Audubon International announces Best of Environmental Golf List

By JEAN MACKAY

ELKIRK, N.Y. — What if the nation’s 16,000 golf courses not only met the demands of golfers but were also maintained to prevent pollution and provide significant nature reserves? The result would be green spaces in nearly every community that contributed to local environmental quality and added to existing wildlife habitat.

Since 1991, the non-profit environmental organization Audubon International has been training golf courses to do just that. To recognize golf courses that have made a significant commitment to environmental stewardship and to inspire additional courses to do the same, Audubon International is releasing the Best of Environmental Golf List. The select list includes the nation’s top-rated golf courses that have conserved local biodiversity, reduced water and pesticide use, and maintained water quality.

“There are all kinds of ratings for the top golf courses in the United States, but none of them pay attention to the environment as a rating criteria,” said Ronald Dodson, president and CEO of Audubon International. “The Best of Environmental Golf List includes golf’s cream of the crop in terms of environmental stewardship. These are courses who have made a commitment to environmental quality from turfgrass management to wildlife habitat conservation to water-quality improvements."

The top 200 courses on the Best of Environmental Golf List have achieved Audubon International’s stringent standards for certification through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary or Audubon Signature programs. Each course has implemented and documented its environmental efforts over a number of years and contributed to case studies, environmental education programs, and data collection on golf and the environment.

“We are proud to recognize these golf courses for their contribution to the environment” said Dodson. “Through their positive example, we hope they inspire others to do the same.”

For more information, or to register a golf course in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, people may contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, N.Y. 12158; telephone 518-767-9051.

Al’s Best of Environmental Golf List

Arkansas
Hindman Park Golf Course, Little Rock

Arizona
Forest Highlands Golf Club, Flagstaff
TPC at Scottsdale, Scottsdale
Troon Golf & Country Club, Scottsdale

California
Crystal Springs Golf Course, Burlingame
Cypress Ridge Golf Course, Arroyo Grande
Del Paso Country Club, Sacramento
Granite Bay Golf Club, Granite Bay
Hole-in-the-Wall Golf Club, Pebble Beach
Morris Bay Golf Course, Morro Bay
Old Broadway Golf Course, Kings Beach
Resort at Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley
Silver Creek Valley Country Club, Sun Jose
Stevenson (Ca.) Ranch Golf Club, Savannah Course

Colorado
Applewood Golf Course, Golden
Aspen Golf Course, Aspen

Connecticut
Aspetuck Valley Country Club, Weston
Hop Meadow Country Club, Simsbury
Simsbury Farms Golf Course, Simsbury
TPC at River Highlands, Cromwell
Woodway Country Club, Darven

Florida
Bonita Bay Club, Bonita Springs
Bay Island Course
Creekside Course
Marsh Course
Bonita Bay Club East, Naples
Collier’s Reserve, Naples
Country Club of Florida, Village of Golf
Fernandina, Stuart
FoxFire Golf and Country Club, Naples
Gainesville Country Club, Gainesville

TPC at Sawgrass, Ponte Verde Beach
TPC at Tanglewood, Lutz
TPC at Verano, Windermere
TPC at Sugarloaf, Duluth
The Den, Bloomington

Arkansas
Elmcrest Country Club, Cedar Rapids

Washington
Glynns Island Golf Club, Port Townsend

Connecticut
Ancastagi Golf Club, Ansonia
Beaver Mountain Golf Club, Middlefield
Beechwood Golf Club, Bethel
Eagle’s Landing Golf Course, Berlin

Maine
Beaver Hills Country Club, Cudar Falls
Elmscrest Country Club, Celar Rapids

Massachusetts
Hyannisport Club, Hyannisport
Plymouth Country Club, Plymouth
Sorling Country Club, Sterling
Shaker Hill Golf Club, Sterling

Michigan
Bay Pines Golf Club, West Bloomfield
Eagle Valley Country Club, Ada
Fox Hills Country Club, Plymouth
Grand Traverse Resort, West Traverse

Minnesota
Gull Lake View Golf Club, Augusta
Lakeland Golf Club, Princeton

Missouri
Baker National Golf Club, Dearborn
White Pine National Golf Club, Spruce

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Greenkeeping
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and stewards, all tied into one.

As years progressed, each phase of this "jack of all trades" became a specialized field of endeavor. The ranks of professional golfers grew from the ranks of caddies, who in turn were assuming greenkeeping roles at clubs. The club and ball makers from iron mongers and carpentry trades, thus adding to the professional golfer and, too, the greenkeepers' role. In the United States it was a lucrative opportunity for the Scots to be the pro/greenkeeper and, in several cases, this still exists today.

However, major shifts in golfers' desires for better playing conditions and having a person devoted to teaching the game to them at designated times, no longer allowed one person to handle both jobs. This became the true American way, which created two professions.

During the years since the PGA and GCSAA were formed, the two have been as far apart from their beginnings as any groups could be. But over the last 25 years the windows of golf have opened and the organizations have embraced each other. The USGA, PGA, GCSAA and Club Managers Association of America have recognized that in unity there is overwhelming strength to better the interest of golf and everyone's intrinsic value to this game.

From the perspective of a golf course superintendent, to identify what has happened over the last 81 years, when Lees wrote his book, will take several authors to sift through the collection of the past, housed at GCSAA headquarters, in Lawrence, Kan.

Al's best
Continued from page 14
Izzy's Golf and Yacht Club, O'Conner
Croquet Club - "South Course", Briarcliff*
The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis
Edgewood Country Club, Bloomingdale
Somerset Country Club, Mendota Heights
The Olde有许多 clubs, Lake Elms
Town and Country Club, Saint Paul
Woodhill Country Club, Wayzata
Missouri Blue Hills Country Club, Kansas City
Guthrie Memorial GC, Warrensburg
Top of the Rock Golf Course, Ridgely*
Nebraska Beatrice Country Club, Beatrice
TPC at Summerlin, Las Vegas
TPC at The Canyons, Las Vegas
New Hampshire Ambrosia Country Club, Amherst
New Jersey Ballyowen Golf Course, Sparta
Balmoral Golf Club, Springfield
Brigantine Golf Links, Brigantine
Brooklake Country Club, Florham Park
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Far Hills
Meadowbrook National Golf Club, Jackson
Newport Country Club, Newport
Pine Valley Golf Club, Pine Valley
Ridgewood Country Club, Paramus
Somerset Hills CC, Bernardsville
New York Atlantic Golf Club, Bridgehampton
Colonial Acres Golf Course, Glenmont
Eagle Vale Golf Course, Fairport
Old Westbury Golf Club, Old Westbury
Schuyler Meadows Club, Loudonville
Westchester Country Club, Rye
Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck
North Carolina Carmel Country Club, Charlotte
Carolina National Golf Club, Bolivia
Pinehurst #10 Continental, Pinehurst*
TPC at Piper Glen, Charlotte
Wade Hampton Golf Club
Kinston Country Club, Kinston
North Dakota Apple Creek Country Club, Bismarck
Ohio Detwiler Park Golf Course, Toledo
Fowler's Mill Golf Course, Chesterland
Sun Ridge Golf Club, Chardon*
Oregon Black Butte Ranch GC, Black Butte Ranch
Crosswater Golf Club, Sunriver
Heron Lakes Golf Course, Portland
Oregon Golf Club, West Linn
Persimmon Country Club, Gresham
Pine Ridge Golf Club, Cornelius
Quail Run Golf Course, Lake Oswego
Sailfish Golf Links, Gleneden Beach
South Dakota
Kansas Valley Golf Club, Sioux Falls
Tennessee
The Legacy, Springfields
TPC at Southwind, Memphis
Texas Barton Creek Resort, Austin
Fazio and Crenshaw Courses
Palm Course
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, San Antonio
Pedersens Country Club, Corpus Christi
Riverdale Golf Club, Grand Prairie
Virginia Robert Tress-Jones Golf Club, Gainesville
West Virginia
Indian Hills Country Club, Charleston
Winfield Country Club, Charleston
Wisconsin Blue Mound G&CC, Wauwatosa
Country Club of Wisconsin, Grafton
Tri-Cities Country Club, Menomonee Falls
Wyoming
Old Baily Club, Saratoga
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The untreated course exhibits dry spots and an overall unhealthy appearance.

Near infrared and aerial photography at Imperial Golf Club in Naples, Florida, captures the benefits of using InfillTrx Soil Penetrant on fairways.

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