

# QUICK FACTS ABOUT GOLF COURSES

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

1. A properly repaired ball mark heals completely in 2-3 days, while an unrepaired ball mark takes 15-20 days to heal properly.
2. A typical 18-hole golf course covers approximately 125 - 150 acres of land. The total landmass of golf courses in the United States equals about 1/2 the state of Connecticut.
3. A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.
4. Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.
5. Who is the most important person at a golf facility? According to a 1997 survey of 500 Golf Digest subscribers, the golf course superintendent was listed the most (48 percent). Other responses included the course/club professional 25 percent, club/course manager 14 percent, beverage cart or halfway house person 11 percent.
6. Golf courses have a cooling effect during the hot summer months. The average temperature on the golf course is typically 5- 7 degrees cooler than a residential area and 7 - 15 degrees cooler than an urban downtown setting.
7. Golf courses delay play on frost-covered turf (especially greens) because stepping on frost-covered grass causes the frozen leaf cells to rupture. The turf will turn brown and eventually die.
8. Why do golf course superintendents aerate turf? Because it reduces compaction on a golf course by removing soil cores from the ground, allowing the movement of water, air and nutrients to the turf roots. Highly traveled areas plus poor soil composition creates compacted surfaces.
9. How much has technology and research improved speed and quality of a putting green? In the early 1960s, professional tour event superintendents cut putting green turf heights at about 1/4 inch. Today, the height of putting green turf for professional tournament competition is 1/8 inch or less.
10. How do trees affect the quality of a putting surface? All things being equal, a putting green with air circulating around it will be in better shape than a green with little or no air circulation. Trees tend to reduce circulation, thereby having a negative effect on putting green quality. Older, more mature trees adjacent to putting greens will negatively impact surface conditions because the tree roots will grow under the putting surface and disrupt the flow of water and nutrients.
11. What is a golf course superintendent doing when he/she syringes a green? Syringing is the process of spraying a light cover of water on a green during hot weather to reduce the temperature of the turf. This prevents putting surfaces from becoming "baked" and "dried-out," and having a negative impact on putting surface quality.
12. Golf courses have a positive impact on the economy. It is estimated that more than 25 million people annually spend 2.5 billion hours outside, playing one of the nation's 17,000-plus golf courses. The impact of golf facilities on the economy is \$20 billion annually.

## SILENT AUCTION CONDUCTED AT GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW IS SUCCESSFUL THE ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE FOR GOLF ELECTS OFFICERS, TRUSTEES

The Environmental Institute for Golf elected officers and welcomed four new members from the golf industry to its board of trustees during its winter meeting at the 2006 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Atlanta, GA, February 9th.

**Bill Kubly**, Owner and CEO of Landscapes Unlimited, LLC, was elected chairman. **David Pillsbury**, PGA Tour Golf Course Properties COO, was elected vice chairman/treasurer.

**Mark Kizziar**, President of Superstition Mountain Properties, Inc., **Rafael N. Martinez**, Publisher/CEO of The Green Magazine, **Ken Melrose**, Executive Chairman of The Toro Co., and GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer **David S. Downing II**, CGCS at Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, N.C., were each added to the board of trustees and will serve three-year terms.

"Mark, Rafael, Ken and Dave bring a wealth of expertise to the board of trustees," Kubly said. "I am delighted that these three gentlemen have joined us in making a commitment to advance environmental practices on the golf course and I look forward to working closely with them."

Harry Cavanagh, Cavanagh Law Firm; Tom Chisholm, retired Vice President of Eaton Corp. and Past Chairman of the USGA Green Section; and GCSAA Immediate Past President Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien, retired from the board of trustees after serving six, five and three years, respectively. Michael J. Hurdzan, Ph.D., of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design, Inc., will remain on the board for one year as immediate past chairman.

Those continuing their service on the board of trustees are: GCSAA Vice President Ricky D. Heine, CGCS; GCSAA President Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS; Meadowbrook Golf President/CEO Ron E. Jackson; GCSAA CEO Steve Mona, CAE; Great White Shark Enterprises CEO Greg Norman; USGA Green Section National Director James T. Snow, ESPN/ABC broadcaster Roger Twibell and Nike Golf President Bob Wood.

The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the compatibility of the game of golf with the natural environment. The Institute concentrates on delivering environmental programs and services involving information collection, research, education and outreach that communicate the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course. For more on The Institute, visit [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org).

### SILENT AUCTION SUCCESSFUL

The Golf Industry Show Silent Auction, conducted by The Environmental Institute for Golf, the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) Foundation and the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), generated \$158,000 for environmental stewardship programs, including research and education to strengthen the compatibility of the game of golf with our natural environment and player development programs. In addition, a portion of the auction proceeds will be donated to hurricane relief efforts. A total of 80 companies donated 133 items (a complete listing of donating companies can be found at [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org)). In addition, David Grodzicki with Grand Sakwa Management in Farmington Hills, Mich., won an all-expense paid trip to the 2007 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, Calif. His name was chosen from a list of those who participated in the silent auction.

(Continued on Page 14)