf Foundation (IGF), Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Tufts Archives in Pinehurst, N.C., houses many valuable drawings and

works from famed architect and ASGCA founding member Donald Ross and others.

ASGCA Immediate Past President Alice Dye said the donations represent individual contributions of society members.

IGF will use its grant to help launch its new golf camp for at-risk children.

The GCSAA grant was for its new "Investing in the Beauty of Golf Campaign," a \$5-million effort to support superintendent education.



In response to our feature story in May on estate golf courses, course architect Mark Mungeam of Cornish, Silva & Mungeam sent us photos of this course built in the 1920s in Pinehurst, N.C. Called Palmer Woods, it was designed by John R. Bowker for W.A. Fisher.

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Morrish's River Valley Ranch opens

CARBONDALE, Calif. — Set in the midst of a rich ranching history, River Valley Ranch Golf Club opened for play in June as Roaring Fork Valley's newest 18-hole public course.

The club is a partnership between Crown Golf Properties of Chicago and Houston-based

Hines, who hired Jay Morrish to design the layout.

Stretching from 5,294 to 7,311 yards, the course was built along the banks of Crystal River, with four holes playing over scenic rapids and with view of 12,953-foot Mt. Sopris. Pinion pines and sagebrush add their unique spice

to the setting.

To prevent contaminants from entering Crystal River, Morrish designed the course with dry wells, large retention areas and activated charcoal green filters. Basins and traps catch water that may contain sediments from erosion before it flows into the river.

Audubon projects key future development

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enna College, is taking a one-year sabbatical, starting Aug. 1, and will work on two key projects setting the stage for the Audubon Golf Courses:

- A nationwide survey of government agencies, not-for-profit environmental organizations, golf entities and others to "give people a chance to tell us what the environmental issues are in various parts of the country," Dodson said.

- A book on "rapid environmental assessment" of property for development.

The problem in developing Audubon courses "is not in finding land," Dodson said. "Our problem is that people say they want to give us land, then they say, 'We want to build housing around it, too.' And then we have to worry about buffer zones and whether the project will work and those sorts of questions."

The survey, he said, will help identify properties best suited to the Audubon projects.

"We will take a GPS [Global Positioning Satellite] approach to environmental priority-setting," Dodson said, adding that the survey will determine what the issues are in various parts of

the country. With that information in hand, AI will be able to identify what relative research exists, and what needs to be studied.

"If we have a lot of data, we already have the answer," Dodson said. "But if we don't, we can state the top five or six environmental issues in each of the five or six regions of the country in terms of population growth. Those issues will be our priorities."

Audubon will then look for properties in each region which can be built on and study the specified issues.

"Some people say when you build a course in a forested area, you fragment the habitat, and when you fragment the habitat you displace forest birds, and cowbirds come in and parasitize their nests, etc.," Dodson said. "We actually found more cowbird parasitism at a state park than at Prairie Dunes Country Club [in Hutchinson, Kan.], so we have no data to prove that concern. That information in hand, how would you do research on that project?"

"We want to take a piece of property that is forested, build a golf course in the forest and find

out what the forest is like now and what it is like later," he added. "That will get some people upset with us. But we say, first, grassland birds are in worse shape than forest birds; and, second, we don't have any data to prove what you just claimed. The only way to prove that is to do it."

Meanwhile, Woolbright already has enough information to write a book on how to do a rapid environmental assessment of a property.

It will inform developers how to look at a piece of land based on slope, soil type, features, etc. and rank it on a scale of 1 to 10 according to its environmental sensitivity and cost of construction.

"Those two projects together will govern where we go with these Golf and the Environment Research Facilities," Dodson said.

AI hopes to have the rapid environmental assessment handbook available to the public by the end of Woolbright's sabbatical in 1999. The set of regional environmental issues should be ready before then, Dodson said.

"If we find a property we think is an environmental home run and we can set it up for research, we probably will proceed even while we're doing our survey," he added.