



Wildlife and Habitat Signs on Golf Courses

Are you having trouble getting members and golfers to realize the value of wildlife and habitat enhancement? Try a little educational tool called a sign. It's amazing how a few appropriate words can change the opinion of what someone is looking at.

Is the area by No. 12 an eyesore that needs to be mowed, or is it a "Naturalization Project Under way!"? Is the area by No. 2 fairway in need of clearing, or is it a "Critical Nesting Habitat!"?

By letting golfers know about habitat enhancement projects, they will be more supportive of changes and you will be educating them and letting them know your golf course cares about the environment.

Here are several samples of signs on golf courses around the state. If your golf course uses signs and you don't mind sharing, please send a picture or slide, or write it down on a piece of paper and send to: USGA, P.O. Box 1087, Hobe Sound, Florida 33475.

Sign ideas from the Audubon Society of New York State:

◆ "This area is being (has been) naturalized to improve wildlife habitat and environmental quality at XYZ Golf Course. The Grassy Field Habitat that you see is particularly attractive to red-tailed hawks, bluebirds and fox."

◆ "Edge Vegetation is especially valuable for wildlife. Note the variation in height of the trees, shrubs and grasses. This creates excellent opportunities for songbird nesting, feeding and protection."

◆ "As a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, XYZ Golf Course is undertaking naturalization projects

to enhance the environment. Estimated date of completion for this project is June 1995."

◆ "Future Wildflower Meadow: Once meadow flowers are established, we hope you'll enjoy the beauty and variety of native flowers and grasses in this area."

◆ "XYZ Golf Course is committed to providing a high degree of environmental quality while maintaining the playability and challenge of a golf course. (Mowing height of this rough is being raised to promote strong turf growth. This out-of-play area is being maintained in a natural state. Native trees in this area provide excellent wildlife food sources).

◆ "Shorebirds, like herons, egrets, ducks and geese need shoreline vegetation for food and cover. In order to provide habitat for these birds, we will be allowing taller vegetation to grow along this pond margin."

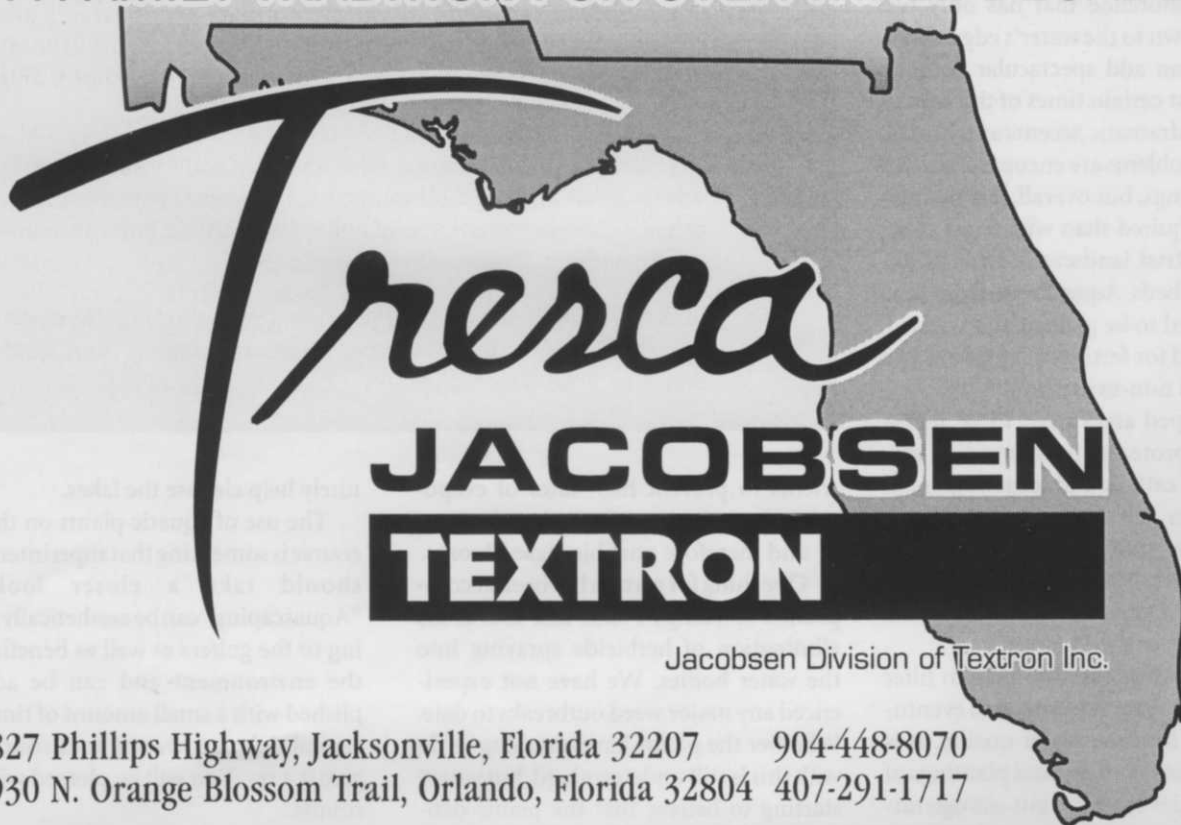
◆ "Lake buffers enhance both water quality and wildlife habitat. Please support our efforts to grow native plants/wildflowers/shrubs."

◆ "Throughout the golf course you will see a variety of bird houses. These have been specially designed to provide nest sites for "cavity nesting" birds including Eastern bluebirds, tree swallows and wrens".

◆ "These boxes help to provide roosting sites for bats. These small, insect-eating mammals are an important part of our integrated pest management program. A single brown bat can consume up to 600 mosquitos in an hour!"



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