Supers aggressive in environmentalism

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Country Club and Sand Creek. Proceeds from Carmel's recycled materials are given to the nearby Carolina Raptor Center that helps injured birds, while Sand Creek's proceeds are donated to schools for environmental projects.

"We've got an aggressive recycling program," Kerfoot said. "We try to recycle everything and put as little as we can in the dumpster. We're learning new ways all the time. We return flower pots to the distributor—a nursery. We've started taking on clubhouse materials as well. They are preparing to do a renovation and we feel they should find out how to recycle before they built. It involves a tremendous volume of things."

Ewoldt sees that grass clippings and compost are given to the golf course community homeowners for flower gardens. Ewoldt and Kerfoot took their message to the masses by hosting environmental symposiums, inviting such activists as the Sierra Club. The events have paid dividends.

"We invited all the local environmental groups to ask them what we should do to make them happy, so we could still develop the land and make money and provide an area for recreation," Ewoldt said. "We had a real amicable meeting... They were awed at what we were doing."

"I spoke at Sierra Club meeting on water quality as it pertains to golf courses," Kerfoot said. "They were really good. I've been up front with them since I first invited them out here. Every problem they could point out, I had already identified and had a plan for."

The educational tide may be turning, they agreed.

"I felt it was important the way the industry is going, the pressure put on us, the heightened public awareness of environmental issues, to show that golf courses can fit in a park system like this," Netwal said. "I believe I have the documentation to support my claim. I keep running into people on a daily basis who say the golf course is great, but this wildlife really makes it special."

I will keep working to get the word out," he added. "People sometimes have to hear it twice, three, four times before they say, 'That golf course out there is maybe all right.'"

DELHI, N.Y. — More than 250 golfers and others joined in the grand opening, July 22-23, of the expanded Delhi College Golf Course which will serve as a classroom for the school's turfgrass program as well as other educational programs.

The course, which now features a full 18-hole layout, "is an outstanding community and educational resource," said Mary Ellen Duncan, Delhi College president. July 22 was Community Appreciation Day and brought together those instrumental in developing the original nine holes with those who played key roles developing the back nine.

William Kunsela, who served as Delhi president from 1955 to 1973, was the driving force behind the golf course. "He did an outstanding job relating community support for the project," Duncan said. As a result, more than 180 local residents pledged financial support to get the golf course started in 1963 and many others have been instrumental in the course's growth since then.

To recognize their roles, Duncan dedicated the first hole to the Founders of the Delhi College Golf Course, Lynn Abanao, Kunsela's daughter, represented the Golf Course Founders.

Fund-raising was also a critical part of developing the back nine.

"The course is a partnership between the community, the turf industry and the Delhi College Foundation," Duncan said. "State tax dollars are not used to support the course."

Key contributors honored July 22 were the Clark Companies of Delhi, the Delaware National Bank of Delhi, and Louis and Mildred Resnick of Ellenville.

The Clark Companies, who build golf courses and athletic facilities, served as general contractor for the back nine. But its role went much further, Duncan said, adding: "This has been a labor of love for Scott Clark and he has dedicated the full resources of the Clark Companies to this project. We are deeply indebted to them for their expertise and support and will dedicate the 14th hole in honor of the Clark Companies."

Delaware National Bank of Delhi sees the course as "a major resource for the area and has donated $25,000 to fund-raising efforts," Duncan said. "The 10th hole will be dedicated in honor of the bank."

The Resnicks donated $25,000, and the 16th hole will be dedicated to them. "Officials noted that the course expansion is tied to its role as an educational resource. Delhi is committed to being a national leader in preparing students for careers as golf course superintendents," Duncan said. "Project represents another step toward that goal. The 18-hole course allows us to provide students the complete, hands-on training the industry demands. It is also the reason the industry threw its support behind fund-raising efforts."

The college's Turf Management Advisory Council was a driving force behind the course expansion. Since then, nearly 50 businesses and industries have pledged more than $250,000 in financial or in-kind support to the project.

Officials saluted their "confidence in the Delhi approach to golf education," Duncan said, and pledged to return their investment by providing the industry with "the highly skilled professionals they have come to expect from Delhi."

Golf course superintendent John Netwal, third from left, with Eagle Scouts who constructed a shallow pond for wildlife purposes.

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) and S.V. Moffett Co. of West Henrietta were recognized.

"S.V. Moffett has been providing Delhi's turf and golf programs with top-of-the-line maintenance equipment for more than 10 years," said Dominic Morales, professor and chairman of Delhi's Plant Sciences Department. "Plus, Steve Moffett was instrumental in obtaining major donations toward the irrigation system and the other equipment used in the golf course expansion."

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