Audubon International, PGA, USGA Launch 'Green Golfer Challenge' Program

Audubon International, with support from the PGA of America and the USGA, has launched the Audubon Green Golfer program, which asks golfers to take the “Green Golfer Pledge.”

“From the early wind-swept fields of Scotland to the modern-day experience, the game of golf is intimately tied to the natural environment,” says the preface. “As a golfer, you play a key role in ensuring that golf courses continue to preserve the nature of the game.”

Golfers are asked to pledge eight points:

• Be kind to the course: repair ball marks and replace divots to help maintain playability.
• Walk, rather than use a cart, when possible. Walking promotes physical fitness, healthy turf, and a clean environment.
• Look for consistent, true ball roll on greens, rather than speed. Lower mowing heights required for fast greens are at the root of many turf and environmental problems.
• Keep play on the course and stay out of natural areas. Respect designated environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitats within the course.
• Use trash and recycling receptacles and encourage others to do the same. If you see trash, don’t pass it up... pick it up!
• Appreciate the nature of the game. Watch for wildlife as you play and support the course’s efforts to provide habitat.
• Educate others about the benefits of environmentally responsible golf course management for the future of the game and the environment.
• Encourage the golf course to be an active participant in environmental programs for golf courses, such as those offered by Audubon International.