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GCSAA recognizes Class A member for excellence
Carlson earns national environmental award

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) board of directors has selected Jeff Carlson, GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Vineyard Golf Club, located on Martha's Vineyard near Edgartown, Mass., to receive its 2008 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship.

Carlson oversees an all-organic turf care regimen at Vineyard Golf Club, one of the few golf courses in the country that is considered organically managed. Organic management is generally recognized as using only products that consist of naturally occurring organic compounds or mixtures of organic compounds.



Jeff Carlson,
CGCS

"We recognize Jeff with this prestigious award because he has chosen a different path of golf course management and has effectively communicated its virtues to the members of Vineyard Golf Club so that he has their full support," said GCSAA President Ricky D. Heine, CGCS. "All-organic turf care would not work in every climate, but Jeff has created awareness for environmental practices and he has been a leader in meeting environmental challenges."

The award will be presented during the Opening Session at the 2008 GCSAA Education Conference, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008. The conference (Jan. 28-Feb. 2) will be held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show (Jan. 31-Feb. 2) at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

The award was established in 1991 to recognize "an exceptional environmental contribution to the game of golf: a contribution that further exemplifies the golf course superintendent's image as a steward of the land."

A 22-year GCSAA Class A member, Carlson has established himself as an environmental leader through his work on the golf course, in the community and on behalf of the industry. He spent 30 years working on Cape Cod at Brewster Golf Course, later known as Ocean Edge, where he worked with the local conservation committee to emphasize the superintendent's role in environmentally sensitive golf design, construction and maintenance.

In 1998, he left Cape Cod at Brewster to work with architect Michael Hurdzan, in building the environmentally acclaimed Widow's Walk in Scituate, Mass. The course is known as America's first environmental demonstration course. Carlson was responsible for meeting numerous environmental challenges, one of which was to collect data and measure the impact of the golf course on the surrounding environment. His work at Widow's Walk earned him a GCSAA Environmental Steward Award in 1998. The research was designed to benefit the industry and was featured as the demonstration course for the Golf and the Environment Conference hosted by The Center for Resource Management (CRM) in 1995.

Vineyard Golf Club President Owen Larkin, a member of The Environmental Institute for Golf's Advisory Council, brought on Carlson as construction superintendent in 1999, and Carlson continues to guide the management strategies for the property today. Vineyard Golf Club was the first golf course built on Martha's Vineyard in 30 years. The property features a 25-acre frost-bottom, which is an unusual and protected habitat that has a special maintenance regimen.