



Sentryworld Honored by WMC

By Gary Tanko

On May 23, 1995 I had the opportunity to accept an award that reflects favorably on all golf course superintendents in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, and the Wisconsin Environmental Working Group (an affiliate of WMC) have recognized SentryWorld Golf Course as the 1995 Wisconsin Business Friend of the Environment award winner. The award recognizes leadership in environmental protection.

There were three categories in which different companies around the state were recognized: pollution prevention, innovative technology and environmental stewardship. Criteria had to be demonstrated in a written report. From these, three winners were selected from each category.

I was very excited to receive the award, and I feel it will demonstrate to many people just how golf courses do provide leadership in environmental protection. Some of you may have read about the award in *CORPO-*

RATE REPORT or in local media. The criteria I noted was a big part of what all golf course superintendents already implement with great success. The New York Audubon Sanctuary Program is the driving force behind most of our environmental projects. The program is exciting and gives all of us a sense of pride and accomplishment. In this regard, I was speaking for many WGCSA members.

I find much of my time now is spent in creating wildlife habitat, planting aquatic vegetation, building homes for birds and bats and butterflies, climbing ladders to clean them, establishing bugger zones, turning out-of-play areas into native wild areas, recycling and composting. I am also completing construction of a safe pesticide mixing, containment and storage room.

You may ask, "when do you have time for all this important stuff?" I too, must be careful not to forget about those priorities of greens, tees and fairways. However, it becomes very easy

for me to focus on environmental areas — bird activity, buffer zones development and other things — rather than stimpmeter readings. The new challenges have really added to the joy of the work at SentryWorld, and my hope is that these environmental activities will please many of our players and add to their enjoyment of golf at our course.

Communication with local organizations — garden clubs, university faculty, technical schools, Boy Scouts — is very helpful in demonstrating what really goes on at a golf course. These efforts are very rewarding to them and to me and my staff.

The goal of the *Business Friend of the Environment* program is to show state policy makers, businesses and the public that sound environmental practices are good for Wisconsin's citizens and for the state economy. The exercise was a rewarding one for me, and I sincerely believe that its influence will be good for all golf course superintendents. ♣



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