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An environmental celebration...

TurfNet
the newsletter

GREEN DAY

at Nashawtuc Country Club

Parties are gatherings to celebrate an event of special significance, be it a birth or anniversary, christening or Bar Mitzvah, bon voyage or a coming home. As construction of the Environmental Management Center at Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, Massachusetts, neared completion and their arduous journey to Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification came to fruition, Paul Miller, CGCS felt like celebrating... so he decided to throw a party.

Not that he didn't have anything to do at the time, because course preparations for the upcoming Champions Tour Bank of America Championship (Miller's 20th Tour event in his 20 years at Nashawtuc) on June 21 were in full swing.



The concept of a "Green Day" during the tournament jelled in Miller's mind when he heard of Bank of America's pledge earlier this year to commit \$20B in capital over the next ten years to support the growth of environmentally-sustainable business activity to address global climate change.

Tying Jacobsen into the event was a natural for Miller, a superintendent who bleeds primarily orange.



"Since Jacobsen had already committed to give turf support for the Tour event with their trailer, extra equipment and technician, it made a great fit," Miller said. "Jacobsen's electric mowing technology and use of environmentally friendly vegetable-based hydraulic oil were a no brainer to promote."

With an environmentally-themed celebration firmly in mind, Miller began to organize and delegate — as any good manager would do. He enlisted the help of Mary Moffett, principal of his regional Jacobsen distributor, S. V. Moffett Co., Inc., who dove in headfirst. She passed the word to Karla Cuculi, director of marketing communications at Jacobsen corporate, who quickly offered to sponsor the event.

BASF and Grigg Bros. also committed their support, and Green Day was born. Local superintendents, club members, media and friends of Miller's were invited.



On the day of the event — a gorgeous, blue-skied late June day in historic Concord — Mary Moffett and her team arrived by 5:00 AM to cook breakfast for Miller's crew before they dispersed to polish the course. She also manned the huge grill towed in alongside Jacobsen's Tournament Support trailer to feed everyone again at noon.

With the 1:00 ribbon cutting ceremony for the Environmental Management Center nearing and the Nashawtuc grounds abuzz with pre-tournament activity, Miller could be found mingling with guests, cool and composed.

"Hey, shouldn't you be out syringing or something?" some wiseguy cracked. "That's all taken care of," Miller replied with a grin as he ignored the ring of his cell phone.

Following the unveiling of the plaque by Miller, club officials, and designer Roger Mulloy of Golf Structure Alternatives, the group was led on a tour of the new facility.



The term "Environmental Management Center" is not another fancy, hoidy-toidy label for a turf care center, but rather signifies the club's commitment to build a carefully engineered and contained chemical and fertilizer storage and handling facility. Even the runoff from the roof and hard surfaces surrounding the building is processed by a Contech Stormwater Solutions Vortechs® system to hydrodynamically remove contaminated sediment and floating hydrocarbons before entering the nearby watershed.

Designed to house and contain all functions of fertilizer and pesticide storage and handling, the 115' x 30' x 12' block structure replaces an open-gable storage building that was original to the site — and over 100 years old. Comparing the old with new is like holding up a leaky sieve next to a hermetically-sealed container.

Fully insulated and heated to a minimum of 40°F, the EMC is divided into five bays. On the near end is a double-wide, drive-through equipment washdown bay. Plumbed and staged to accommodate up to three pieces of equipment at once, it is also equipped with a closed-loop, zero-discharge ESD Waste-2-Water recovery and digestion system. The ESD system is raised on a five inch concrete "housekeeping pad" to facilitate floor hose-down, according to Roger Mulloy of Golf Structures, who led the tour.



All five bays are equipped with air intake louvers and exhaust fans for flow-through ventilation. The washdown bay, however, has larger fans and a moisture-resistant interior ceiling treatment due to the higher degree of humidity expected during and after use.

The floor sump in the washdown bay is plumbed back into the ESD system for treatment and re-use, making a truly closed-loop system with zero discharge to the environment.

The central three bays include a pesticide mix and sprayer loading area flanked by separate rooms for pesticide and fertilizer storage. Both storage rooms have double interior doors leading into the sprayer fill bay so product doesn't have to be taken outside the building during the mix and fill procedure.

Floor drains from all three rooms are pitched to a central sump, from which spillage is pumped up into a 300 gallon storage tank in the mixing room.

The fertilizer storage bay is laid out and racked for storage of pallets and 55-gallon drums, while the pesticide storage room has corrosion-resistant polymer-coated mesh racks more suitable for smaller boxes and containers. The pesticide room also has floor-level exhaust fans because chemical fumes tend to be heavier than air and sink to floor level. All electrical switches in these rooms are explosion-proof.



A 2", flexible overhead water supply in the sprayer fill bay is capable of filling a sprayer in 4-5 minutes. Completing the central pesticide/fertilizer handling area are an eyewash station and shower.

The fifth bay, at the far end of the Environmental Management Center, is designed to house future fertigation tanks and equipment should Miller decide to incorporate that into his turf management program. At present, that bay will be used for additional equipment storage.

After the building tour, Kevin Fletcher, executive director of Audubon International, awarded Miller, his staff and club officials with their Cooperative Sanctuary Certification. Miller in turn introduced his second assistant, John McShane, who spearheaded and saw the multi-year certification process to completion.



Fletcher and Miller also addressed local Boy Scouts about the environmental progress of golf courses in general, and on-going Audubon projects at Nashawtuc Country Club.

Graham Marsh, noted international golf course designer and pro golfer from Australia, took time from his practice round at the Bank of America Championship to address the group about the progress he has seen worldwide with golf course environmental initiatives.

Representatives of BASF and Grigg Bros. also spoke on their respective companies' commitment to the environment before the group moved to the practice green for demonstrations of Jacobsen's electric greensmowers by Brian Melka, Jacobsen Director of Product Development.

A pig roast, hosted by BASF and Grigg Bros., concluded the day.

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