

September 2006



KEN'S KORNER

G R E A T E B A Y C O U N T R Y C L U B

RECENT SUCCESS

Our most recent success with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) took place this March. **We received confirmation of our certification in the Water Conservation category.** Members, employees, and neighbors alike have had questions as to how a golf course can be recognized for conserving water. The truth is it has been a lot of hard work. The base of our efforts has involved employee training, modifications to the irrigation system, employing good cultural practices, and help from some outside parties.

Water conservation must not be perceived as the practice of not using water. It really means putting water in the right place, in the right amount, and doing what you can to ensure the efficiency of its use. We began with the education of our staff. We have spent the last couple of years teaching our employees to apply the correct amount of water to the golf course depending on why and where they are watered. They have also learned to recognize system faults, as well as general re-

pair of the irrigation system. Next, we recognized changes that needed to be made with the system. We eliminated sprinklers on the border of the property and in our natural areas that we did not deem necessary. Some were relocated, others had their performance adjusted, and completely replaced. Finally, we changed parts where needed, and updated models. Finally, we tweaked how long certain areas of the golf course were watered.

The most important aspect of our efforts to serve water came in the form of good cultural practices. Controlling thatch through aeration, verticutting, top-dressing, and fertilization have all been major players in our water's ability to effectively infiltrate and percolate the soil profile. It is here that the drill and fill has been invaluable. Having the opportunity to modify the soil's composition and health was also beneficial. All of these things have helped us maintain stronger turf cover on the golf course, which in turn saves water.

Our success is shared by everyone. The support of our managers, the work of our staff, and the understanding of our members have allowed us to do the things necessary to achieve this certification. **We can all be proud to be a part of this great achievement!**

Thanks for your support,

Ken, Chris and the Greate Bay Maintenance Staff



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It's always a Greate day at Greate Bay!