

Parque Celestial, featuring an array of astrological references, was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects' Florida Chapter Award of Excellence. The community's second park, Calusa Play Park, offers children and adults an opportunity to learn more about the Calusa Indians, the earliest inhabitants of Southwest Florida.

The Club at Mediterra has been honored with the 2002 Environmental Leaders in Golf Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest magazine in the private course category.

Scott Whorral, CGCS director of golf operations at the Club at Mediterra takes the lead in all aspects of the Audubon certification program. He is also the past recipient of the 2002 Environmental Leaders in Golf Award in the private sector from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest magazine.

## Orchid Island G&BC Florida's 71st to be Certified by ACSS

Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, the educational division of Audubon International. Matt Turner, superintendent, and Peggy Ogden, Audubon coordinator, have led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and are being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club is the 71st course in Florida and the 570th in the world to receive the honor.

"The Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club has 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 Shawn Williams, staff ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs,

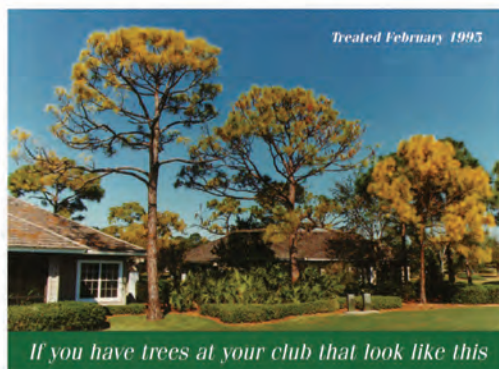
"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Williams. These categories include environmental planning, wildlife & habitat management, outreach and education, chemical-use reduction and safety, water conservation, and water quality management.

"The members of Orchid Island are very proud to receive this certification," states Rob Tench, general manager. "Our members are all very concerned about our environment and enjoy the beautiful wildlife throughout our wonderful community. We are especially proud of our diverse bird population. For many years we have been fortunate to have scores of white

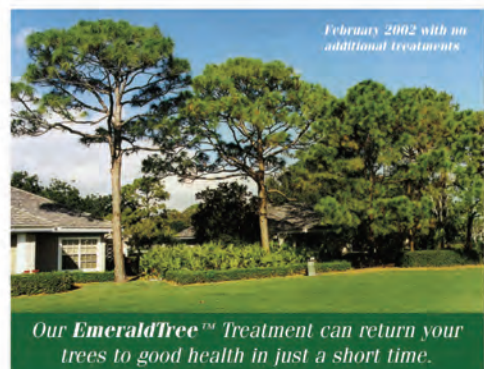
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*An iguana is a rare addition to the wildlife inventory. This one visits the Hobe Sound Club regularly. Photo by Roy MacDonald.*

pelicans return seasonally. They compliment the many other species that make Orchid Island their home. These include snowy egrets, spoonbills, wood storks, cormorants, ibis, several different species of ducks, and many other of our feathered friends. We even occasionally have a bald eagle visit us! “

“It is with great pride that we enter into a long-term commitment with Audubon International and the continued care of our environment.”

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Australia, Canada, and Central America. Europe

and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.

Audubon certified courses in the Treasure Coast GCSA in Florida also include Loblolly Pines in Hobe Sound, Hawk’s Nest Golf Club in Vero Beach, Grand Harbor in Vero Beach, The Floridian in Stuart, IGM - Aquarina Golf Club in Melbourne, IGM – The Habitat in Malabar, IGM – Spessard Holland G.C. in Melbourne Beach, IGM – Savannahs at Sykes Creek in Merritt Island, IGM – Sandridge GC in Vero Beach, Harbour Ridge Y & CC in Palm City and John’s Island Club, West Course in Vero Beach.

In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also provides programs for schools, individual homeowners, and businesses. ■

**ACSS Update**

Congratulations to the following new Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System member courses and current members that have become fully certified, renewed their certification or are working on certification this year.

**New Member Courses and Chapter**

Lake Jovita G&CC North and South Courses, Ridge  
River Wilderness G& CC, Suncoast  
Six Lakes CC, Calusa

**Fully Certified in 2005**

Audubon CC, Everglades  
Crown Colony G &CC, Calusa  
John’s Island West Course, Treasure Coast  
Orchid Island G & BC, Treasure Coast  
Stonebridge CC, Naples

**Recertified in 2005**

Gainesville CC, Seven Rivers  
Hammock Dunes Club Links Course, North Florida  
Palencia GC, Everglades

**Working on certification (Progress through 2005)**

Crandon Golf and Key Biscayne, South Florida - EP  
Lakewood Ranch, Suncoast - EP, IPM, RC and WHM  
Ritz-Carlton Jupiter, Palm Beach – EP, IPM, RC and WQM  
Southwood. Coastal Plains – EP

**Six areas of certification**

Key: **EP** – Environmental Plan; **IPM** – Integrated Pest Management; **OE** – Outreach and Education; **RC**- Resource Conservation; **WHM** – Wildlife Habitat Management and **WQM** – Water Quality Management.

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