

Keller GC: An Urban Nature Preserve

Recipient of the 2009 MGCSA Environmental Award

By PAUL DIEGNAU, CGCS
Keller Golf Course

Keller GC was certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2008, becoming the fifth municipal operation in the state to achieve this status. Our golf course management philosophy centers on holistic plant health management. We strive to maximize plant health by concentrating on biological, physical and cultural practices that stimulate the plant and enhance its natural defenses. We are a low input golf course and proud of it.



Paul Diegnau, CGCS, left, received the 2009 MGCSA Environmental Award from Jeff Vinkemeier, Environmental Chair, on behalf of the MGCSA.

Keller installed a double-row system in 1990 and currently uses OSMAC controllers and a Site Pro central. A VFD-controlled pump station reduces energy consumption. An on-site weather station integrated with the central software allows



staff to replace 60%-80% of daily ET values. The operation also relies on wireless remote moisture sensors to maximize water use efficiency and we hope to expand upon their use in the near future.



Keller Golf Course in St. Paul

The photo shows an irrigation audit in progress.

A new environmentally friendly turf-grass maintenance facility was built in 2004. The facility contains a bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from cleaning equipment wash water and pesticide mixing and loading. In addition, all chemicals are stored securely in a separate heated and sumped unit. Surrounding land includes a bio-retention pond to handle additional runoff from



added impervious surfaces and native prairie restoration of all disturbed land.

Two water bodies on the golf course

have undergone native shoreland restoration. The 15th pond above was completed in 2004 and the pond on the sixth hole

(Continued on Page 10)



Foxes, owls, turkeys and ducks happily make Keller Golf Course their home.

Keller GC

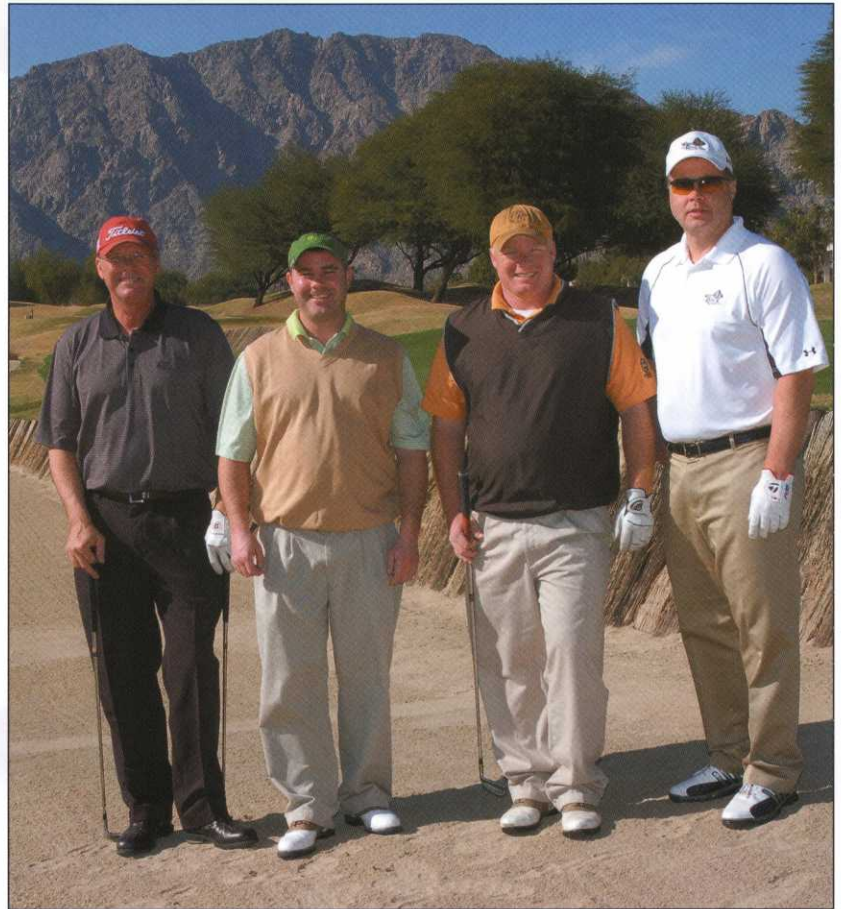
(Continued from Page 9)

was restored in 2009. We have established a solid, productive relationship with our local watershed district.

Nature abounds in this urban setting!



Native prairie conversions throughout the golf course provide constantly changing colors and textures while providing critical habitat for wildlife.



MGCSA Members Are John Deere World Golf Champs

Following two days of international competition, the 23rd Annual John Deere World Championship recently came to an exciting close with the Frontier Ag & Turf team claiming the victory which was held December 10-12 at La Quinta Resort & Club in La Quinta, Calif.

The tournament featured 68 teams from around the globe competing in a scramble format divided among six handicapped flights. John Deere Golf distributor Frontier Ag & Turf walked away as champions after defeating six flight-winning teams in a three-hole playoff round.

Larry Gorman hosted the winning team that included Erin McManus of Medina Golf & Country Club, Dale Heibert of Rush Creek Golf Club, and Chris Goodwick of Wild Rock Golf Club. The foursome birdied the final two holes of the playoff to claim the championship. The John Deere World Championship tournament is designed for members of golf course management teams across the globe to come together for fun competitive play.

MGCSA MEGA-SEMINAR

MORE INFO
AT
MGCSA.ORG

WED.-THURS. MARCH 3-4
DELLWOOD HILLS GOLF CLUB

DELLWOOD, MN

