

# Midwest Association Joins Audubon's New Supporting Membership Program for Golf Associations

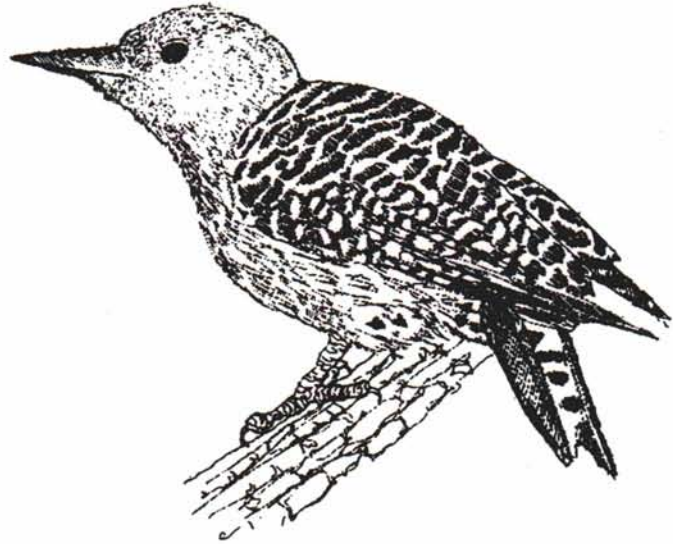
The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has recently joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System's Supporting Membership Program for Golf Associations. This new program gives us the opportunity to financially support the education and research programs of Audubon International and promote our own commitment to environmental stewardship.

## Benefits of Association Membership

Many of you are already familiar with the Audubon program for golf courses. This program provides information and support to help superintendents manage their courses with a high degree of environmental quality and to receive recognition for their efforts. Our collective participation as a Supporting Association Member is a show of support for the Golf Program and for Audubon International. Our contribution will directly assist the ACSS in providing member services and educational materials that further strengthen and improve their programs. They include:

- Research and technical information
- New educational materials
- Publications
- Telephone and Internet communication

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But our collaboration also benefits superintendents and the golf industry as a whole. For instance, information gained from Audubon's wildlife research taking place at Schuyler Meadows Golf Club in Loudonville, New York, or through Audubon's new database on golf and wildlife can be used to further enhance a superintendent's management plan. Educational publications, such as *Audubon's Guide to Environmental Stewardship on the Golf Course* and *Audubon Case Studies*, which highlight proactive environmental practices taking place on golf courses, are valuable resources. These also serve as important tools in combating public misperceptions about golf and the environment.

### **Achieving Recognition for Good Stewardship**

Another important aspect of the Supporting Membership Program for Golf Associations is achieving recognition for our environmental stewardship efforts. As a Supporting Association Member, we received a press release announcing our participation and commitment to environmental conservation. The release was sent to the major golf industry publications and several local media sources.

Our association can also attain three Levels of Accomplishment and positive publicity by participating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Here's how it works:

### **LEVEL ONE: Stewardship Partner, Golf Program Involvement:**

The Golf Program provides technical and educational materials and conservation assistance to golf courses throughout North America. Through the Program, golf course superintendents are improving the environment and educating the public about the many benefits that properly maintained golf courses provide for wildlife and people.

To date, only about 14 percent of golf courses nationwide have joined. Audubon would like to see this number grow much higher as a way to really show golf's commitment to environmental stewardship. Our association can receive positive publicity as one of the most active associations in the country when at least half of our members are signed up and 10 percent of those participating are fully certified.

### **LEVEL TWO: Education Partner, School Program Involvement:**

Just as golf courses are actively participating in conservation activities, so too are schools. Through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools, teachers, students, and school administrators are transforming their school sites to benefit wildlife, conserve resources, and create exciting learning opportunities. Schools have developed habitat trails, built nest boxes, created recycling programs, and achieved greater wildlife and conservation awareness.

Through the Adopt-a-School effort, administered by Audubon and endorsed by GCSAA, superintendents can serve as valuable resource people



to help schools achieve their goals. By adopting schools within our association's territory, we can provide technical and financial support to a school that might not otherwise be involved with the school sanctuary program. To achieve status as an Education Partner, 10 percent of our members need to adopt a school. How many of us have children in school or have schools right in our golf course neighborhood who could benefit from involvement in the School Program?

### **LEVEL THREE: Environmental Partner, Backyard Program Involvement:**

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Backyards helps homeowners incorporate both indoor and outdoor conservation projects. Parcel by parcel, the land managed by homeowners adds up to an important refuge for wildlife.

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**Midwest Association Joins Audubon's . . .**  
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Lots of homeowners could use tips on backyard management from superintendents, but how many of us are doing all we can right in our own homes to promote wildlife and environmental conservation? To achieve recognition as an Environmental Partner, at least 25 percent of our Association members need to be enrolled in the Backyard Program.

**A Win-Win-Win Situation**

Becoming a Supporting Association Member is a WIN-WIN-WIN situation: Audubon continues to receive much needed financial support, the golf industry receives positive publicity and

valuable educational resources, and the environment continues to thrive because of stewards like us. Let's strive to be the best in our profession and achieve each Level of Accomplishment.

If you are not already a member of Audubon's programs for Golf, Schools, or Backyards, or if you know of a school that you would like to adopt, you can contact Audubon directly for a brochure and more information. If you have questions you'd like to ask of someone who's already certified in the Golf Program, you can contact one of Audubon's State Stewards at the address below:

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Sanctuary System  
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Membership Coordinator  
46 Rarick Road  
Selkirk, NY 12158  
(518) 767-9051  
e-mail: auduboncsp@aol.com

Illinois State Steward:  
Peter Leuzinger  
Superintendent  
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