

Get on Track to Improve Environmental Performance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking for environmental leaders to participate in its National Environmental Performance Track program, and certified ACSP and Signature members are well poised to apply. The Performance Track offers incentives and rewards to companies of all types that go beyond environmental compliance and embrace environmental stewardship. Performance Track provides companies with recognition, regulatory and administrative flexibility, and a more collaborative relationship with regulators.

Companies seeking involvement in Performance Track apply electronically, briefly describing their environmental management systems, past achievements, and future commitments for improved environmental performance. The applicant may choose from a variety of "indicator areas," such as emissions, waste, water, and energy, as the focus for improvements.

Certified ACSP and Signature members are good candidates for involvement because they have already demonstrated and documented leadership in environmental management and pollution prevention. A good example is Colonial Acres Golf Course

in Glenmont, NY, the first golf course in the nation to participate in EPA's Performance Track. A winner of the NY Governor's Pollution Prevention Award and the 2002 National Environmental Leaders in Golf Award, Colonial Acres has reduced water use, emissions of volatile organic chemicals, and use of synthetic pesticides by 70%.

U.S. (EPA) Regional Administrator Jane M. Kenny congratulated Colonial Acres general manager Fred Budzyna and its superintendent Patrick A. Blum during a visit to the course in October. Kenny commended the course's commitment to go beyond compliance to environmental stewardship. "The Colonial Acres course proves that you can have high quality grass on your golf course at the same time you lower the use of synthetic pesticides and water," said Kenny. "Performance Track is about protecting the environment, and honoring members who are committed to environmentally-sound practices that will protect people's health and the health of our nation's land, air, and water."

Currently, the program has over 300 members and welcomes all qualifying facilities. Applications are accepted twice a year: February 1 – April 30 and August 1 – October 31.



EPA Administrators Jane Kenny and Eric Wilson tour Colonial Acres with Superintendent Pat Blum (right).

For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/performance-track>, or contact Julie Spyres, Member Services Team Leader, at (202) 566-2885 or spyres.julie@epa.gov. ●

Golf Industry Show

We are pleased to be attending the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL, in February. Please stop by booth 4958 to meet us or attend one of several presentations offered by our staff. We hope to see you there!

- *Integrated Environmental Management*, 2/9/05, full day seminar
- *Selling Your Environmental Management Program to Golfers and the Public*, 2/10/05, 3 p.m., Agronomic Solutions Center
- *Greening Your Maintenance Facility on the Cheap*, 2/10/05, 12 p.m., 2/11/05, 10 a.m., 2/12/05, 11:30 a.m., Equipment and Maintenance Solutions Center
- *Water Quality Monitoring*, 2/11/05, 1 p.m., Agronomic Solutions Center
- *Turf Management*, 2/11/05, 10:30 a.m., NGCOA 2005 Solutions Summit
- *The Golf Course as a Model for Environmental Sustainability*, 2/12/05, 10 a.m., Agronomic Solutions Center ●

Conference to Explore Urban and Community Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Audubon International President Ron Dodson will be a keynote speaker at the Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference to be held March 15–16, 2005, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Community and urban settings present special challenges when it comes to managing pests. In our homes, schools, parks, golf courses, roadways, and other public spaces, we must place greater emphasis on using low-risk, environmentally sound methods to control insects, diseases, weeds, and wildlife pests. The conference will bring together researchers, educators, regulators, and pest managers from across the Northeast to share their insights and expertise on the emerging issues of community and urban integrated pest management (IPM). For more information, visit the conference Web site at http://nepmc.org/conference2005_index.cfm or contact Liz Thomas at (315) 787-2626, e-mail: egt3@cornell.edu. ●