

The Great Stewards Of Minnesota Golf Courses

By **MICHAEL BROWER**
Hillcrest Country Club

It is my belief that the late John James Audubon would be very happy to see what is happening at golf courses in Minnesota today. And the same could be said for the late George Bird Grinnell. Both of these men played key roles in the beginning of America's wildlife conservation movement. John James Audubon, a man impassioned with birds, became the authority of ornithology in North America in the early 1800s. He would later become forever famous as a painter of North American birds. George Bird Grinnell, the editor of *Forest and Stream* magazine, a man who at an early age was tutored by Audubon's widow, formed the first conservation movement in America in the late 1880s. Grinnell, who believed that Audubon "had done more to teach Americans about birds of their own land than any other who lived, felt that "Audubon" would be a very appropriate name for his newly formed conservation organization. Hence, the birth of the first Audubon Society. Grinnell was motivated at that time by the vast destruction of birds by humans for their use of feathers and wings on hats and clothing. This disregard to conservation nearly lead to the extinction of several species of North American birds. Grinnell didn't disapprove of the taking of wild fowl for consumption, but he did disapprove of people and practices that held no regard for the future well-being of wildlife in America.

Today, another movement is underway, and it happens to be on golf courses throughout America. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, administered

by the non-profit Audubon International, was started in 1991. There are currently 79 Minnesota golf courses involved in the program. The purpose of this program is to educate and assist landowners and land managers through active involvement in protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats and conserving and sustaining natural resources on their properties. Audubon and Grinnell would be proud of this program, because it is a continuation of what they started. There were conservation issues in the 1800s, there are issues facing us as we approach the year 2000, and there will be issues for future generations to come. There will always be a need for conservation efforts.

Audubon and Grinnell would be especially proud of the superintendents that I'm going to refer to as "The Great Stewards of Minnesota Golf Courses," the golf course superintendents that have embraced this conservation philosophy wholeheartedly. Are you one of them? In a day and age of increased environmental awareness and scrutiny, can you afford not to be one that adopts this philosophy enthusiastically? There are currently eight Minnesota golf courses that have achieved full certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

The Great Stewards Of Minnesota Golf Courses

Minnesota Valley Country Club
Bloomington, Minnesota
Larry Mueller and Staff

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The Minikahda Club
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Doug Mahal and Staff

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Baker National Golf Course
Medina, Minnesota
Keith Greeninger and Staff

* * *

Woodhill Country Club
Wayzata, Minnesota
Rick Fredericksen and Staff

* * *

Izaty's Golf and Yacht Club
Onamia, Minnesota
Steve Schumacher and Staff

* * *

Somerset Country Club
St. Paul, Minnesota
Jerry Murphy and Staff

* * *

The Town and Country Club
St. Paul, Minnesota
Bill Larson and Staff

* * *

Tartan Park Golf Course
Lake Elmo, Minnesota
Joe Moris and Staff

Each of these superintendents, their staffs, and their golf courses have been recognized by Audubon International for their efforts and success in each of the six achievement categories that the Audubon Sanctuary Program administers. They are environmental planning, integrated pest management, outreach and education, wildlife and habitat management, water conservation and water quality management. There are 20 addition-

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Great Stewards—

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al courses in Minnesota that have submitted environmental plans for their properties and are working toward full certification.

Nearly 2,500 courses across the country are now active members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System Program (the ACSSP). This number is growing each day, and I encourage every Superintendent to become involved with the program. It doesn't matter whether you're in the center of a metropolitan area or in the northwoods, there are im-

provements each of us can make to wildlife habitat on our golf courses and conservation practices and environmental planning that will have a positive impact on our properties. The ACSSP represents an opportunity for all golf course superintendents to promote positive, pro-active environmental achievements. Your members, your community, your staff, your image, wildlife, and the overall environment will all benefit. And let's not forget about Audubon and Grinnell, they started the movement that has benefited our generation. Golf course superintendents have the opportunity to continue the movement for future generations. Become a "great steward," embrace it wholeheartedly!

For more information, contact:

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Business Meeting—

(Continued from Front Cover)

ceived the association's Distinguished Service Award.

Fred Taylor, Mankato Golf Club, was presented the Watson Award for his journalistic efforts for *Hole Notes*.

Scholarship honorees were **Chad Wilson**, Utica, Minn. (Iowa State); **David Swift**, Sherburn, Minn. (Penn State); **Kristine Ramsey**, Peterson, Minn. (Iowa State), and **Mike Harrington**, Delafield, Wis. (University of Minnesota).

The Trans-Mississippi/MGCSA Award went to **Riley Kieffer**, Nisswa, Minn. (Michigan State).

The Joseph S. Garske Legacy honorees were **Lucas Mahal**, son of Doug Mahal, CGCS, and **Amy Mounts**, daughter of Peter Mounts.

The MGCSA Legacy Awards went to **John Redmond**, son of Mike Redmond and **Aaron Smith**, son of Mark Smith.

Tom Garrett, Mendota Heights, a Minnesota director of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, presented two checks totaling \$1,500 from the Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund, Minnesota Project.

The next MGCSA meeting will be held on Monday January 11, at Izaty's Golf & Yacht Club. **Jim Lehman** will be the guest speaker starting at 11:30 a.m.

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