



The Audubon Green Golfer Challenge gives everyday golfers the chance to become stewards of the other birdies on a golf course. Photo by Joe Hubbard.

TaylorMade-adidas, 30 Golf Courses Commit to Audubon Green Golfer Challenge

By Mary Jack

The first 30 golf courses have announced their commitment to support the “nature of the game” by participating in Audubon International’s “Green Golfer Challenge.” Throughout 2007, Audubon International is inviting golfers and golf courses in the United States, Canada, and around the world to take part in the “Audubon Green Golfer Challenge.” The challenge is simple — have golfers pledge to become an Audubon Green Golfer by taking steps to support environmental stewardship while playing the game.

“We’re excited about the early commitment and look forward to more golf courses — including their owners, managers, staff, and the golfers themselves — getting involved through this simple golfer pledge for the environment,” says Kevin A. Fletcher,

Ph.D., executive director of Audubon International. “At the same time, we’re happy to see organizations such as the Florida State Golf Association, Iowa State Golf Association, Oregon State Golf Association, and sponsors like TaylorMade-adidas stepping up to support this effort as well.”

Throughout the year, the pledges from participating golf courses will be collected and counted by Audubon International with ongoing totals posted online. Prizes will be awarded to golf courses with the most golfers signed up by November 15, and winners will be announced at the end of 2007. Finally, golfers who take the pledge will also become eligible for a random drawing of prizes at the end of the year — including golf gear from TaylorMade-adidas among others.

Becoming an “Audubon Green Golfer” and getting golfers involved is

a simple way for golf course owners, managers, superintendents, PGA Professionals, and golfers to help carry on golf’s tradition of preserving the nature of the game. Golf courses interested in participating and organizations interested in supporting the Audubon Green Golfer Challenge should visit www.GolfandEnvironment.org.

ABOUT AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL

Audubon International is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental education organization dedicated to providing people with the education and assistance they need to practice responsible management of land, water, wildlife, and natural resources. Since 1991, Audubon International has been working with the United States Golf Association, The PGA of America, Club Managers Association of America, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to promote environmental education and stewardship in the game and on the course. Currently, more than 2,100 golf courses across the United States and in two dozen countries are working with Audubon International.

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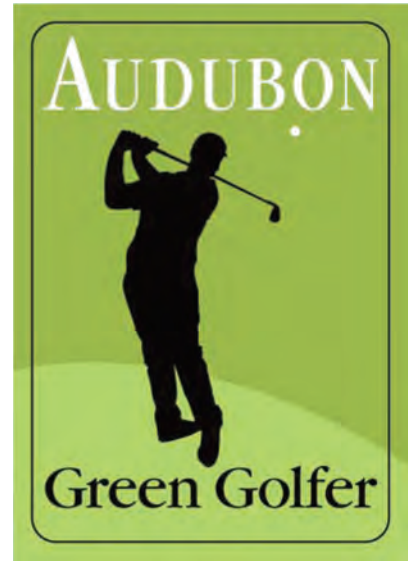
Audubon International, PGA, USGA Launch 'Green Golfer Challenge' Program

Audubon International, with support from the PGA of America and the USGA, has launched the Audubon Green Golfer program, which asks golfers to take the "Green Golfer Pledge."

"From the early wind-swept fields of Scotland to the modern-day experience, the game of golf is intimately tied to the natural environment," says the preface. "As a golfer, you play a key role in ensuring that golf courses continue to preserve the nature of the game."

Golfers are asked to pledge eight points:

- Be kind to the course: repair ball marks and replace divots to help maintain playability.
- Walk, rather than use a cart, when



possible. Walking promotes physical fitness, healthy turf, and a clean environment.

- Look for consistent, true ball roll on greens, rather than speed. Lower mowing heights required for fast greens are at the root of many turf and environmental problems.

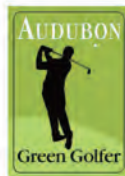
- Keep play on the course and stay out of natural areas. Respect designated environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitats within the course.

- Use trash and recycling receptacles and encourage others to do the same. If you see trash, don't pass it up... pick it up!

- Appreciate the nature of the game. Watch for wildlife as you play and support the course's efforts to provide habitat.

- Educate others about the benefits of environmentally responsible golf course management for the future of the game and the environment.

- Encourage the golf course to be an active participant in environmental programs for golf courses, such as those offered by Audubon International.



Become an Audubon Green Golfer

From the early wind-swept fields of Scotland to the modern-day experience, the game of golf is intimately tied to the natural environment. As a golfer, you play a key role in ensuring that golf courses continue to preserve the nature of the game.

Take the Audubon Green Golfer Pledge.

"I value the nature of the game and accept my responsibility to ensure that golf courses are managed in harmony with the environment. I pledge to:

- Be kind to the course: repair ball marks and replace divots to help maintain playability.
- Walk, rather than use a cart, when possible. Walking promotes physical fitness, healthy turf, and a clean environment.
- Look for consistent, true ball roll on greens, rather than speed. Lower mowing heights required for fast greens are at the root of many turf and environmental problems.
- Keep play on the course and stay out of natural areas. Respect designated environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitats within the course.
- Use trash and recycling receptacles and encourage others to do the same. If you see trash, don't pass it up... pick it up!
- Appreciate the nature of the game. Watch for wildlife as you play and support the course's efforts to provide habitat.
- Educate others about the benefits of environmentally responsible golf course management for the future of the game and the environment.
- Encourage the golf course to be an active participant in environmental programs for golf courses, such as those offered by Audubon International."



GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT...Dedicated to the Nature of the Game

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Eight-point pledge reminds golfers that they "play a key role in ensuring that golf courses continue to preserve the nature of the game" and reminds them that the game "...is intimately tied to the natural environment."