

Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals
Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions

POSTER PRESENTATION

Presenter(s): Clint Waltz, University Of Georgia Crop And Soil Science

Title: A Blended Learning Program For Golf Course Water Conservation

Abstract: In collaboration with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), a new concept in training golf course superintendents was developed. This program is unique for GCSAA, in that it was designed as a “blended learning” experience that assists practitioners in the development of water conservation plans that are site-specific to their golf courses. The University of Georgia turfgrass faculty was responsible for development of sound scientific-based educational resources. The responsibility of GCSAA was to market the program to its clientele. The first phase of the blended learning program was the development and launch of an on-line course entitled **W.A.T.E.R.** The course was designed to provide introductory level information on **Water**; on how water is impacted by **Atmospheric** factors; on uptake and use of water by the **Turfgrass** plant; on the impact of **Edaphic** or soil factors; and the **Relationship** of the soil/plant/atmosphere continuum. The second phase of this program was a workshop conducted by Drs. Carrow, Duncan, and Waltz, with hands-on development of water conservation plans. The superintendents will have instruction and access to templates they can modify and implement to accommodate the nuances of their locales. The program will conclude with a 60-day access to instructors through a GCSAA maintained list-serve for final refinement of individual plans. The deliverables of this program were written plans that were developed to be followed for water conservation on individual golf courses. Within the first two weeks of launching the on-line phase, registrants included superintendents from 20 states and 7 counties.

Target Audience(s): Recreational water users and recreation business

Educational Purpose: Information, communication, education, capacity building

Contact Information:
1109 Experiment Street
Griffin, GA 30223-1797
770-228-7300
cwaltz@uga.edu

