

Audubon Program for Golf Courses Announces New Certification Handbook

Golf courses seeking to achieve certification through Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP for Golf) now have a new tool to help them. A new Certification Handbook, distributed to current program members this fall, helps golf course personnel plan environmental projects, expand conservation efforts, and document their activities to achieve designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

"We wanted to get more golf courses involved in the program and becoming certified, but the amount of written documentation required for certification was a serious drawback for many superintendents," explained Joellen Zeh, Ecologist for Audubon International. "The new Certification Handbook significantly reduces the amount of writing required, instead relying on other types of documentation, such as an audit of environmental management practices, photographs, and "before and after" information."

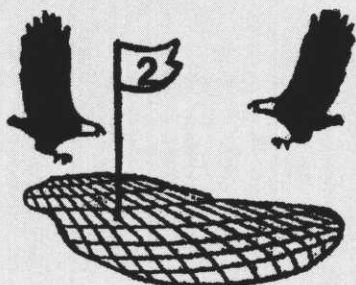
A working group that included academic advisors, USGA Green Section rep-

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representatives, wildlife and water quality experts, and golf course superintendents played a key role in developing the new handbook. The group field tested multiple drafts and offered critical feedback and practical information. Use of the Certification Handbook is now in effect, though ACSP Golf members who have already begun the certification process may use the old forms until December 31, 2001.

The ACSP for Golf includes 2,182 courses involved in conservation activities that benefit more than a half-million acres of land; 269 have been designated Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries. The program is administered by Audubon International, a non-profit organization specializing in environmental stewardship and sustainability, and sponsored by the United States Golf Association.

For more information about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses or the Certification Handbook, please contact Joellen Zeh at Audubon International, (518) 767-9051, extension 14, or e-mail jzeh@audubon-intl.org.

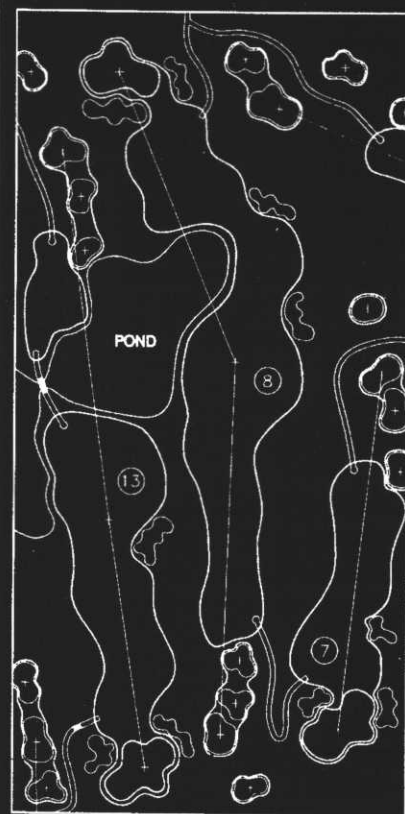


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