

Southwood GC Earns Audubon Certification

SouthWood Golf Club – the Fred Couples and Gene Bates-designed course owned by The St. Joe Company and managed by Billy Casper Golf –has been designated “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” for environmental stewardship by Audubon International.

SouthWood was specifically commended for water quality management, outreach and education. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses emphasizes maximizing efficiency and minimizing the potentially harmful effects golf operations can have.

“Environmental conservation and education are key components to golf course operations and maintenance at SouthWood,” says Eddie Snipes, superintendent and chief environmental steward. “The St. Joe



Eddie Snipes

Company, Billy Casper Golf and SouthWood Golf Club are committed to creating sustainable places to live, work and play.” A public facility, SouthWood involves members in projects such as birdwatching, wildlife inventorying, funding for planting projects and supporting local environmental groups. The course developed a comprehensive water-quality management plan that includes minimizing chemical additives, extensive vegetative buffers and protecting streams and wetlands.

“SouthWood Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program and should be commended for its efforts,” said Jim

Sluiter, staff ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs. “Courses must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas.”

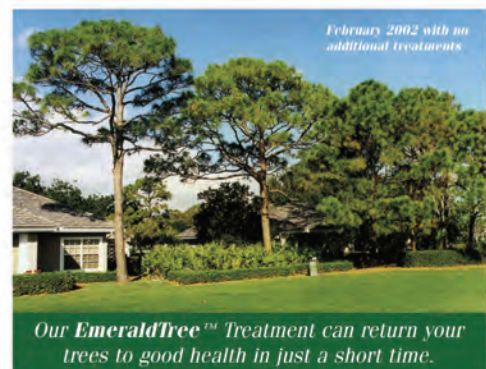
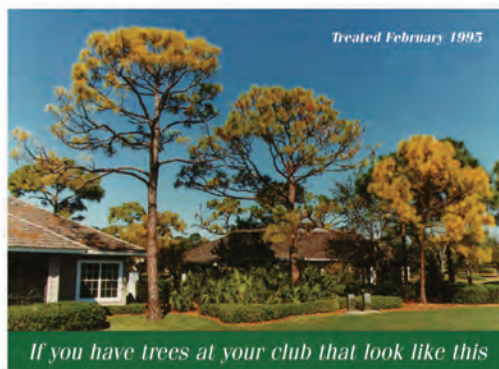
According to Audubon International, a golf facility must exhibit excellence in several categories: Water Conservation, Outreach and Education, Water Quality Management, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Wildlife & Habitat Management, and Environmental Planning to achieve certification. In previous years, SouthWood received recognition in the latter three categories.

SouthWood Golf Club was designed by PGA Tour player Fred Couples and architect Gene Bates. Most recently, the course was ranked one of the “Top 50 Courses for Women” by *Golf For Women* and named among the Top-10 layouts of the new millennium by *Travel + Leisure Golf*.

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