THE NATURE OF THINGS
WITH DAVID SUZUKI

WATCH THURSDAYS AT 8 P.M.

Dad and the Dandelions

Thursday, March 2nd, 2017 At 8 PM On CBC-TV

The Nature Of Things With David Suzuki

Produced By Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

THE REAL 'GREENING' OF THE GOLF COURSE

There are an estimated 30,000 golf courses around the world which host 16 million golfers in love with the game. Like environmental filmmaker Andrew Nisker and his dad, featured in ***Dad and the Dandelions***, they've come to enjoy the fresh air and wide open spaces. But that green, peaceful tranquility can be deceiving. Golf courses have long battled a reputation for being water-guzzling environmental wastelands.

MORE:

Watch ***Dad and the Dandelions***

Change is afoot. In 2006, Jonathan Smith founded an international non-profit, the **Golf Environment Organization** (GEO) dedicated to promoting sustainability in the golf industry.

“It’s time to shine a light and ask some tougher questions and look for innovative solutions," says Smith in ***Dad and the Dandelions***.

GEO works with industry professionals to find new ways to solve some of the industry’s biggest problems and create green spaces that benefit their communities.

Here in North America, **Audubon International** offers a co-operative sanctuary program for golf courses. The group provides information and assistance in planning new courses and maximize the environmental aspects of existing ones. Courses meeting Audubon International’s environmental practices are eligible for certification.

Water Management

Golf courses have long been considered huge wasters of water. Audubon International estimated that **the average North American course uses more than one million litres of water per day** — equivalent to what 780 families of four might use. In golf-crazy, drought-ridden areas such as California, this is becoming a huge problem and some golf courses have already put themselves on a water diet.

- Many golf courses are using alternative water sources, switching from potable tap water to recycled, untreated wastewater
- The industry is developing new salt-tolerant grasses, which are able to grow and thrive with the newer sources of wastewater
- Underground drainage systems collect irrigation water for use over and over, before it finds its way into local waterways
- Course designs are being tweaked to remove turf and trees for sand and cactus plants.
- Smart water systems tell groundkeepers exactly where to water and how much eliminating the need to drench large areas.

Brown is the new green’, **an initiative from the US Golf Association** is much more than a catchy slogan.

Land Footprint

Golf requires more land per player than any other sport. Environmentalists say that developers destroy natural habitats to build them, removing native species and contributing to soil erosion and sediment runoff to nearby bodies of water.

In space-conscious England, **a column by a housing advocate claiming that golf courses take up twice as much land as housing** made the headlines around the world. Although **the numbers were later called into question**, the story sparked **an intense debate about golf and land use issues**.

SCENE FROM THE FILM: Director Andrew Nisker visits The Vineyard, an organic golf course in Martha's Vineyard.

GEO advocates a new ‘less is more’ approach. New golf courses are designed to use less acreage per hole and preserve as many natural elements and native species as possible. Golf courses can provide habitat for land and aquatic animals.

In **a study of 10 golf courses in North Carolina**, researchers were surprised to find that golf courses provided a wonderful environment for stream salamanders, an amphibian that they say played an important ecological role in the area’s food chain.

Prairie grasses and wildflowers can be an excellent alternative to turf, suitable for out-of-play areas and along ponds and wetlands. They attract a variety of birds, mammals, insects, and amphibians — all signs of a healthy eco-system. A strategically placed wooded area can provide important wildlife corridors for coyotes, fox, and deer, commonly found in urban and suburban areas.

Pesticides

Over **fifty pesticides are commonly used in the industry** although the number typically used on any one course is much lower, ranging from four – 12 per year, depending on the location. When golf turf is mowed to low heights, the grass is stressed and more vulnerable to pests, which requires more pesticide use.

In Canada, many pesticides which are banned for cosmetic use on properties are still in use on golf courses which are exempt from the regulations. **A RECENT REPORT BY THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** HAS CALLED FOR AN END TO THE EXCEPTION.

In recent years, golf course managers have begun to work with environmental experts to maintain their greens in ways that reduce potential impact on the environment.

- Aerating the soil with earthworms and other organisms
- Growing more tolerant variety of native grasses selected to thrive in local climates
- Testing for pH and nutrient content to minimize use of chemicals
- Carefully monitoring water levels, too much or too little will encourage weed growth
- Using organic pest control like vinegar, dish soap – even goats which like to gobble up weeds.

The golf industry is being encouraged to consider pesticides as only one of many tools that can be used to manage a golf property.

MORE:
Can We Live With A Few More Dandelions on the Golf Course?
How to Reduce Possible Exposure to Pesticides on the Golf Course

And of course, more natural golf courses are better for the bottom line because they require less water, fertilizer and pesticides to flourish. So it's a win-win for both the golf industry and the environmental movement.

Responses By NORAHG FON

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- **Norah G Fon**
  BROWN IS THE NEW GREEN WILL ANNIHILATE THE GOLF INDUSTRY !

  GO BROWN is seen as golf-hating terrorism that must be stopped from spreading throughout the golf industry ! By supporting go brown, pesticide-hating fanatics want junk golf courses. Sadly, Go brown is promoted by United States Golf Association (USGA), which has been infested with these fanatics. Go Brown is a ridiculous doctrine that is based upon the pretext that golf courses are somehow inherently un-sustainable. [?!?!] In fact, brown means unhealthy, unplayable, and undesirable turf. In June 2010, USGA provided the world with an example of its failed policies by converting pebble beach golf links into a go brown junk golf course during the United States Open Golf Championship. USGA presented the prestigious, iconic, and otherwise beautiful Pebble Beach golf course in a plain brown paper bag. The USGA falsely-alleged that go brown junk golf courses are better for the environment, require fewer inputs, save money, and play better. [?!?!] Observers have concluded that the USGA is wrong ! Go brown is a form of golf-hating terrorism that is spreading throughout the golf industry. Go brown will annihilate the golf industry ! Go brown must be stopped, forever !

  http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Force-Of-Nature-Golf-2010-08-01-Collision-Course-GO-BROWN-Anti-Cosmetic-Maintenance-Malapropistic-Misuses-of-Words-pdf.pdf

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CAPE IS FANATICAL, GLOATING, TREACHEROUS, & REPUGNANT - IT DOES NOT DESERVE ITS CHARITY TAX-EXEMPT STATUS !

CAPE is NOT a coalition of physicians. CAPE is nothing more than a golf-hating enviro-fanatics' club that anyone can join by simply paying for a membership. Moreover, the vast majority of CAPE-fanatics are not even doctors and nurses, and are certainly not competent to make ANY assessments regarding the golf industry. CAPE is a mere fund-raising, lobbying, and profit-seeking organization. CAPE is NOT a coalition, NOT a science, NOT a research, NOT a health, and NOT a physicians' organization. It is certainly NOT science-based ! Moreover, CAPE-fanatics have huge vested interests in subversively interfering on issues that they know nothing about, such as the golf industry. In essence, CAPE is illegally interfering with partisan politics & public policy, and, consequently, is in violation of taxation laws. If organizations like CAPE want to interfere, then their charity tax-exempt statuses must be revoked. The public has NO choice but to complain about CAPE by contacting business, fund-raising, government, and taxation agencies ! CAPE deserves the spotlight of scrutiny and the terror of Canada Revenue Agency.

http://pesticidetruths.com/ WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

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WE NEED A BETTER DAVID SUZUKI WHO WILL NOT VICTIMIZE DECENT & HARD-WORKING PEOPLE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY !

David Suzuki hates & victimizes people. Is this true ?!?! YES ! This is a fact as corroborated by his recent fake-news documentary against the golf industry. Suzuki hates & victimizes people in the professional lawn care industry, and has destroyed its businesses and has put its employees out of work. Suzuki also hates golfers and despises the game of golf. He intends to destroy golf businesses NEXT ! Suzuki, and his fanatical-operatives, have called on all provinces to expand their anti-pesticide prohibitions against ALL golf courses. They have also stated that they DO NOT want any exception statuses for the golf industry. Suzuki intends to leave a legacy of terrorized & destroyed golf facilities, lost jobs and hardship for golf employees, and weakened communities. Suzuki will never stop demanding more arbitrary prohibitions against conventional pest control products. Suzuki's victims have pleaded with him to stop imposing prohibitions, and yet, he never stops abusing, despoiling, plundering, violating, and violently attacking them. It's time to STOP Suzuki, forever. It's time to STOP making donations to David Suzuki. It's also time to for David Suzuki to step down as host of television programs by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, including the Nature of Things, because of his illegal interference in partisan politics and public policy, and violations of taxation laws. We need a BETTER David Suzuki !

Expanded Responses

NORAHG Response

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and is concocted ludicrous misuses of words like — « brown is the new green », « corrective watering », « fast », « firm », « go brown », « green is not important », and « sustainable ». Go brown is a form of golf-hating terrorism that is spreading throughout the golf industry. Go brown will annihilate the golf industry ! Go brown must be stopped, forever !

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