

By JEAN MacKAY

COSTA DEL SOL, Spain — The first international U.S.-European Golf Environment Summit is scheduled to be held at Valderrama Golf Club here on Nov. 8 and 9.

The summit brings together key players from both sides of the Atlantic in the ongoing efforts to develop and manage greener golf courses.

For many years now, the golf-

ing community in both North America and Europe has been engaged in researching environmental issues and implementing conservation strategies. In the United States, the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section, through its Turfgrass and Envi-

ronmental Research Committee, and the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses administered by Audubon International pioneered these efforts and later were joined by other golf and environmental stakeholders.

In Europe, since 1994, the European Golf Association Ecology Unit has spearheaded conservation efforts and in 1997 launched "Committed to Green," an environmental management program for golf courses.

The Golf-Environment Sum-

mit at Valderrama, 1997 host of the Ryder Cup and this year's first American Express World Golf Championship, will bring together all the key players in these initiatives. Representatives from Audubon International, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the USGA Turfgrass & Environmental Research Committee, the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, and World Wildlife Fund will be among the featured speakers.

The summit will be a unique occasion to review and evaluate the vast range of work done to date, and to discuss future priorities and strategies in the golf-environment field. Technical issues slated for discussion include: water resource management, developing alternative pest management strategies, and refining certification programs to create reliable, international measures of environmental performance.

Jean MacKay is education director for Audubon International, headquartered in Selkirk, N.Y.

Int'l environmental summit planned

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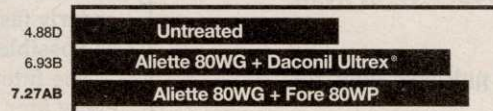
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Troon, Crosswater both certified

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Troon Golf and Country Club has been designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS).

"Over a year ago, Mark Clark, my golf course superintendent, and Eric Watson, our assistant superintendent, and I attended an Audubon International seminar sponsored by the local golf course superintendents' association," said General Manager John Reyhones. "We felt that a program such as the sanctuary program would be beneficial to wildlife, [plus] conservation, our community and members of the club. Both Mark and Eric are to be congratulated for a job well done."

SUNRIVER, Ore. — Sunriver Resort's Crosswater Golf Course has earned Audubon International's certification as a Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

"This is particularly gratifying because the Audubon certification symbolizes the unending philosophy at Sunriver Resort," said Crosswater superintendent Jim Ramey, who has been with Sunriver Resort for 25 years.

In 1998, Crosswater spearheaded a restoration plan for the Little Deschutes River to stabilize its banks, and create fish habitats and spawning areas. Ramey, who carefully oversaw the restoration process, worked closely on the project with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as fisheries, hydrology and resource management enhancement companies.