

Preserving our heritage

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plant populations decline or become extinct? How few are too few — at what point have we simply lost too many individuals for a species to recover? What are the long-term impacts of plant endangerment on people, wildlife and natural systems in general?

Protecting native plants is directly dependent upon preserving and managing native habitats throughout North America.

For golf course superintendents, owners and developers, making a commitment to preserve, nurture and showcase native plants in the landscape is a significant step toward hold-

ing the line on increased loss of our native flora.

But landscaping with native plants has economic as well as environmental benefits. Reduced water, fertilizer and pesticide use are among the most tangible results. Decreased equipment wear and tear and labor savings can also be sig-

nificant when highly maintained areas are replaced with more natural habitat and native plants.

Native plants can be used in almost any landscape design to highlight the uniqueness and natural beauty of the property.

By making a commitment to good environmental stewardship, we can all play a part in preserving our diverse and beautiful natural heritage.

Pine Valley fully certified

PINE VALLEY, N.J. — Pine Valley Golf Club has achieved designation as a certified audubon cooperative sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International, endorsed by the United States Golf Association. Pine Valley Golf Club is the 7th

in New Jersey and the 167th course in the world to receive the honor.

"We are very excited about our certification status," said head superintendent Richard Christian. "This past year we have devoted many hours towards becoming certified. The entire

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Birdwatching Open planned

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including a common murre, a great grey owl, and an American avocet. During 1998's event, 10 courses spotted osprey, eight saw loggerhead shrike, 12 saw eastern meadowlarks, and four counted bald eagles.

Though the information gathered highlights the type of species occurring repeatedly on golf courses across the continent, it also indicates the potential value of golf course for bird conservation. While scientifically credible inferences are difficult to draw from such a one-day birdwatching event, the data clearly show that courses that are actively managed to provide quality wildlife habitat do in fact achieve that goal. It also stands to reason that a greater number of golf courses participating in conservation activities would have a significant positive impact on wildlife and the environment.

In addition to data collection, an added plume of the North American Birdwatching Open is that it fosters communication between golf courses and local naturalist and environmental groups. Community outreach through the event is not only non-threatening, it's fun and educational. Bird watchers are constantly on the lookout for new places to explore, and the local golf course usually isn't on their list of birding hot spots.

The North American Birdwatching Open is an invitation for birdwatchers to see just how valuable golf courses can be for birds, and subsequently, to spread the good news to others in the environmental community.

The results of the 1999 North American Birdwatching Open will be available from Audubon International in late June.



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First certified Philippine course

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and habitat enhancement, water recycling and conservation, solid waste management and other environmentally friendly practices on the golf course. They also participate in planting trees and building bird houses for the 50 species of bird life that have been identi-

fied on the golf course property.

Moore has also been very successful in generating interest among Southwoods' members and getting them involved in the certification process.

"The club has really matured over the last few years and members have been very

supportive in creating wildlife habitats within the premises as urban and commercial development increases in the area," said Moore.

Not only have members been strong participants in the adopt-a-tree program, they have also helped to identify new species of bird life by filling out bird record cards that are placed strategically around the course.

With this help and support,

Moore has identified more than 150 diverse plant species ranging from native grasses to indigenous fruit and hardwood trees.

So far, Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist for the New York-based Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, has been very impressed with Fil-Estate's and Moore's efforts and innovations. "Not only have they gone further than any other golf club in Asia, their

presentations for each category have been immaculately prepared," said Zeh.

However, Zeh has come to expect some surprises in the certification process for Southwoods. "I expect the Integrated Pest Management certification to be interesting," said Zeh.

"On one hand, they don't use a lot of herbicides because they have workers that pick out the weeds, but on the other hand they have workers who eat endangered species."

Cultural differences aside, Zeh was particularly pleased with Moore's work on the water conservation certification.

Noting the trash and debris that was entering the Southwoods property through public waterways, Moore and the Fil-Estate environmental affairs division worked with residents in the community and educated them about solid waste disposal and then helped them set up a trash removal system.

"This demonstrates that a golf course can be very beneficial to local communities," said Zeh. "In developing countries like the Philippines that is more true, because golf courses have resources that the community doesn't have."

Moore and Fil-Estate's environmental affairs division couldn't agree more and they continue to strive towards full certification and proving that well-managed golf courses can provide substantial benefits to the environment and the community.

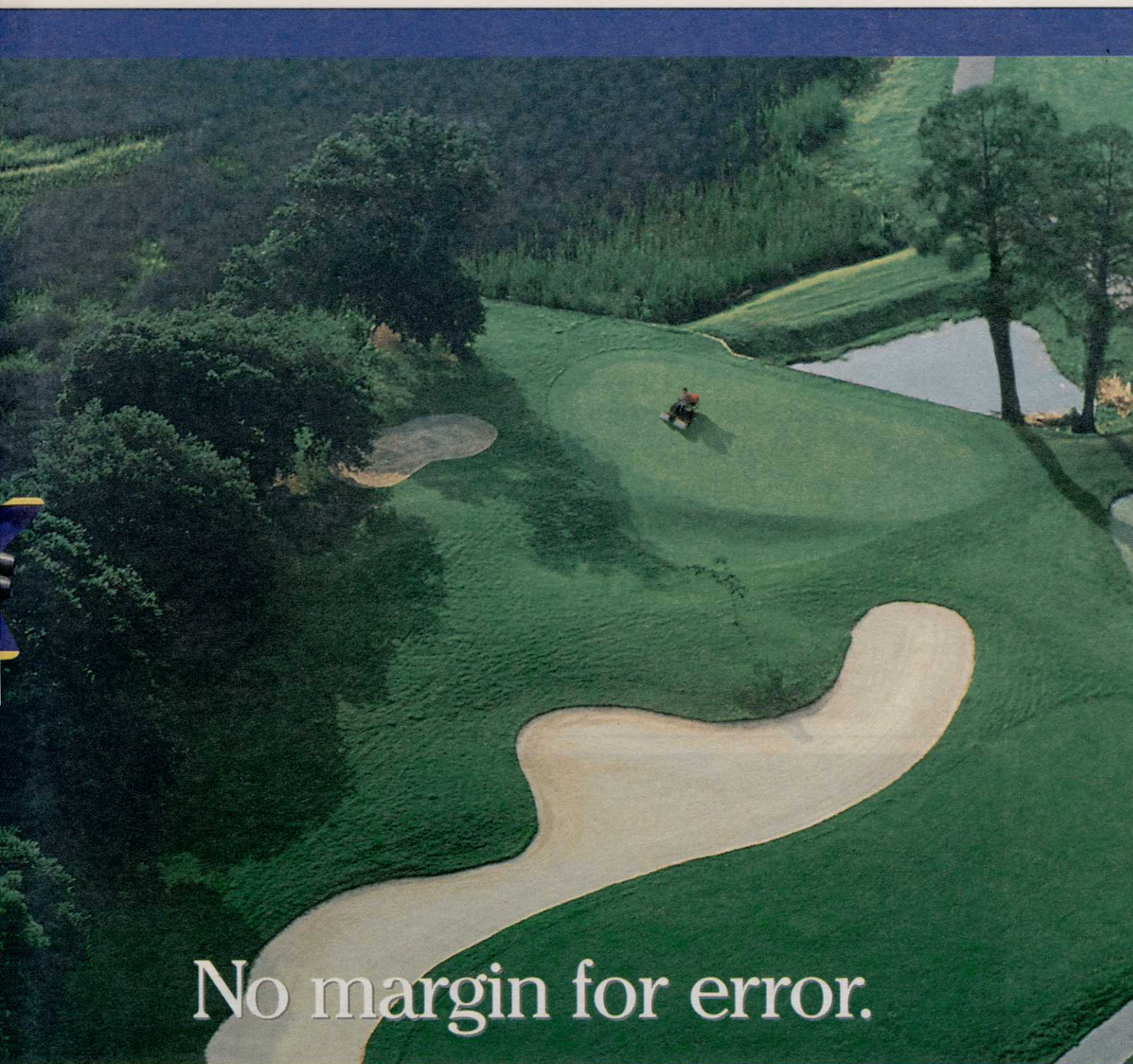
Pine Valley

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process has been very enjoyable for our members and employees, as well as the Pine Valley community. Audubon has made us more aware of protecting and enhancing the wildlife and natural resources on Pine Valley's 620 acres."

"Pine Valley Golf 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 Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist for the ACSS.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Zeh. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Integrated Pest management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Golf courses from the United States, Canada, and Europe have also achieved certification in the program.



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