



Maintenance at The Habitat at Valkaria encourages wildlife of all sorts.

## The Habitat earns full certification

MALABAR, Fla. — The Habitat at Valkaria, owned by Brevard County and maintained by International Golf Maintenance (IGM), has earned full certification by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS).

"They're very good," said ACSS staff ecologist Joellen Zeh about IGM. "They have created a lot of habitat and protected a lot of habitat. They plan on creating a bald cypress wetland area ... and are putting a lot of effort into getting rid of exotic species and planting native vegetation on the property."

The Lakeland, Fla.-based IGM, she added, is "very committed to getting all the courses they manage to get certified."

To become fully certified, a property

must meet requirements in the areas of environmental planning, outreach and education, wildlife and habitat management, integrated pest management, water conservation and water-quality management.

"We try to create more habitat than already exists for a variety of native birds on the course," said The Habitat's superintendent Bob Marshall. "Along with the help of assistant superintendent Lyne Walker Page, we managed to achieve certification by limiting the use of chemicals and creating a safe environment for many of our endangered species of birds." These birds include the scrub jay, bald eagle and sand hill crane as well as cardinals and great blue herons.

practices, over-use of chemicals, poorly planned development, and soil erosion will not only affect the immediate area, but cause other significant problems throughout the entire length of the watershed.

So, what is the significance of watersheds for the golf industry? Environmentally, appropriately sited, well-designed, properly constructed and managed golf courses can have a major impact on maintaining the quality of a watershed — particularly in an urban or suburban area. In order to be both environmentally and economically sustainable, however, they must employ sustainable land-management practices and natural-resource conservation.

Understanding watersheds environmentally brings us to our "watershed" decision. The golf industry, and each of us personally, must decide to make a commitment to sustainability. We need to educate ourselves about the environment. For instance, we need to think about the impact of large, unsustainable building programs in a floodplain, or developments that adversely impact wetlands or significant wildlife habitats.

We need to think about our land-management techniques and water resources from a watershed perspective because it is the only economically and environmentally feasible way for any ecosystem to survive, including human ecosystems. It is up to each of us to ensure that we live, plan and develop today as if our future generations depend on it. They do.

## Making choices

Continued from page 13

vival. The area or type of environment in which an organism or ecological community normally lives is habitat. Most of us probably understand the economic value of "terrestrial habitat," which includes grasslands, forests, croplands, and so on. But, how much do we know about "aquatic habitats" and their importance in the big environmental picture?

Aquatic systems include marshes, swamps, streams, lakes and man-made "impoundments" (like reservoirs). These systems have tremendous value in and of themselves. But, it's the relationship between the terrestrial and aquatic systems that provides stability and productivity to both the environment and economy.

Watersheds provide the foundation for understanding the relationship between the terrestrial and aquatic systems, as well as the environmental and economic systems. Watersheds are the natural drainage "networks" of a given area.

So, for example, the kind of agricultural activity, development, soil-conservation practices, and soil types for a large geographic area will affect the environment of a stream in which the watershed empties.

The entire watershed system is extremely important to the environment and the economy of all areas, including yours. Rich, organic materials in streams support living creatures that fill their slot in the food chain. Poor land-management

## Gainesville designated a certified sanctuary

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Gainesville Country Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS). Gainesville Country Club is the 19th golf course in Florida and the 137th in the world to receive this honor.

"After reading all of the guidelines for certification, I realized we were already doing much of what was required for full certification," said Gainesville superintendent Buddy Keens. In 1997, when he

registered the golf course as a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, he informed the membership of the project and several members came forward offering assistance.

"I was amazed at the amount of support I received from the members. I encourage all golf clubs to participate in this program," said Keens. The Gainesville Country Club Homeowner's Association was especially supportive, he explained, and donated a wooden sign announcing the certification.

## Alaqua Lakes joins Audubon Sanctuary System

LONGWOOD, Fla. — The new Alaqua Lakes golf community here has been accepted as an Audubon International Signature Cooperative Sanctuary facility.

The community features the Tom Fazio-designed Alaqua Lakes Golf Course, which encompasses 170 acres of the property and which will open on Sept. 15. The 7,100-yard par-72 semi-private course will boast a teaching facility and golf academy.

"Alaqua Lakes is a pristine piece of property and we intend to make certain the golf course serves not only as a nurturing habitat for wildlife, birds and na-

tive or indigenous plants, but also as a role model for existing and future golf course developers in central Florida," said Michael Moser, club operations manager for the developer, Taylor Woodrow Communities.

"We're thrilled," said Tom Spence, land development manager for Taylor Woodrow. "The Audubon Signature Program is an important effort that promotes conservation measures which provide large-scale developers with a more environmentally sensitive approach to land management."

LOPEZ CREEPING BENTGRASS

**Neumann Municipal Golf Course.**  
**First weekend in May.**  
**Over 500 rounds played.**  
**More divots than pars.**  
**More spike marks than bogeys.**  
**The scores were appalling.**  
**But the course was impeccable.**  
**Even on Monday.**

Lopez Creeping Bentgrass, from Finelawn Research, performs flawlessly — even when the golfers don't. Specifically formulated for tees, fairways and greens, Lopez maintains its superior appearance and play characteristics even under the harshest conditions. It greens up early and has excellent genetic stability without the tendency to develop patchiness. In fact, Lopez has outperformed Pennecross in bentgrass trial time and time again. Superintendents from across the country are always impressed by its rich green color, low crown height and rapid vegetative growth. Lopez Creeping Bentgrass is just one of over 14 varieties developed by Finelawn agronomists. For more information or the location of the dealer nearest you, just give us a call or visit our web site. With Finelawn, your course can't look any better.

**Finelawn**

P.O. Box 1051, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 (503) 636-2600 FAX (503) 636-7020  
[www.finelawn.com](http://www.finelawn.com)

Perennial Ryegrasses; Stallion Supreme; Stallion Select Tall Fescues; Finelawn 50L; Finelawn 88; Finelawn Petite; Fine Fescues; Flyer Creeping Red; Eureka Hard; Columbia Chewy Bentgrass; Lopez Creeping; Supina Bluegrass; Supranova Kentucky Bluegrass; Chateau Zoysiagrass; Zen 300; Zen 400