

## Golf and the Environment go Hand in Hand

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With over 15,000 golf courses in the United States, it is no surprise that golf's appeal just keeps growing. According to an article in the Smithsonian magazine, golf courses are opening at an astonishing rate of about one per day. The National Golf Association recorded 265 new courses were opened and ready for play within a 6 month period of time!

With all of these new courses opening at such an expeditious rate it is important to recognize that the development and redesign of courses must focus on protecting our environment, correcting existing conditions and insuring the life-span of the course.

Since golf's playing field utilizes the landscape, it is important that the relationship between golf courses and the environment be a top priority for the golf industry. Minimizing environmental impacts and protecting habitats can improve the course's overall appeal to players by making it more unique and memorable.

The following is a list compiled by The American Society of Golf Course Architects that addresses the benefits that occur when an environmental approach is used in the design, construction and maintenance of a golf course:

- ♦ A golf course presents the opportunity to meet a need for recreational amenities, while preserving green space that will provide benefits for the future development of an area.
- ♦ Often the green space of a golf course can serve as a protective buffer between sensitive environmental areas and development. This buffer, which contains extensive turfed areas and vegetation, will also protect water quality by providing stabilization against erosion and stormwater management.
- ♦ Efficient and responsible maintenance practices for the golf course will promote the proper use and conservation of water resources.
- ♦ A golf course can also provide enhancement to the environment by incorporating areas for conservation and the promotion of wildlife habitat.
- ♦ In situations where land has been degraded over time by intensive use or mismanagement, golf courses can provide much needed land improvement.\*

Recently, the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Division compiled a set of voluntary environmental guidelines for golf courses in Worcester County and the Delmarva Peninsula. The guidelines are recommendations for areas characterized by high groundwater, a complex system of waterways, proximity to fragile coastal waters and abundance of wildlife. The guidelines are intended to be a tool for local use and are completely voluntary. However, they do address issues that may be associated with mandatory requirements. They were designed as a guide to improve the planning and siting, design, construction, operation and maintenance of golf courses.

If you have any questions regarding the development or renovation of golf courses and the effects on the environment or would like a copy of the guidelines contact Greg Hofstetter of Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. (WEG) at (703) 437-3096 or at [ghofstetter@wegnet.com](mailto:ghofstetter@wegnet.com).

## Golf Report

### Bill Augustin, Golf Chairman

First I would like to say thanks to Steve Cohoon, CGCS, Scott Furlong, CGCS, Michael King, and Rick Wakefield, CGCS for representing The Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents at the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America National Golf Tournament in Houston.

Be sure to join us for one last round at Indian Springs Country Club on April 11th for the Assistant Superintendent Tournament. So, get your team together, Superintendents and Assistants contact Theresa at the Mid-Atlantic office to sign up for the tournament.

Mark your calendars for the tournaments coming this Season:

- ♦ April 11, 2006, Superintendent/Assistant, Indian Spring Country Club
- ♦ May 9, 2006, Superintendent/Pro Beechtree Golf Course
- ♦ The November meeting will be held at Lakewood Country Club

The MAAGCS is always looking for golf sponsors. If anyone is interested in becoming a Hole Sponsor please contact Theresa Baria at 888/MID-TURF.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Tournaments!