

PGA's Reserve club earns Audubon Signature status

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — PGA Golf Club at The Reserve, the PGA of America's first owned and operated public facility, has become the fifth golf facility in the nation to be awarded Audubon International's Signature Status. Recognition came on Sept. 17 during a dedication ceremony before 150 PGA delegates from around the country.

PGA Golf Club, which opened earlier this year with two Tom Fazio-designed courses, is rich with diverse plant and animal life. It has adopted state-of-the-art techniques to protect and enhance the property's natural qualities and dramatically reduce chemical, water and energy use. The Signature Program requires golf courses to focus significant efforts toward wildlife conservation, habitat enhancement, waste management, energy efficiency, water conservation, water-quality management and integrated pest management.

"Earning Signature Status is difficult," said Ron Dodson, president of Audubon International. "But PGA demonstrated its commitment to responsible management of natural resources. The result is a magnificent golf facility."

Natural resource experts who have studied the property say the area can support about 258 species of birds, 29 species of snakes, 38 types of mammals and scores of frogs, turtles, lizards and salamanders and plant species, including endangered species.

"We've combined the best of all worlds," said Jim Awtrey, PGA's chief executive officer. "We have world-class golf emphasizing the natural attributes of the area and cutting-edge operations providing affordable, enjoyable golf for the public."

Marty Kavanaugh, senior director of PGA Golf Properties, said PGA invested significantly in the latest design and equipment. He said the investment will ultimately save the club about 25 percent in operating costs while providing tremendous environmental benefits.

For example, Kavanaugh said the club will save about 25 million gallons of water per year over conventional watering methods. A computerized sprinkler system receives data from weather satellite systems and an on-site weather station. With 30 percent more sprinkler heads than most courses, managers can target only those areas that need watering.

"Homeowners typically use about twice as much chemical material per square foot as PGA Golf Club does," Kavanaugh said. "Combining wildlife pres-

ervation with development is not only the right thing to do but it makes good business sense. We're on the cusp of a relatively young science, but we're providing the model for the future."

Energy-efficient, variable-speed water pumps save PGA Golf

Club about 25 percent in electricity per month. Concrete cart paths around every hole reduce turf destruction, which reduces the amount of chemicals needed to repair damaged grass. The facility uses recycled systems for cleaning machinery, allowing water to be reused and avoiding ground-water contamination. PGA worked with Audubon International for almost five years to achieve Signature Status.

GCSAA inks American Cyanamid, Club Car

LAS VEGAS — A thirst for knowledge and a hunger for croissants has led American Cyanamid Co. and Club Car Inc. to sign a three-year agreement to present complimentary continental breakfasts at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America annual International Golf Course Conference and Show.

The deal actually extends the partnership, which began as a one-year pact last year.

The breakfasts will be provided prior to the Innovative Superintendent sessions, from 6 to 7 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 10-11, at the 68th annual conference and show being held here, Feb. 6-12, 1997.

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