

Endangered Species Program Discussed

Golf courses in urban and suburban areas provide much-needed sanctuaries for wildlife, including several endangered species.

To enhance this special role in providing wildlife habitats, senior golf industry officials and government representatives met recently to discuss how golf can support efforts to implement an endangered species program.

The forum, held in Arlington, Va., brought leaders from golf's professional associations into a discussion with regulatory and congressional officials on subjects ranging from pesticide use to wetlands management. The forum was sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Larry Turner, Ph.D., project manager for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Endangered Species Program, outlined the final draft of the agency's long-delayed program. The new program will rely on county bulletins that feature maps showing areas where an endangered species is present and outline restrictions on chemical use in and around those areas.

Chemical labels will instruct applicators to consult the county bulletins and to abide by their restrictions. The bulletins, which will be available through county extension services, regional EPA offices and associations like GCSAA, were developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 1988, the United States began to develop and implement an endangered species protection program with a goal of managing federally registered pesticides in a way that would avoid harming these species. In 1989, the EPA submitted a proposal to carry out the Endangered Species Act. The program has been implemented on an interim, voluntary basis since 1988.

GCSAA Director Charles T. Passios, CGCS, said, "We've heard about this regulation for some time and are very interested in its goals. We (superintendents) need to stay alert and look for information about the new listings of species that may occur in a local area

while continuing our current participation in preservation and protection."

A number of states already have begun "state-initiated plans" to localize the endangered species regulatory process. According to Turner, these states include Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, **Minnesota**, New Mexico, North Dakota, and South Carolina.

He said that although EPA cannot turn over complete authority to the states, the agency has given them the leeway to enter into "landowner agreements" with sites like golf courses. These negotiated agreements allow the landowner to work

Pesticide Application, Storage Are Key Elements Aired at Environmental Forum

The requirements for the application and storage of pesticides will be more stringent in the near future.

That's the message that came back from a recent environmental forum hosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Arty Williams, chief of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Field Operations Division, said the requirements for people who apply restricted-use pesticides (RUPS)—especially certified applicators—will be getting tougher.

The proposed recommendations are based on a 1985 task report on the certification and training of RUP applicators. These recommendations reflect the need to address several areas of concern including groundwater protection, worker protection, endangered species protection, chronic toxicity of RUPs and waste and container disposal.

The federal law that covers pesticide application is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). FIFRA's Section 3 requires that any pesticide classified by the EPA for restricted use "shall be applied only by or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator."

Section 4 gives each state an opportunity to implement its own pesticide applicator program. Virtually every state has its own version of this program.

The new rules will require certified ap-

out an ongoing management plan that would not require contacting the extension service before each chemical application. The agreements might also allow special exceptions to the restrictions in some situations.

Turner also noted that in states without initiated plans, the EPA may help landowners to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service to reach similar types of agreements.

He said that although implementation of the act has been slow and that the EPA still has "a lot of ground to make up," the act should be fully in force by 1993.

applicators to keep records of site-specific training, as well as to show competency of non-certified applicators who are applying RUPs. In addition, recertification will be required at least every five years for all certified applicators. Some states already have regulations similar to these. Williams said the final rule should be "on the streets" in 1992.

GCSAA Director Randall P. Zidik, CGCS, said, "A recent survey has shown that over 95 percent of all golf course superintendents have at least one certified applicator on staff. Many courses have more than one. Although these new requirements will be tougher, they shouldn't place more of a demand on the superintendent because many of them already have these record-keeping elements in place."

Dennis Howard of EPA's Environmental Effects and Fate Division next addressed the forum on pesticide storage. Regulations concerning pesticide storage and mixing/loading are still under development, Howard said, and are not expected to be effective until 1993 and 1994, respectively.

The storage requirements are not expected to affect the majority of golf course superintendents because they would apply only to facilities that store 11,000 pounds or more of pesticide product.

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Course Superintendents Are the 'Bottom-Line, Hands-On Managers'

They Make the Decisions on Golf Course Management,
What Products Are Used in That Management

An in-depth look at the environmental and regulatory aspects of designing and operating golf courses brought senior golf industry officials and government representatives face to face in a forum sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Leaders from golf's professional associations heard presentations from regulatory and congressional officials on subjects ranging from pesticide use to wetlands management. The day-long forum, "Golf Course Management, Government Regulations and the Future," was held in Arlington, Va., in late June.

Representatives from the United States Golf Association, PGA of America, PGA Tour, American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders Association, National Golf Course Owners Association, National Golf Foundation, Club Managers Association of America and the National Club Association were among those in attendance.

In opening remarks, GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, explained why the association felt it was important to take the lead in addressing environmental concerns.

"The superintendent, after all, is the bottom-line, hands-on manager," Cadenelli said. "We make the decisions on how the golf course is managed and what products are used in that management. It is GCSAA's role to serve as a source for the latest informa-

tion through its publications, educational opportunities and forums like we are having today."

Eight key regulatory officials briefed forum attendees on current proposed rules affecting golf. Lewis Crampton, associate administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), urged the golf industry to continue its environmental efforts and to be environmentally conscious.

"Golf courses have to be environmentally friendly places if the industry wants to continue to grow," he said. "Golf, however, is doing a number of positive things in the environmental area," Crampton continued. "Those include pesticide reduction, better environmentally designed courses and underground storage tank replacement. We would like to make this a win-win situation, but the golf industry must continue to respond."

Crampton lauded GCSAA and the EPA for the cooperative public service announcement entitled "Think Before You Apply," which was produced to educate homeowners on the proper use of home lawn-care chemicals.

Also addressing the forum was Congressman Jimmy Hayes (D-La.). Hayes is the sponsor of House Resolution 1330, a wetlands bill that would allow use, value and function criteria to determine the classification of wetland sites. The present wetlands policy, according to Hayes, is confusing and may not let landowners know for years whether they are in violation of a wetlands law.

Following the formal presentations, representatives of the allied associations of golf participated in a round-table discussion of the government regulations and the challenges that are facing the game of golf.

November Conference Trade Show Is Rapidly Taking Shape

The 1991 Annual Conference and Trade Show sponsored by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association rapidly is taking shape.

Several outstanding speakers have been lined up for the session to be held November 20-21-22 at the Northland Inn, which proved to be a tremendous site for the conference a year ago.

"Heavy hitters" already on tap for the three-day gathering, according to Chairman Shane Andrews, Hudson Country Club, are:

- **Dr. Paul Rieke**, Michigan State University;
- **Dr. James Watson**, The Toro Company;
- **Bobbie Gee**, highly-respected motivational speaker;
- **Ward Stienstra**, expert on the use of mercury.

Other speakers and presentors will be announced in the October issue of *Hole Notes*, along with the complete program.

Registration forms for the November conference and trade show will be mailed in October.

Dr. Watson will be the keynote speaker following registration on Wednesday (November 20). Bobbie Gee is scheduled to address attendees before the business meeting that afternoon.

Dr. Rieke will speak on both Thursday and Friday, the day when Ward Stienstra will provide updates on the use of mercury.

The Trade Show will be held on Thursday, and times and subjects were in the process of being confirmed when this issue of *Hole Notes* went to press.

Pesticide Application—

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Rinse pads likely will be required in areas where concentrated pesticides are routinely transferred. This regulation would affect golf courses that do most of their mixing in the same location.

"Even though the storage requirements may not affect golf course superintendents, they should provide good standards to those courses who are building or remodeling their pesticide storage facilities," Zidik said.