

# 34 Marriott Courses to Become Sanctuaries by Year's End

Marriott Golf is requiring 34 of the company's managed golf courses throughout North America and the Caribbean to become Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries, by the end of 2008.

Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries are part of a systemwide commitment by Marriott International, Inc. to promote environmental stewardship.

Marriott's Audubon Certification mandate program includes famed golf destinations such as Doral Golf Resort & Spa, in Miami; Royal St. Kitts Golf Club in the British West Indies; and Shadow Ridge Golf Club in Palm Desert, California, among others.

Doral, host of the 2008 WGC-CA Championship, March 20-23, became the first-ever Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in North America to host a World Golf Championships event.

"Marriott Golf is proud to be part of the company's broader green initiatives by supporting Audubon Certification, golf's environmental gold standard," said Robert Waller, senior director of grounds, Marriott Golf. "Our goal is to engage our guests and associates from around the world in this unique process and to further our commitment to promoting the game of golf in an eco-friendly way."

Marriott International has been actively involved in energy conservation since the 1980s. Recently, Marriott's headquarters in Bethesda, along with its timeshare division based in Orlando, replaced more than 2.5 million pieces

of Styrofoam and plastic utensils with those made of potato ("SpudWare™"), sugar cane and cornstarch, all fully biodegradable within an average of 100 days. These industry-leading efforts have been recognized by the EPA, which awarded Marriott its 2008 Sustained Excellence award and placed the Energy Star label on more than 200 of its hotels (the most of any hotel company).

To date, and in advance of the 2008 mandate initiative, Marriott Golf maintains six properties that operate as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries, five in Florida:

- Stone Mountain Golf Club in Stone Mountain, Georgia
- Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami
- The Ritz-Carlton Members Club in Sarasota
- The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Jupiter
- Grande Pines Golf Club in Orlando
- The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, Orlando,
- Grande Lakes in Orlando

Each of these properties has achieved certification through a variety of methods, including the development of water conservation plans; converting formerly managed turf into wildlife habitat; constructing nesting boxes for native birds; the creation of butterfly gardens, and much more.

"We are elated with the level of commitment Marriott is showing by mandating Audubon Certification across their portfolio of golf courses," said Kevin Fletcher, executive director of Audubon International. "This program directly enables golf courses to



*Part circle heads and aquatic plantings help protect the golf course waterways providing an environment where wildlife can thrive*

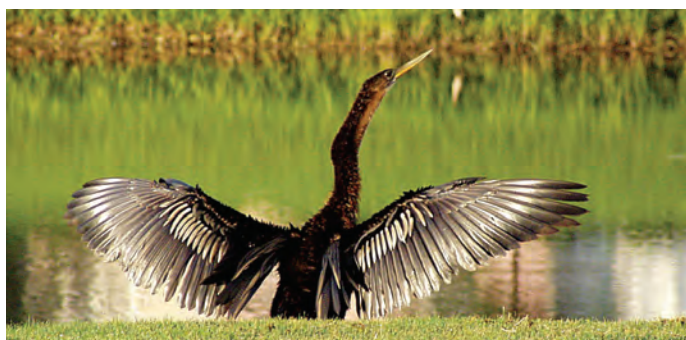
protect the environment by improving the quality of land, water, and air, along with conserving natural resources and protecting wildlife habitats. These proven environmental management practices will help preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf for many generations to come."

## GRANDE VISTA NEXT

The next property to become Audubon certified will be Grande Vista Golf Club, a nine-hole golf course and 32-acre practice facility and part of The Faldo Golf Institute in Orlando.

Throughout the past year, Grande Vista has implemented a variety of programs to demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship. Highlighting the property's efforts is the creation of a nature trail that runs throughout the property and hosts a number of native Florida plants. Each plant is identified with a post that describes the plant in details and serves to educate guests.

Moreover, Grande Vista has worked to provide habitats along streams and lakes that provide food and shelter for wildlife and 35 acres of habitat area has been protected throughout the property.



*Often called the "Snake bird" or water turkey, an anhinga sunbathes on the 11th hole at Grande Pines.*