

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011

Broken Sound breaks new ground

BY MARGARET MARY SHUFF



On Saturday, I attended the ribbon cutting for [Broken Sound Club's](#) new compost project.

It is the second of its kind in the United States. The compost will turn food wastes from the kitchen, and the grass cuttings from their two 18 hole golf courses, into organic fertilizer.

Due to Florida's sandy soil, chemical fertilizers immediately go into our aquifer system so this natural fertilizer is much safer for humans. This project will also reduce the costs of conventional fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides by at least a third.

John Crean, the environmentally savvy general manager of Broken Sound, employed the resources of Ed West and his company, ECW(Environmentally Controlled Waste LLC) to develop this project. All eyes will be on this composting site since it is the ultimate in recycling.

Their motto is "returning resources to the earth, where they came from in the first place". The National Geographic Society, as well as a delegation of Chinese visitors, will be observing this controlled waste project.

Good for Broken Sound, John Crean, the board, and the community for being pioneers in this effort to clean up their part of Boca Raton.

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South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com

Boca golf community wins environmental accolades

David Fleshler

10:34 AM EDT, April 26, 2011

The tony Broken Sound Club of Boca Raton is working hard to break the game of golf's reputation as an enemy of the environment.

The club, which operates two 18-hole courses on 1,000 acres, has become the second facility in the United States to win certification from the Golf Environment Organization, a non-profit group that has established standards for environmentally friendly golf.

And Saturday the club will hold a dedication ceremony for a composting plant that will process food waste from the club's four kitchens, converting it into compost to be spread onto the golf courses, reducing the need for fertilizers, pesticides and water.

Golf courses have worn an environmental black hat in Florida for years for contributing to suburban sprawl, using lavish amounts of water, spraying pesticides over their fairways and eliminating any wildlife likely to get in the way of a putt.

But the club has introduced a number of practices intended to reduce its environmental footprint, according to the Golf Environment Organization, which is headquartered in the game's Scottish heartland. It has improved habitat for native wildlife, set up a targeted irrigation system to use less water, relies on recycled water from the city and installed solar panels.

"Accomplishments at Broken Sound are broad and deep, touching on every aspect of club operations and maintenance, and revealed through careful research and rigor of process to find and act on sustainable solutions," states the report by GEO's certifying officer, Russ Bodie. "A key to success at Broken Sound is the management's commitment to staff training and frequent communication with members and the community."

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