

Agency seeks to reduce geese population

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing the creation of new regulations that expand the hunting of Canada geese in hopes of reducing the current resident population of 3.5 million by 1.2 million.

According to the Wildlife Service the geese, which used to

migrate to the Canadian arctic in the summer, are now living year-round in temperate parts of the country and are causing personal and public property damage. The geese can denude grassy areas including parks and golf courses and have become a safety threat at airports. Excessive goose droppings are also a

health concern.

As a result, the agency wants to allow states to undertake approved population control strategies, such as nest and egg destruction, trapping and culling programs and expanded hunting opportunities.

"The service believes that the problems caused by resident

Canada geese can be best addressed at the state level," said agency director Steve Williams. "To that end, we are committed to providing state wildlife management agencies with as much flexibility as possible to address the issue."

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Geese round-ups could make a comeback.

Scholarship accepting applications

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The Grand Tour Scholarship, which offers golf course design and turfgrass management



students the opportunity to visit leading U.S. golf courses, is accepting applications.

Golf architect Bettina Schrickel, president of Lioness Golf LLC, is again organizing the program, sponsored by the Toro Co.

The scholarship allows four students to visit courses on the East and West Coasts in August. The Western Route leads to 22 golf courses in three weeks, and the Eastern Route includes 25 courses over four weeks. Among the courses to be visited are: Augusta National, TPC at Sawgrass, Cypress Point Golf Club and Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Students from all over the world are invited to apply. Last year's participants came from England, Germany and the United States. The scholarship covers costs for airplane tickets, rental cars, fuel and hotel accommodations for the duration of the journeys. Deadline for application is May 15. E-mail lionessgolf@aol.com for more information. ■

USGA program awards grants

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The United States Golf Association (USGA) awarded a little less than \$2 million in grants at its first Foundation Grants Committee annual meeting as part of its "For the Good of the Game" program.

A total of 62 grants were awarded to programs in 27 states, totaling \$1,809,925, raising the total that the program has awarded since 1997 to \$27 million. The foundation's goal is to make golf more affordable and accessible to people with economic or physical challenges. ■



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