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Jozsef de Kovacs, general manager of Deal (N.J.) Golf & Country Club for the past seven years, has long been an environmental advocate. Early in his tenure at Deal, he had his golf course crew set up bird houses, monitor wildlife feeding habits, and protect wetland areas on the Donald Ross-designed course. He has expressed great interest in the full-facility environmental audit.

"I think all our employees should be a part of this," de Kovacs said. "If you set up an environmental program for the outside crew, you should also do it for the inside crew."

Printed audits are currently available. CMAA plans to have it available on CD-ROM by early summer.

The United States Golf Association (USGA) awarded CMAA a $95,000 grant earlier this year to help offset the cost of developing a comprehensive self-audit for the entire club facility. CMAA worked with AI USGA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop the audit, which is based on the foundation established by the GCSAA and the "Golf and the Environment" initiative.

The audit allows managers to assess all aspects of the club operation in terms of its environmental impact on its community. Club supervisory personnel can use the audit to identify challenges in their environmental practices and set a working strategic plan to enhance those practices, without oversight from local, state or national regulatory agencies.

The audit addresses all components of a club facility including environmental planning, training and communication; buildings and landscaping; dining facilities; parking lots and roads; golf course; tennis courts; swimming pool and spa; marina, equestrian; shooting club and general maintenance facilities. Managers complete only those sections that apply to their clubs.

The audit examines six key components pertinent to almost all facilities:
• environmental planning, training and communication;
• wildlife habitat enhancement and management;
• energy conservation;
• water conservation and water-quality management;
• chemical-use reduction and safety through integrated pest management;
• best management practices and other environmentally sound maintenance facilities; and
• waste reduction and recycling.

The audit provides a series of statements regarding environmental management practices. The golf course is the component with the most questions (122) compared to buildings and landscaping (64); dining facilities (22); parking lots and roads (9); tennis (8); aquatics/spa (6); marina (13); equestrian (20); shooting club (9); and general maintenance facilities (18).

Managers review each statement and determine to what extent, if any, the practice is being carried out at their clubs. The club's overall score is based on the number of environmental practices in place in each component.

Following are some examples of component headings and sample statements:
• Golf course: Our plan for wildlife habi-
Calendar

May

July

November

CMAA and Audubon
Continued from previous page
tat management specifically incorporates the needs of wildlife for suitable space, food, cover, water and breeding sites.
• Buildings and landscaping. We have set up a recycling program that includes collection and recycling of paper, glass, cardboard and plastic.
• Diving facilities. We compost food scraps and uneaten food, and/or donate edible food wastes to homeless shelters or food pantries to reduce the amount of food waste sent to the landfill.
• Parking lots and roads. We have examined alternatives to conventional road salt and use where appropriate.
• Tennis courts. High-pressure sodium bulbs or other energy-efficient bulbs are used to light courts.
• Aquatics/spas. When pools or tubs are drained, the water is not discharged directly into a storm-water sewer or to a natural water body.
• Marinas. Signs are posted to alert marina patrons about sensitive vegetation or wildlife in area.

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