

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools

About the Program

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools (ACSP for Schools) is designed to help schools enhance their grounds to attract wildlife, conserve resources and provide environmental education and stewardship opportunities for students. Schools join the program through a \$100 annual membership fee. This fee helps to offset costs of program administration and materials by the Audubon Society of New York State. The program offers flexible opportunities for projects, curriculum, field trips and other types of environmental education that meet the unique need of each school involved.

GCSAA's Involvement

As the program's national sponsor, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) provides substantial funding and services to help promote greater awareness and participation in the program. GCSAA's goal in sponsoring the program is to help ensure its success, create a positive image for the association and to provide opportunities for superintendents to participate. However, although superintendents and chapters will often help to facilitate a school's participation, the program is open to any school that wants to join.

Why Superintendents Should Participate

The program offers excellent opportunities for superintendents, golf facilities and chapters to reach out to area schools and enhance environmental education for students. Benefits of participation include personal satisfaction, closer involvement with their children's education, improved image with the club and community, favorable media coverage and public recognition. Superintendents who are participating in the ACSP for Golf Courses may also use involvement in the School Program as a way to fulfill the "public involvement" criteria for golf course certification.

How You Can Get Involved

The program is designed to allow superintendents, golf facilities and chapters a variety of opportunities to become involved, ranging from simply bringing the program to the attention of local schools to hosting field trips at the course. Ways to get involved include:

Superintendents:

- Adopt a local school. Identify a school, contact the principal and explain the program and pass along information. Offer to pay the school's \$100 membership.
- When the school joins, seek opportunities to help facilitate their participation. These include helping the

school with sanctuary projects, such as bird boxes, nature trails and demonstration gardens; visiting classes to give talks on wildlife management or other environmental topics; hosting field trips by students at your golf course.

- Provide materials, labor and/or funding to sanctuary projects.

Golf Facilities:

- Provide financial support for one or more school memberships.
- Support the superintendent's involvement with the school.
- Promote the program to golfers and the community.
- Donate books, equipment or materials to the school.

Chapters:

- Promote participation in the program to chapter members through meetings and publications.
 - Sponsor memberships for one or more schools in the chapter region.
 - Host a fund-raiser to provide funds for local school participation and/or support the Audubon Stewardship Fund (see below).
 - Organize chapter work days in support of projects at one or more participating schools. Donate labor, equipment and materials.
- Recognize participation by chapter members in meetings and publications.
- Promote involvement through local media and community contacts.

The Audubon Stewardship Fund

Part of GCSAA's support for the program involves establishment of a "Stewardship Fund" within the GCSAA Foundation. The fund will be an endowment that provides ongoing financial support for the ACSP for Schools and for direct grants to schools. Grants will be available for school membership fees, project costs for materials and other environmental curriculum needs. These small grants can make a big difference to teachers with extremely limited budgets for special programs and materials. The Foundation is currently seeking corporate, chapter, facility and individual donations to build the Stewardship Fund. Contact the Foundation at 913/832-4435 to find out more.

Costs

Beyond the \$100 membership fee, there are few direct costs of basic involvement. Additional costs may only result if the superintendent, chapter or golf course wishes to donate support through materials, labor, equipment or supplies.

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Designing a Vehicle/Equipment Washpad

By Scot Ender

Ruffridge-Johnson Equipment Co., Inc.

Water flows downhill, oils float and solids sink. There, now anyone reading this is qualified to design an equipment wash area. Or so it would seem.

All of the above statements are true in most cases. However, throw in some soap, some grass clippings and some high ph chemicals and the usual physical characteristics of water, oils and solids will change.

Constructing a washpad should be more than throwing down a slab of concrete that slopes toward a center trench. Do you know anyone who likes to clean the muck out of a drainage trench or catch basin? Which is easier: Shoveling and scooping out a six-foot deep sump area or emptying an above-ground bag filter or cart? Which will get done on a regular basis by your employees?

What if the washpad were constructed so that the natural physical characteristics of oils, solids and chemicals were encouraged to interact and therefore remove themselves from the water? It can be done and it isn't expensive or difficult. Common sense and GOOD PLANNING are the key ingredients in designing a wash area.

Another important aspect of a good washpad is

what happens to the water after it leaves the pad. If you are building a new maintenance facility your odds of getting a permit to discharge washwater to the surface or to a drainfield are slim at best.

So, if your options are to collect the wastewater in a holding tank or to recycle, then the cleaner your discharge, the cheaper it is going to be to dispose of the water or to recycle it.

Make the maintenance of your wash area a simple task. Trap the solids and clippings in an easily compostable manner. Separate the oils and greases for skimming and disposal with other waste oils. Make it easy to do for general maintenance and to keep the wash area looking like it isn't an environmental liability. Step back and take a look at your wash operation and if it looks bad to you, think of how it looks to the golfers and others that may pass by.

ACSP for Schools—

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How to Get Started

1. The first step is to identify the public or private elementary, middle or high school that you want to adopt.

2. Contact and give a brochure to the principal at the school. Thoroughly explain the program to the principal and get approval before going any further.

3. Fill out the registration form found in the brochure and mail it to The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools, along with the \$100 registration fee and the name of the contact person at the school.

After the registration form is processed you will receive a letter confirming the adoption of the school and thanking you for your participation in the program. All materials will be sent directly to the school. Feel free to keep in touch with the school contact for updates on the school's participation in the program.

To obtain a membership packet or to find out more about how the program works, please contact the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools at 518/767-9051. To learn more about maximizing the value of your participation as an "adopter," please contact the GCSAA Public Affairs Department at 913/832-4490

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

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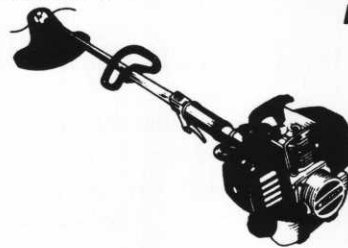
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