



Brad Zimmerman, Boulder Pointe Golf Course, left, and Paul Eckholm, CGCS, volunteered to help the MGCSA have a presence at the Great Minnesota Golf Show at the Metrodome in late February. At the right is the scene on the floor.

Keller Golf Course Receives 2003 LEAP Award

Keller Golf Course is proud to announce it was recently awarded a 2003 LEAP award by the Ramsey - Washington Metro Watershed District. The Landscape Ecology Award Program recognizes landowners, including private residences, commercial,

and public properties, that use good management practices to preserve and improve water quality and natural resources within the district.

Keller Golf Course has been an environmental leader for many years, promoting and educating the golfing public about golf's positive impact on the environment.

Examples of the environmentally friendly procedures, projects and protocol in place at Keller include: Vegetative buffers around

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all surface waters; primarily use slow release and natural organic fertilizers; computerized irrigation system with onsite weather station combine for accurate, efficient use of irrigation water; 72 box bluebird trail, many wood duck boxes, bat houses, an osprey nesting platform, and multiple bird feeding stations; limited pesticide use with curative control measures and threshold monitoring implemented; All plantings mulched for moisture conservation and weed suppression; All gardens planted to attract wildlife, including 1100 ft, two butterfly garden; Six acres of property restored to native Minnesota prairie along with many acres of naturalized no-mow areas; On course interpretive signage designed to educate golfers on environmental subjects of interest; State-of-the art maintenance facility includes bioremediation system for cleaning water used in equipment wash down and pesticide loading and mixing; All pesticides are stored in a separate, secure, sumped chemical storage building; Bio-retention ponds were constructed around the new maintenance facility to hold and infiltrate runoff from the site, and in 2004, the golf course will be working with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and Ramsey Soil and Water Conservation District to restore the vegetative buffer surrounding two of our ponds with native vegetation. Grants have been awarded by both agencies to Keller to assist with the project.

-- Paul Diegnau, Superintendent, Keller Golf Course