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To: Newsletter Editors
Great Lakes Region of
USGA Green Section

From: Jim Latham, Director
Great Lakes Region

Dear Mr. Editor:

Your readers may be interested to learn that the St. Charles Country Club, St. Charles, Illinois, is the first golf course in the continental U.S. to fulfill all the criteria for full certification under the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Superintendent Peter Leuzinger is justifiably proud of this accomplishment as are the club members who supported this effort.

It should be noted that the first course to be certified, Kapalua Bay in Maui, Hawaii, was under extreme pressure by environmental groups on an anti-golf development binge. St. Charles was not. Nevertheless, Mr. Leuzinger and the St. Charles Resource Committee have generated a great deal of positive reaction through public involvement and education.

We are pleased that this USGA-sponsored program is making its mark in the Great Lakes Region under the guidance of superintendents such as Pete Leuzinger. Not far behind St. Charles is Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Michigan, where superintendent Bruce Wolfron has fulfilled six of the seven categories required for Certification.

Information on Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs can be obtained from any Green Section Regional Office or Golf House.

The club has implemented a diversity of conservation and habitat enhancement projects to ensure that St. Charles Country Club is an asset to golfers, wildlife, and the local community. An extensive nest box program provides nest sites for bluebirds, purple martins, wood ducks and bats. They have also increased meadow habitat and created a nature trail to facilitate understanding and enjoyment of the natural areas on the property.

According to Superintendent Peter Leuzinger, "This project has generated a tremendous amount of pride among our members. It has helped us really believe that our golf course is a real asset to the community."

Along with habitat enhancement and sound maintenance practices, educating and involving the public have been strong suits for St. Charles. Scouts, school children and local golf course superintendents have been invited to walk the nature trail, and Leuzinger has given presentations about St. Charles's environmental programs to the local Sierra Club, the Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendents Association, the University of Illinois Horticultural Club and Golf Course Superintendents Association members.

"Our out-reach to the community has reinforced our goals to manage this property with wildlife in mind," said Leuzinger. "We will continue to learn more as we have the opportunity to monitor all kinds of rejuvenated wildlife activity."

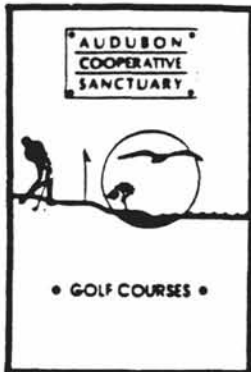
For more information on the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, contact The Audubon Society of New York State, 131 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, (518) 767-9051.

St. Charles Country Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence

ST. CHARLES, IL — The St. Charles Country Club has been dedicated as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, a program of the Audubon Society of New York State, and endorsed by the United States Golf Association. St. Charles joined the program in 1991, and is one of the first golf courses in the United States to achieve the "Certified" designation.

"The St. Charles Country Club has shown a strong commitment to and enthusiasm for its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Jean Mackay, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Society of New York.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Mackay. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Public Involvement, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife Food Enhancement, Wildlife Cover Enhancement, Water Conservation, and Water Enhancement.



The Certification Process

Several different Achievement Categories make up the Cooperative Sanctuary System. In order to become Certified, the course must complete and manage certain tasks. Present levels are described below. Application for Certification in any of these categories can be made at any time. Just write to New York Audubon for the "Achievement Category Change Request Form."

CATEGORIES

Environmental Planning — A written plan of action must be prepared and on file with New York Audubon, that details plans for the coming years(s). This plan should summarize planned efforts to increase habitat types on the course, conserve water and increase efforts at integrated pest management.

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("Certification" continued)

Public Involvement — A Cooperative Sanctuary Committee must be formed. Members of the committee must be listed, and on file with New York Audubon. The committee must include at least one person outside of the regular members of the golf club.

Integrated Pest Management — An integrated pest management plan must be written and on file with New York Audubon. This plan should include the use of turf management "scouting" and application of minimum amounts of pesticide, fungicide and insecticide products. The plan should include planned use of insect eating birds, bats or other biological controls as part of the management strategy.

Wildlife Cover Enhancement — A written plan to provide adequate "cover" for a variety of wildlife species should be on file with New York Audubon. This plan should include the use of nesting boxes, native or naturalized vegetation, understory enhancement in woodlot areas and so forth.

Wildlife Food Enhancement — A written plan to provide adequate food sources for a variety of wildlife species must be on file with New York Audubon. This plan can include the use of bird feeders, native or naturalized plants that provide food sources for wildlife species such as song birds.

Water Conservation — A written plan that describes the efforts of reducing the amount of water utilized to maintain the course must be on file with New York Audubon. This could include the use of conservation technology in the irrigation system, rain water utilization and recycling and so forth. This could also include the use of drought tolerant grass species.

Water enhancement — A written plan that describes efforts at actually documenting the present quality of water on the course, and efforts to enhance water quality for various wildlife species, such as fish, amphibians, birds and so forth must be on file with New York Audubon. This could include participation in the Water Watch Program.

A course that registers in the Cooperative Sanctuary System can apply for Certification in any or all of these categories at any time, provided they believe they are already managing efforts as described above, and document that in writing to New York Audubon. Each course will receive a Certificate of Registration upon joining the System. This Certificate will be valid for one year. A separate Certificate for each of the above categories will be supplied to the course, once the category is properly developed, and implemented. The Certification certificates will be valid until it is shown, either through site visits or other information that one or more categories are no longer being maintained by the course management. Request for certification in any or all of the present categories can be made on the Certification Request forms, supplied by New York Audubon, and attaching any additional supporting information.

Membership Questionnaire is Helping to Strengthen the Program


Along with member renewal notices, we've included a questionnaire to help us learn more about the types of projects that are taking place on golf course sanctuaries. This type of information not only helps us to keep up with what's happening on individual golf courses, it will also help us to develop program materials and promote the efforts of golf courses involved in the program. Based on the 70 questionnaires we've received to date, here's a look at what's happening in the field:

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("Certification" continued)

- 50% — Formed a resource committee to help plan and organize projects.
 - 54% — Maintained bird feeders including seed, suet and hummingbird feed.
 - 60% — Mounted and monitored nest boxes for birds. 80% of the boxes were successful.
 - 57% — Recorded wildlife species seen on the golf course.
 - 42% — Incorporated flowers that provide nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies into gardens.
 - 78% — Managed woodlots with wildlife in mind — provide understory cover, snags, brush piles, etc.
 - 81% — Buffered ponds, streams, and wetlands with aquatic vegetation.
 - 87% — Naturalized additional out-of-play areas to provide wildlife habitat.
 - 44% — Involved the public or members in projects on the course.
 - 77% — Practiced water conservation.
 - 68% — Expanded Integrated Pest Management programs.
 - 64% — Educated members, guests, or the public about their participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.
- We're excited about what has been accomplished by golf courses within their first year of involvement in the program and hope to see even greater results in subsequent years!

Wash Water Containment Area Rules

by Bob Wolf, Extension Specialist

University of Illinois — Agricultural Engineering Dept.

A recent amendment to the Illinois Lawn Care Act has established January 1, 1993 as the official date for requiring turf care professionals to use wash water and rinsate collection devices. The amendment also gave the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) the authority to permit such devices.

The rules set forth as a result of the amendment were developed this past summer by the IDOA, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and several concerned and interested persons from the turf care industry and related fields.

All licensed turf applicators in the state of Illinois will receive the rules, a permit application, and instructions for meeting the terms of compliance of the rules. The permitting process has been simplified to help reduce the possible increased cost that could result from an extensive engineering plan.

To simplify the permitting process, a general permit class system has been approved. The permit will require the applicant to provide a location map of the facility, a detailed description of the wash pad location, selection of either a class A, B, or C device, and the inclusion of a water supply protection device such as reduced pressure backflow device (RPBD), and any other information required by the IDOA. The permits would be renewable every 5 years.

The class systems mentioned above are described as follows:

Class A — Designed for portable area with small pesticide application devices. Those with capacities less than or equal to 100 gallons or 100 pounds. They would be 1.5 times the length and width of the application device and hold a minimum of 25 gallons or the device volume if greater. They must be constructed of an impervious material and must be protected from rainfall. The collection device does not require a sump.

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