

## A Hidden River Runs Through It

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McEwen found that Matthews, Wilson and Philport were willing to listen to his concerns and implement plans to manage them. They compromised on the issue of the No. 9 green, which was built between the bluff and the river.

McEwen was impressed that the owners offered him an open invitation to visit the course while it was under construction, which he did mostly after it rained to monitor water run-off. "All the soils around here are very sandy, and sand can destroy trout streams," he explains.

McEwen was also pleased that Wilson and Philport hired a superintendent,

Steve Sump, who was known for his environmental prowess. Sump, who is well-schooled in storm-water management and erosion control, practices an integrated pest management program at Hidden River. Last year was the worst year for turf disease in several years, Sump says. Still, he was under budget for his chemical and fertilizer spending.

"I don't like spraying insecticides because of the river," Sump says. "But if I must spray, I'll use a chemical that has the lowest toxicity, and I'll spray it sparingly."

As part of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's agreement with Hidden River,

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### A Dream Job for Superintendent – Challenges And All

After a round of golf on a splendid October day at the Hidden River Golf & Casting Club, W. Bruce Matthews III, designer of the course, turned to Steve Sump, superintendent of the course, and said, "Steve, you're making me look good!"

Indeed, the golf course was in excellent

laden and pristine Maple River, which runs through the middle of the course. Sump, a certified superintendent, was hired by Hidden River owners Roger Wilson and Darin Philport in 1997 to maintain the course and protect the river.

"We wanted a superintendent that had the same game plan that we had as far as wanting a high-quality course – but not at the risk of the environment," Philport adds.

Sump joined Hidden River for the course's grow-in and faced an immediate challenge: protecting the Maple River from nitrogen applications of as much as 1 pound per thousand square feet a week.

Area environmentalists were concerned about erosion control at Hidden River. But Sump says he knows how important it is not to expose too much soil or remove too much natural vegetation. At Hidden River, Sump wanted to get the turf established quickly to decrease the chance of erosion from a hard rain. "The biggest problem any superintendent faces in a grow-in is rain erosion," he says.

Sump practices an integrated pest management program. There are no blanket applications of pesticides on the course. "I always scout for disease before spraying," he says.

Sump, a member of the Michigan Environmental Steward Program, is an avid outdoorsman. "I've dreamed of being a superintendent on property like this," he says.

– Larry Aylward, Editor



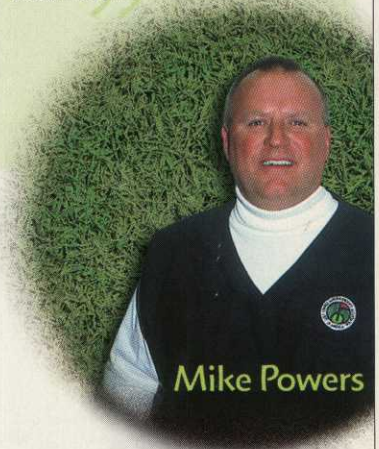
**Superintendent Steve Sump (left) was hired for his environmental prowess, says Darin Philport (right), one of the club's owners.**

condition, and Sump was appreciative of Matthew's compliment. But it's always a challenge for Sump to keep Hidden River looking lush because of its environmental distinction.

Matthews designed Hidden River, located in Brutus, Mich., to protect the trout-

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**Mike Powers**

**Superintendent, Highland Golf and Country Club**

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Turf type: Bentgrass/poa fairways; push-up greens**



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