

CMAA and Audubon

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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 facility; 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-

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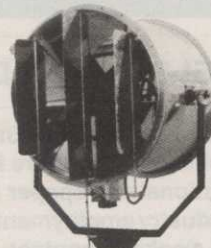
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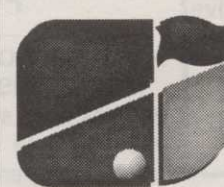
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1-2 — 54th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference in Tifton, Ga. Contact 912-386-3416.

5-13 — American Society of Golf Course Architects Annual Meeting in Ireland. Contact Tony Hourston at 312-372-7090.

July

22-24 — International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo in Louisville, Ky. Contact 800-558-8767.

November

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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.

- **Dining 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/spa.** 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.

- **Equestrian.** We understand the need to prevent excess nutrients from manure from reaching water bodies and have policies in place to prevent nutrients from reaching surface waters.

- **Shooting club.** Lead shot has never been used on the premises, or we are making efforts to remove spent lead shot from the facility.

An environmental performance index is calculated for each component of the club. The audit eventually provides a total score to rate the club's overall environmental performance. It also highlights strengths and opportunities to improve environmental performance.

CMAA developed the audit so that club facilities can demonstrate a proactive approach to fulfilling their obligation to preserve and enhance the environment.

In the introduction to the audit itself, CMAA Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer James Singerlmg writes: "In the past decade, CMAA club managers have become increasingly concerned with environmental issues. Managers recognize that understanding and managing the impact of the club operation on the surrounding environment is vital to protecting that environment, preserving the natural beauty of a facility, and making positive contributions to the communities they serve."