In Bounds-

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plants and increasing the disease pressure. He also warned me of being too free with the top dressing sand. And finally, like the others, he suggested that I wait as long as possible before opening them to play and once I do, keep the turf long and healthy, gradually bringing the height of cut down and speed up.

Alone, none of these suggestions was earth shattering and taken in total they reflect basic common agronomic sense. However, as a turf professional facing a daunting task, I needed and relished the suggestions of peers who had experienced what I was about to undertake. The empathy, support and encouragement afforded me the energy I needed to sell my final plan to my BOD and implement the program in a timely basis.

By not doing what I had always done and getting what I had always got, I achieved some impressive results. Utilizing the support system inherent within our professional organization I did not go it alone. Thanks guys for your insights. I really appreciated them.

So, today the sun is shining, my grass is growing well and I can finally smell the lilacs, courtesy of my new Neti Pot. I am comforted knowing there are resources available at my fingertips when I need them. All I have to do is take a different approach to a standard procedure and open myself to a world of diverse, better possibilities.

Audubon International Update

As a part of Audubon International's ongoing Golf and Environment efforts -- from our Fifty in Five goal to improved service andenvironmental education throughout the industry -we offer an update on our current activities.

Audubon International continues to see upward movement in ACSP and Signature Program membership numbers, with growth in both areas. Perhaps more importantly, a significant number of members are working towards certification. Over half of all current golf members have begun the certification process and almost 25% have been designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

MGCSA support will help us reach our ambitious "Fifty in Five" goal of having 50% of all golf courses in the United States enrolled and active in our environmental programs by the end of 2007.

Audubon International works with golf courses of all sizes, expectations, and budgets. From a nine-hole course located on a mere 4 acres to the expansive courses, we are helping courses to reduce risk, save money, protect water quality, conserve water and enhance wildlife habitat.

Our ongoing collaboration with GCSAA and the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) continues, with President & CEO, Ron Dodson, serving on the Environmental Programs committee and Program Manager Joellen Zeh, serving on the Wildlife and Habitat Management Task Group of the EIFG.

(Editor's Note: You can reach Audubon International at 518/767-9051).

