

Golf Courses and Environmental Images

By **JEFF MARLATT**
Golden Valley Country Club

Golden Valley Country Club has been a member of the Audobon Cooperative Sanctuary System since 1991.

The system is an international program coordinated by the Audobon Society of New York State. Its purpose is to create awareness and involvement in wildlife and environmental conservation activities where people live, work and recreate.

As all of us in the industry know, golf courses across the country have received more than their fair share of criticism for their relationship with the environment. The Cooperative Sanctuary System gives us the opportunity to develop an environmentally positive image.

Here at Golden Valley Country Club, we have a nesting box program in place for bluebirds, wood ducks and purple martins. We are also using wooded areas, creek and pond banks, and railroad right-of-ways to provide natural cover and food sources for many different varieties of birds and mammals. We have been working on an Integrated Pest Management Program and will continue to do so in the future.

This winter we decided to start a winter bird feeding

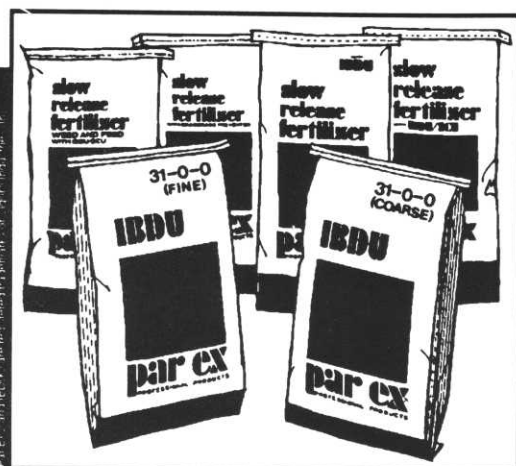
program. We took a rather unique approach to this project which we would like to share with you.

While investigating our options, we discovered that the bird feeders on the market were not only too small for what we had in mind, but they were quite expensive. We decided to design and build the feeders ourselves. After an afternoon at the drawing table and a trip to the lumber and steel yards, we were ready to get started.

The end result was a two-sided, cedar bird feeder which holds 30-35 pounds of sunflower seeds. The feeder mounts onto a 5-foot-high steel post, which in turn bolts onto a permanent cement footing in the ground. The feeder is easily filled, very durable, attractive and will provide a constant source of food for many winters to come for our fine feathered friends. Total cost of materials for one feeder is about \$65.00 which is very reasonable.

Anyone interested in getting more information about the bird feeder or the Audobon Cooperative Sanctuary Program can contact Mike Olson or Jeff Marlatt at the Golden Valley Country Club Grounds Department.

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