

ACSP Certifies Florida Courses As Sanctuaries

SARASOTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

Sarasota National Golf Club recently achieved designation as a Certified Silver Audubon International Signature Sanctuary. Signature certification is awarded only to new developments that are designed, constructed, and maintained according to Audubon International's precise planning standards and environmental disciplines. The focus of the Signature Program is to promote sound land-management practices and appropriate land-use changes based on sound scientific research. This is the first project in Sarasota County to become certified through the Signature Program.

Developed by Tuscano, LLC as an amenity to a planned development in Venice, the 18-hole, Gordon Lewis-designed course features oak forest and Florida scrub with many wet habitats created for stormwater control and treatment.

The entire development, covering 2,418 acres, features more than 71 acres of restored and enhanced wetlands, 477 acres of preserved jurisdictional wetlands, and more than 500 acres of upland preserve plus the removal of more than 125 acres of invasive plant materials including maleleuca, and Brazilian pepper.

Focusing on sustaining the potable water supply in Florida, for irrigation Sarasota National uses reclaimed water from the local wastewater treatment plant. Good water quality of receiving waters (natural and man-made lakes) within the golf course and downstream waters was also one of the highest priorities.

"Sarasota National golf course was planned and is managed to incorporate golf course play with existing and

preserved natural features including forested and freshwater marsh wetlands, live oak hammocks and preserved palmetto prairie," said Signature Programs Director Nancy Richardson. "More than 600 acres of golf course and other open space/recreational areas are an integral part of the overall open space/preserve connecting to regional corridors including Forked Creek and Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve."

To date, 87 projects internationally have achieved certification through



The Sarasota National property preserved and enhanced hundreds of acres of native habitat and wildlife corridors.

the Signature Program. Only 15 in Florida have achieved the coveted Silver Signature Certification.

– Nancy E. Richardson

OLD CORKSCREW

Old Corkscrew, an 18-hole golf facility on Corkscrew Road between Fort Myers and Naples, recently was re-certified for the second time since its designation as the first Silver Signature Sanctuary in Lee County.

Enhanced through the restoration of a historic flow way through the property, the course features 40 acres of preserved wetland habitat and more than 300,000 native plants introduced strategically in landscaping and re-vegetation of disturbed areas throughout the property. The golfing experience on this 275-acre site is enhanced by the

native oak hammocks, pines, palms, and palmettos with beautiful vistas of lakes and preserves.

– Nancy E. Richardson

SHADOW WOOD COUNTRY CLUB

The golf courses at Shadow Wood CC and Shadow Wood Preserve have retained their designations as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. To reach certification, a course must

demonstrate that it is maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas including: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

"Shadow Wood CC and Shadow Wood Preserve have shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said

Jim Sluiter, staff ecologist at Audubon International.

Shadow Wood CC course and the Shadow Wood Preserve course are among 95 courses in Florida and 709 courses in the world to receive the honor. The Shadow Wood golf courses were each designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2006. After designation, courses go through a certification process every two years.

This year, as part of the recertification process, Eric Ruha, director of golf operations at Shadow Wood CC and Shadow Wood Preserve, required a visit by a local environmental expert who conducted the site visit and sent his observations to Audubon International.

"The best part of our job as golf course managers is the environment we get to call our office," explained Ruha.

“There is nothing more rewarding than riding in at the end of the day as the sun goes down, admiring nature’s handy work. We’re fortunate to work for the Bonita Bay Group who has been committed to environmental excellence from the beginning and continues to foster these types of relationships.”

“We see the site visit as an important component of a course’s recertification,” stated Sluiter. “It provides an objective verification of some of the more visible aspects of the course’s environmental management activities. In addition, it offers an opportunity for golf course representatives to share publicly some of the voluntary actions they have taken to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them.”

– Jennifer Laderer

VICTORIA HILLS GOLF CLUB

Victoria Hills Golf Club – the award-winning, Ron Garl-designed

course owned by The St. Joe Company and managed by Billy Casper Golf – has been designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for environmental stewardship by Audubon International.

In attaining certification from the conservation group, Victoria Hills’ 18-hole layout successfully maintains sound environmental practices in six key areas: environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction, water conservation, and water quality management.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses helps protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf. It emphasizes maximizing efficiency and minimizing the potentially harmful effects golf operations can have.

“Environmental conservation and education are key components to golf course operations here,” says Juan

Perez, head superintendent at Victoria Hills. “The St. Joe Company, Billy Casper Golf and Victoria Hills Golf Club are committed to upholding strict environmental practices that create sustainable places to live, work and play.”

“The unwavering commitment from the Victoria Hills team to create and maintain a sound environmental program is exceptional,” says Peter Hill, chairman and CEO of BCG. “We’re very proud of all courses which have become members of the elite group to achieve prestigious ‘Sanctuary’ status.”

Following the Audubon International-approved steps for an environmentally-friendly golf course reduces waste and promotes efficient operations. An effective program results in a reduction of maintenance costs, including insurance premiums, energy, water, pesticides, fertilizer, equipment wear and labor.

– Shane Sharp and Bill Feidler

CRUNCH TIME!!!



CALL TODAY AND ASK ABOUT OUR INNOVATIVE CALCIUM PRODUCTS AND WETTING AGENTS FOR SALT FLUSHING OF GREENS, TEES AND FAIRWAYS DESIGNED TO MEET YOUR NEEDS!

TRY K-CAL-MAG 7-O-7-4Ca-1 ALONE OR WITH ORGANICS FOR UNMATCHED QUICK STRESS RECOVERY!

Enviro-Green®

N-Control™

PHAIRWAY®
RIGHT AS RAIN®

The Andersons

800 TRAFALGAR COURT, SUITE 320 • PHONE: 800-775-5593

MAITLAND, FLORIDA 32751 • FAX: 407-682-6693