

Baker National Golf Course Recognized for Environmental Excellence

By Keith Greeninger
Baker National Golf Course Superintendent

Baker National Golf Course has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, a program of the Audubon Society of New York State and endorsed by the U.S. Golf Association. Baker National Golf Course is the first public course in Minnesota and only the third in the state to become fully certified in this program. It is the 47th golf course in the nation to receive this honor.

Baker National first joined the Audubon program in 1993. Being owned and operated by Hennepin Parks, a natural resource-based regional park system, was an advantage for Baker National in its effort to meet the requirements for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification. Hennepin Parks' mission of natural resource protection and preservation and provision of outdoor education and recreation opportunities had already dictated an environmental stewardship and education per-



spective at Baker National. As Golf Course Superintendent, I was fortunate to have available professional natural resource staff expertise in forestry, wildlife, water quality and outdoor education management to assist in preparation of Audubon Sanctuary application materials and in design of programs that helped us achieve this honor. One of the ongoing activities resulting from this process was the development of a Natural Resource Advisory Committee for Baker National which includes the Director of Natural Resources, Forestry Manager, Wildlife Manager, Water Quality Manager, Nature Center Supervisor and a Landscape Architect. This committee will meet periodically to develop projects that will enhance and promote our environmental efforts at Baker National.

For further information, contact Keith Greeninger, Baker National Golf Course Superintendent, 2935 Parkview Drive, Medina, MN 55340 or phone (612) 473-3369.