

# Sanctuary System Program Helps Protect Wildlife Habitats

It's been said that the world is our classroom.

No one has taken this more to heart than Audubon International, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Rain Bird.

Based in Selkirk, N.Y., Audubon International launched its Cooperative Sanctuary System to work with private landowners in implementing environmentally sound practices to preserve and enhance natural resources. Audubon International developed such programs for businesses, homes, schools and golf courses.

"Though many people believe that state or federal government agencies and their staffs have sole responsibility for wildlife and habitat protection, it is clear that the majority of real property is owned by private individuals and organizations," says Audubon International President and CEO Ron Dodson. "Most state agencies do not have the resources to

manage private lands. This is why AI launched the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System."

The golf course superintendent profession has been a leading participant in the Cooperative Sanctuary System through Audubon International's school and golf course programs. As a national sponsor of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools, GCSAA has partnered with Rain Bird to provide funding and services to promote awareness and participation in the program. The school program is a hands-on approach for community leaders, such as the golf course superintendent, to work with students, faculty, parents and the community to promote environmental stewardship.

By creating a sanctuary on school grounds, students, faculty and parents are able to learn first-hand the techniques that lead to success. To be-

come certified in the program, schools must meet established requirements in environmental education, wildlife habitat management, waste management and resource conservation.

People from the community, such as golf course superintendents, provide resources, expertise and supervision to transform school facilities into a certified sanctuary. Projects include recycling, bird nest boxes, butterfly gardens and nature trails, among others.

Along with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses, sponsored by the United States Golf Association, the school program was born in 1991 to protect and enhance the quality of the environment on the school grounds.

For additional information about ACPS for Schools, contact Audubon International at 46 Rarick Road, Selkirk, NY 12158, or call (518) 767-9051. — *News USA*

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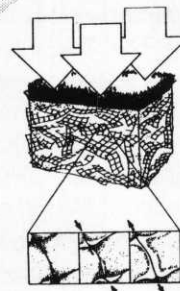
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