

July 16, 2015

Patrick Reinhardt

Campus Recreation and Intramurals: Georgia Southern Golf Course

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Operation Pollinator

Amount Granted: \$2378.80

Amount spent: \$2139.38

Project Outcomes/Value

Project Timeline – The Operation Pollinator plots have been completed, although they will be evolving over time as the plants mature.

Project Outcomes – The goal of the Operation Pollinator project was to convert bahiagrass areas into wildflower areas in order to increase the number of pollinating insects. Long term, the goal is to help build the pollinating insect population, which has seen a decrease in past years. We have seen a fairly high quantity of blooms from 8 different species of flowers. There have been a large number of insects utilizing the blooms. The blooms have occurred in a cyclical fashion, as different plant types mature and bloom at different times. This creates peaks and valleys of blooms.

Our biggest challenge has been the return of bahiagrass throughout the plots, despite having treated the plots prior to planting with a non-selective herbicide. If the bahiagrass impedes the wildflowers in the future, we may treat with a grass specific herbicide at low rates to curb the bahiagrass growth and allow the wildflowers to grow without competition.

Sustainability Improvements – Prior to converting the bahiagrass areas to the wildflower plots, the areas were treated approximately 3 times per year with herbicide to control broadleaf weeds. With the wildflowers in place, the herbicides will no longer be used. Instead, the area will be mowed one time per year in order to redistribute the wildflower seeds and remove any woody, undesirable plants. We have already seen a large number of pollinating insects utilizing the wildflowers, which should help to increase the populations of the insects in our surrounding area.

Outreach – The Operation Pollinator grant was published through the Georgia Golf Course Superintendent's Association "Through The Green" Magazine. The project was also publicized through signage and posters in the golf course clubhouse. We also used our Twitter feed to engage the public outside of the University setting. By utilizing Twitter, we were "retweeted" several times by Syngenta Corporation, who is one of the primary sponsors of the Operation Pollinator program. Syngenta currently has almost 4,000 followers from around the world, in addition to the 1,500 followers on the GSU Golf Course Twitter feed. Operation Pollinator and Center for Sustainability signs were also placed at each of the wildflower plots on the golf course.

Budget Report – As shown in the below budget report, the project was under budget by \$239.42. Due to the request of using only native wildflower seed, the seed price was higher than the budgeted amount. We were able to decrease the price of the irrigation installation by using a smaller diameter pipe than was initially planned. The irrigation heads utilized used less water than originally predicted, and we were able to reduce pipe size accordingly. The largest savings was with the signage used on the golf course. Without the savings from the signage, we would have been within \$14.42 of our original budgeted amount. We were able to get the Operation Pollinator signs donated by the Syngenta Corporation, and were only responsible for providing signage for the Center of Sustainability.

Item Budgeted Amount Actual Spent Seed \$759.00 \$900.00 Delivery Fee \$25.00 \$18.62

Irrigation Heads \$819.80 \$717.21 Glyphosate Herbicide and Fertilizer \$475.00 \$428.55 Signs
\$300 \$75.00 **Total** \$2378.80 \$2139.38

Student and Community Impact – As being a part of Campus Recreation and Intramurals, we are a large employer of students. Student employees are utilized as the primary labor source for the golf course, and the students were responsible for a large amount of the work involved with the installation and growing of the wildflower plots. Our ongoing maintenance for the project is minimal, but whenever a need arises, students will be responsible for the maintenance of the plots.

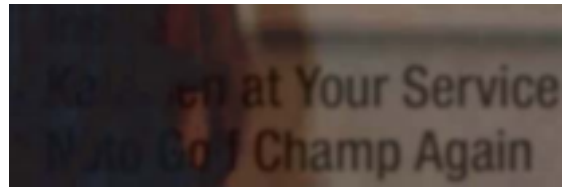
The golf course is open to both students, and the general public. Because of this, any golfer that comes to the property is able to see and interact with the wildflower plots. Last year we had approximately 22,000 golfers play the golf course, with approximately 50% of the play coming from students, and 50% of the play coming from general public. Because of this, we were able to impact several thousand unique individuals.

Grant Leverage – The grant was not used to leverage additional grants of papers. However, we did receive exposure from a magazine and social media that would not have otherwise occurred.

Project abstract – Operation Pollinator is an international program, aimed at boosting the number of pollinating insects through the installation of a diverse wildflower mixture. Golf courses can provide sanctuaries to bumblebees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects by enhancing relatively undisturbed areas. Georgia Southern University Golf Course was able to successfully install approximately 2.5 acres of a native wildflower blend, replacing areas that were previously bahiagrass. Through the installation of these wildflower areas, we have been able to witness a large number of pollinating insects utilizing the golf course.

January/February 2015

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Crawford Lands Major Award



course superintendents and their courses for overall course management excellence and best management practices in the areas of water conservation, water quality management, energy conservation, pollution prevention, waste management, wildlife and habitat conservation, communication and outreach, and leadership.

All winners will be formally recognized on February 25 at the opening session of the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, TX. Winners will also be featured in upcoming issues of *Golf Digest* and *Golf Course Management* magazine.

An independent panel of judges representing national environmental groups, turfgrass

Reinhardt Gains Grant Money for Bee Project

Georgia Southern University's Center for Sustainability has named Georgia Southern University Golf Course among recipients of grants to promote sustainability projects at the university. Patrick Reinhardt, golf course superintendent, will have access to \$2,378.80 to fund work on Operation Pollinator, a five year biodiversity program run by Syngenta to create habitat for pollinating insects.

The grant is among nearly \$200,000 worth of funding announced by the university. "I was

Sugarloaf in Duluth is a major winner in the 2014 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards presented jointly by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and *Golf Digest*. Crawford was the winner in the national private facility category. He won a chapter award at TPC Sugarloaf in 2010.

A 34-year member of GCSAA, Crawford has served as superintendent at TPC Sugarloaf for 19 years and has kept his course certified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program since 1997. Sugarloaf also has closely followed established best management practices for water experts, university researchers

and valued members of the golf industry conducted the award selection.

“Our environmental leaders are the best examples for GCSAA and the profession as a whole,” says GCSAA president. Keith Ihms, CGCS. “When golfers think of superintendents, we want them to think of us in terms of our terrific environmental stewardship, as well as being golf course managers.”

Crawford joins past national winners from the Georgia GCSA including Anthony Williams, CGCS, Mike Perham, CGCS and Buck Workman, CGCS. □

impressed with the quality of the

proposals and the diversity of sustainable solutions presented,” says Lissa Leege, Ph.D., director of the Center for Sustainability. “I look forward to the sustainability advancements that these projects will offer our campus.”

Reinhardt had to fend off stiff competition to earn the grant. His was one of only 11 successful proposals out of 25 submitted. Fifteen academic departments in six colleges, as well as the Garden of the Coastal Plain, Campus Recreation and Intramurals, and the Division of Facilities Services submitted proposals. □

conservation and water quality since 2007. In addition, Crawford has adopted strict recycling and composting programs to save on waste.

“From what I gather from the phone call (announcing the win), I think the work we did in Georgia on water BMPs might have been a significant factor in getting us over the top,” he says. “So there were a lot of people who had a hand in that so the credit is shared. The criteria for the awards were broadened a little too so we gained ground in areas like pollution prevention, energy conservation and one or two others. We are excited to have this recognition for what we do here.”

He was one of 16 superintendents recognized at the national and regional levels for a proven commitment to environmental stewardship. The awards recognize golf

Moncrief Program Broadens Scope

The Georgia State Golf Association Foundation

has expanded eligibility requirements for

its prestigious Moncrief Scholarship Program. Moncrief Scholarships are awarded to students in the field of agronomy or turfgrass management at the University of Georgia or Abraham



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Applications for the 2015-16 school year can be found at www.gsgafoundation.org. Application deadline is March 2. Questions should be directed to foundation director Kim Cox at kcox@gsga.org or (678) 324-5962. The foun

dation also offers Yates Scholarships, which are awarded to employees of GSGA member clubs or their dependents. □

Baldwin Agricultural College. The foundation board of trustees recently announced that the Moncrief Scholarship Program has been expanded to include students who work and live in Georgia, but attend an accredited program outside the state.