

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program by Scott Roche

Increased scrutiny of water usage and nutrient management coupled with concerns regarding Maryland's major water features make the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) an important public relations tool for providing a positive outlook on golf courses and their management practices. The ACSP can greatly assist golf course superintendents in highlighting what they are often already doing to enhance the environment and can be implemented by any golf course willing to document its current practices while setting and attaining goals related to the environment.

Currently, there are forty golf courses in the state of Maryland that are active in the ACSP. Only five courses are fully certified: Eagles Landing (1995), Timbers at Troy (1998), Bethesda Country Club (1998), Holly Hills Country Club (2000), and Little Bennett (2000).

To become recognized as a certified Audubon cooperative sanctuary golf course, you must register with the ACSP and then plan and maintain thorough documentation of projects in six areas: Envi-

ronmental Planning, Wildlife Habitat Management, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, Water Quality Management and Outreach/Education. A certification handbook provides the framework for accessing the site. There is no additional cost for certification aside from the annual registration fee (currently \$150.00). The process takes between one and three years to complete, depending upon time dedicated.

Recently, Timbers at Troy Golf Course completed the re-certification process. This process must occur every two years after initial certification to maintain status and basically documents the success of the previous two years. Scott Roche has been involved with Audubon since 1996 and has been recently invited to serve as a State Steward for Maryland through Audubon International. As a member of the Audubon Steward Network, Scott is available to answer any questions, share experiences and act as a liaison between golf course superintendents and Audubon International. Scott can be reached at (410) 313-4960.

Keeping Pace: Education in the 21st Century



Stan Zontek leads roundtable discussion

The MAAGCS unveiled a new education format on March 29th at the University of Maryland Conference Center. For years our educational sessions had been rushed into our monthly meeting agendas, often at the end of a long day. Also, many of our meeting sites lacked the facilities our speakers need such as lighting, seating, and audio/visual equipment. The University of Maryland was a central location for the chapter and had the professional meeting rooms, overnight accommodations, and catering needed for a first class event.

Our speakers were excellent and included Dr. Tom Watschke, Dr. Peter Dernoeden, Kevin Morris from NTEP, Pat Jones from *Golfdom* Magazine, USGA Agronomists- Stan Zontek and Darin Brevard, golf rules expert Clyde Luther, and MAAGCS members Bill Love and Mike Farrar. GCSAA awarded .6PDU's for attendance.

As always, quality events can't be a reality without help from our industry partners. Our thanks go to Lynn Matson and Lance Ernst of Turf Equipment & Supply for acknowledging the importance of education and stepping forward to be the title sponsor of the event. Thanks go to our Silver Sponsors - Summit Hall Turf Farm and T. A. Turner Construction and Bronze Sponsors - Davisson Golf, Finch Turf Equipment, G. L. Cornell, and Syngenta.

We are already planning next year's event and would appreciate your comments.

TURF DOCTORS AERATION

"Home of the Aerragreen"

We Provide the Air Your
Greens Need to Survive

*** Free Video Available***

Contact Us Now For Free Demo
Receive the Low Price Of 2 ½ Cents Per Sq. Ft.

Business (240) 299-4300

Metro (301) 855-1459

Email Turfdoctor@aol.com