

Algae Control Project Becomes Case Study for ACSP Certification

By Jonathan Charpinsky

ACSP CASE STUDY

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| Project Title: | No. 9 Pond Algae Removal |
| Property Name: | Card Sound Golf Club |
| Location: | Key Largo, Florida |
| Project Coordinator: | Jonathan Charpinsky, Assistant Superintendent |
| Phone Number: | 305-367-3088 |
| Type of Course: | Private Golf Club |

Project Description: Give an overview of the project. Why did you choose it? What were the conditions like before and after implementing the project?

The ponds at Card Sound Golf Club are saltwater and fluctuate with the ocean tides. The



No. 9 pond at Card Sound G. C. after implementing algae control project using biocontrol technology. Photo courtesy of Audubon International.

pond on No. 9 always had a large amount of algae throughout the entire pond and it looked terrible. Dephosphate water clarifiers and bacterial concentrates were applied to the pond on a monthly basis and it was very expensive. They seemed to have very little effect on the algae and we needed a better, cheaper way to handle this situation.

My superintendent heard of a BioAmp machine from ECO Bionics that produced trillions of bacterial cells on a daily basis. We decided to rent a machine and install it on the pond bank and have the bacteria drain into the pond every day. Since installing the BioAmp, there has been a large decline in the amount of algae (a very small amount is still present). The pond is much cleaner and we

are not spending as much money on removing algae.

Goals: Please list your goals for the project.

Remove algae in pond located on No. 9.

Reduce cost of maintenance for No. 9 pond.

Implementation and Maintenance: What specific steps did you take to implement it? What kind of ongoing maintenance will it require?

Rented machine from ECO Bionics.

Installed it on the bank of the pond (out of the way of play).

Hooked up electricity and a fresh water source to machine.

Hooked up a drain for the bacteria that goes into the pond.

Filled it with food for the microorganisms to develop.

Turned it on.

Checked machine every 7-10 days for alarms or lack of food.

Fill machine once every month with food.

Results: Describe the results you achieved. What are the environmental benefits? Please be as specific as possible about any tangible results.

Far less algae is currently present in the pond and it doesn't seem to come back as it did when we were not using the BioAmp machine.

Considerably less money is being spent on controlling the algae. Less labor is used for algae removal. All we do now is check the machine for alarms or food.

We are not putting any chemicals into the pond anymore; we are only using natural bacteria.

Golfer/Employee Response: How did golfers respond to this project? How did you communicate your actions?

The maintenance staff and the pro shop have received many compliments on how good the pond looks without all the algae. The Board of Directors is made up of all golfers at the club, and they have told other members about this project by word of mouth. Also, members have asked the maintenance staff and pro shop about what the machine was near the pond and they were told it was a bacteria manufacturer to remove algae.

Perspective and Recommendations: What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do this project again? What would you recommend

to others implementing this project?

I would not have changed anything with this project due to the results we have achieved. My recommendation to others is to give this a try instead of using chemicals to clear up an algae problem. This is obviously better for the environment, less costly, and almost no maintenance is needed after installing the machine.

Economic Costs and Benefits: How much did it cost to implement this project?

Lease of machine: \$537.50/month

Installation of machine: \$810.00

Total: \$1347.50

Average cost in our old methods: \$2000.00/month

Monthly maintenance and feeding now: \$537.50

Average Savings: \$1462.50/month

Jonathan Charpinsky, is assistant superintendent, Card Sound Golf Club

Florida Sustainable Communities Summit Explores Resource Efficiency in the Built Environment

By Jean Mackay

Audubon International and the University of Florida's Program for Resource Efficient Communities co-hosted the Florida Sustainable Communities Summit at Walt Disney World Feb. 8 During the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. The event brought together a variety of stakeholders — including more than 100 municipal planners, developers, architects, builders, natural resource managers, and representatives from regulatory agencies, universities, and conservation organizations — to strengthen efforts to foster sustainable development in Florida.

The day-long summit provided opportunities to discuss critical issues associated with sustainable community siting, design, development, and management. Four panel discussions also showcased a number of success stories, including golf courses that are helping to meet community conservation and development goals.

"Florida's explosive growth is putting pressure not only on the environment, but on community services, such as transportation, schools, and affordable housing," says Kevin Fletcher, Audubon International director of programs and administration. "The summit gave us the opportunity to network with each other and explore ways to build upon successful efforts to build better in Florida."

The summit was held at Walt Disney World's Osprey Ridge and Eagle Pines Golf Courses, who generously donated meeting space.