

STEWARDSHIP news

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A Catalyst for Conservation

For the past decade, Audubon International has been promoting the importance of individual action in regard to environmental stewardship. All of our educational programs and technical assistance services are aimed at *helping people help the environment.*



We firmly believe that our environmental problems can be solved only when each and every person becomes a steward of the environment. Thus, we provide information, resources, guidance, and motivation to help people make a commitment to stewardship and follow it through with effective action. In short, we serve as a *catalyst for conservation.*

1999/2000 was an exciting year for Audubon International as we further honed our educational programs, expanded our audience, and began a number of new sustainable development projects. The rewards of our work

To receive a copy of our full Annual Report, please call Jennifer Fink, Membership Secretary, at (518) 767-9051, extension 12.

Great horned owls were among the many wildlife species that successfully reared young this year at Saddle Rock Golf Course.

“
The goal throughout design and construction of Saddle Rock was an environmentally friendly golf course that maintains a significant amount of native vegetation. Information and ideas generated and received through the ACSP enable us to continually enhance and improve all the habitat areas.

”
Joe McCleary, *Superintendent*, Saddle Rock Golf Course,
Aurora, CO, Golf Course Member



Jeannine Fitzgeralds

Student tour guides shared their knowledge with more than 2000 visitors to Farnsworth Middle School's butterfly and native plant gardens during the summer, 2000. Grants from the Audubon Stewardship Fund and the Northeast Golf Course Superintendents Association helped to support Farnsworth's school sanctuary and Pine Bush Project, a school-wide effort to support the protection of a locally endangered ecosystem.

“
Before this program, students felt that they could not make a difference. Now, students see that by working together, they can actually change the world around them in a positive way.

”
Alan Fiero, Ph.D., Farnsworth Middle School,
Guilderland, NY, School Member

come from our members. When we hear about all of the conservation projects going on at Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries and Audubon Signature Sanctuaries—*hawks and owls born, prairies restored, water conserved, children benefiting from environmental education programs*—we share our members' pride and feel confident that our work together is *improving the quality of the environment.*

Here, we share a small sampling of how our members made a difference in 1999/2000. Their success is our success. We thank all of our supporters, sponsors, and members, as well as our board of directors and staff from educational institutions that provide local expertise by partnering with Audubon International and our members. *You make it happen.*

(continued on page 2)

Audubon International Vision

The Power of One

How many times have we heard someone say, "What difference does it make if I recycle or use energy efficient lights? So what if I plant a butterfly garden or mount a nest box? I'm only one person." Well...here's the thing: One person, deciding to recycle, use energy efficient lights, or improve wildlife habitat on his or her own land is a start down the path of conservation.

One person starts and another follows, and then another and another. Have you ever noticed that if one family in a neighborhood starts to beautify their landscaping, all of a sudden someone down the street starts too, and before you know it the whole neighborhood looks better? Simple, small actions on individual properties have a *tremendous impact* when repeated many times over on different properties. That's what drives the ultimate success of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

You make a difference—not only to the quality of the environment where you live and work; your stewardship of the environment can literally change the world.



Ronald G. Dodson
President and C.E.O.

A Catalyst for Conservation *(continued from page 1)*



Yvonne Means

Yvonne and Vic Means certified their backyard and attracted more wildlife than they ever expected.

“You know the phrase, ‘If you build it they will come.’ Well, if you plant it they will come. Boy! Do they ever come! Birds by the multitudes, more types of spiders than you ever dreamed possible, unending varieties of insects, migrating turtles, little youngsters of the raccoon variety, visiting rabbits you hope don’t get too comfortable, a booming toad population, and a growing number of leopard frogs.”

Yvonne and Vic Means,
Antioch, TN, Backyard Member

As part of its outreach and environmental protection efforts Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority partnered with local tiger scouts to build nest boxes for their grounds.

“The whole idea is to attract the birds that eat insects, which means that we can continue to control bugs naturally and avoid using any pesticides on our grounds. The utility’s environmental programs protect the Forge Pond section of the Metedeconk River, where the authority draws all its raw water.”

Louis Gialanella, Director of
Technical Operations, Brick Utilities,
Brick, NJ, Business Member



Membership Growth

1991–1992		250
1992–1993		450
1993–1994		646
1994–1995		934
1995–1996		1,228
1996–1997		1,524
1997–1998		1,912
1998–1999		2,392
1999–2000		2,728

The results of our **Managed Lands Survey**, conducted in the spring 2000, revealed that ACSP members are taking significant steps to improve wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources.

- 79% of golf course members decreased the amount of managed turfgrass. On average, members increased acres devoted to wildlife habitat from 40 to 70 acres per golf course.
- 90% of members conscientiously choose native plants when landscaping since joining the ACSP, compared with just 45% before.
- 86% of golf course members reduced pesticide use and 92% are now choosing pesticides with a lower toxicity level.

Nurturing Soils, Cultivating Stewardship

Freedom Organic Soils helps things grow from the ground up!

If you've ever dug into the earth in the town of New Scotland, New York, you know what clay and shale are. With each step through the yard after a rainfall, you can feel soil compacting as the clay compresses underfoot. Sparks from metal hitting rock fly anytime you lift a spade. Needless-to-say, digging a garden or growing a healthy lawn can be a backbreaking challenge.

Since 1995, one local business has been trying to change that, one backyard at a time. **Freedom Organic Soils**, an ACSP business program member, is helping people cultivate healthy, living soils through the use of compost. Owners Scott and Becky Schaible manufacture high quality compost products that build healthy soils by restoring soil organisms and soil structure. When mixed with clay soils, or soils that have been stripped of their fertility, as most soils have, the compost dramatically improves drainage and aeration, and literally adds *life* back into the soil. That life includes beneficial microbes, such as microscopic protozoa, nematodes, and fungi, which sustain healthy relationships between soils and plants.

But healthy soils are not all that the Schaibles set out to improve. They hope to help the local community grow in more sustainable ways too. Starting from the ground up, Scott and Becky are building a community-based business and nurturing relationships that will create a foundation for good environmental stewardship.

"What makes a quality organic soil valuable is its ability to sustain life," says Scott, a man with a mission who's not afraid to share it. "It is the same ideal that our family values as we build a community-based business."

The list of community organizations that have benefited from donations from Freedom Organic Soils is long. Day



Jean Mackay

Scott and Becky Schaible of Freedom Organic Soils provide homeowners, businesses, and golf courses with an ecologically sound alternative to traditional lawn care products and services.

care centers, retirement communities, and schools, including ACSP members Clarksville Elementary and Farnsworth Middle School, are among those using Freedom Organic's compost in gardens and landscaping projects.

The results of these community efforts have been just what Scott and Becky hoped for: one school donated vegetables grown in its garden to a food bank, another grew plants to sustain an endangered butterfly at a local nature preserve, a third created a wildlife garden that will be used in its environmental education program. *Nurturing soils, cultivating stewardship.*

"Seed planted in fertile soil will grow strong and last through the years," reflects Scott. "In the same way, Freedom Organic Soils wants that to be said of its relationships in the community."

Audubon International salutes Freedom Organic Soils for taking its vision beyond soils, for building sustainable relationships, and for sharing its efforts in a way that makes good things grow.

If you would like more information about Freedom Organic Soils, contact Scott and Becky Schaible at 518-439-5944, or via email at Info@freedom-organic.com.

Growing Green

Freedom Organic Soils' on-site test garden, plus extensive research and development through Soil Foodweb Inc. in Oregon, have enabled the Schaibles to refine their products to create the right balance of nutrients and microbes. To the experienced gardener, digging in Freedom's compost is like digging in heaven. To the novice, it simply prevents a visit to a chiropractor.

Next spring, the company plans to launch a compost "tea", a liquid compost that can simply be sprayed on lawns or large turfgrass areas. On-the-ground research at several sites in 2000 indicated that such applications improved soil microbial activity as well as fertility. In contrast to chemical fertilizers and pesticides, compost tea adds long-term vitality to soils. By making the product commercially available, the Schaibles hope to provide homeowners, businesses, and golf courses with an ecologically sound alternative to traditional lawn care products and services.

stewardship
IN ACTION

Why Naturalize?

For many ACSP members, answering the question “*Why Naturalize?*” when posed by critical employees, committees, or neighbors can be an unsettling prospect. Successfully communicating the many benefits of a naturalization project can make or break support for establishing wildflower or prairie areas, naturalized pond or stream shorelines, and rougher golf course roughs. Here, we share our best answers to this most pressing question, as well as tips for planning habitat improvements and educating people about your stewardship efforts.



Frank Espich, Star News

PGA Head Professional and ACSP coordinator, Jan Tellstrom stands amidst the natural beauty of restored prairie at Smock Golf Course. “*Since beginning our work to restore and enhance habitat in 1994, the staff daily notices wildlife around the course that benefit from our wildlife friendly practices. Birds and butterflies are abundant. In addition, increasing habitat has decreased our mowing time and reduced our use of fertilizers and pesticides.*”

—Nancy Schmutzler, Master Gardener, Smock Golf Course, Indianapolis, IN

The Environmental Benefits of Naturalization

- Maintains a diversity of plants and animals.
- Protects ecosystems and ecological communities.
- Improves water quality.
- Maintains the gene pool of particular plant and animal species, promoting hardiness, disease resistance, and adaptability.
- Minimizes erosion.
- Supports an aesthetic appreciation of natural beauty.
- Creates positive, progressive, and constructive attitudes about the natural world.
- Promotes stewardship of the environment and contributes to the conservation of local wildlife species.

Additional Benefits of Lake and Pond Naturalization

- Maintains the food chain for a variety of wildlife species.
- Enhances “structural diversity” of plants along the pond margin. Plants of varying heights and types increase wildlife diversity.
- Provides improved habitat for amphibians, such as salamanders and frogs, especially in ponds that do not contain fish.
- Provides shelter for fish and freshwater invertebrates.
- Supplies food for aquatic organisms.
- Provides waterfowl and wading birds places to feed and rest.

"By increasing the naturalness of our landscape, we become a positive force in contributing to a sustainable world."

- Stabilizes shorelines and reduces erosion.
- Minimizes or eliminates chemical runoff, especially when combined with a designated "buffer zone" in which no chemicals are applied.
- Improves water quality as plants take up excess nutrients and produce oxygen to aerate the water.



"Since we have ceased mowing most of the yard, we have seen pairs of wood ducks come into the pond each spring, seen foxes (irregularly) and coopers hawks (regularly), and generally observed a striking increase in both species and numbers of wildlife in our yard."

—Dr. Thomas and Jane Heineke, Bartlette, TN, Backyard Member

Financial and Labor Savings

- Lowers maintenance costs and reduces the need for high-intensity or time-consuming maintenance.
- Reduces equipment wear and tear.
- Reduces the need for gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers, and water.

Tips for Naturalizing

1. Make a plan. Assess existing conditions, create a conceptual design, and outline your plan for establishing and maintaining the area.
2. Choose your location carefully. Be considerate of visual appeal, traffic patterns, and any neighbor concerns.
3. Inform people about your plans. This is especially important if the naturalization project will alter the view of nearby homeowners.
4. Select native plants that will thrive under the specific growing conditions of your site.
5. Prepare the site and mulch, water, and weed as needed during establishment. This will greatly increase the likelihood of successful naturalization.
6. Hang in there during grow in. Naturalized areas may need to mature for a season before looking great. Don't expect or promise immediate color or wildlife use.

- Enables staff to concentrate where it really counts—highly visible areas or, for golf courses, the playing surfaces.

Additional Benefits

- Increases wildlife sightings.
- Adds distinctive contrast and natural beauty to your landscape.
- Provides places for nature study and enjoyment.



TFC at Heron Bay

Naturalization maintains the food chain for a diversity of wildlife species, like this red-tailed hawk feasting on the golf course's 18th fairway. *"Accomplishments have been many with our main priority being wildlife habitat management. Four thousand native grass plants were installed in masses on the property to accommodate and benefit all wildlife species on our golf course."*

—William Lowe, Landscape Foreman, Tournament Players Club at Heron Bay, Coral Springs, FL

A +

Hobe Sound Elementary School makes an extraordinary commitment to the environment

Hobe Sound Elementary School (HSE) is a wonderful, 30-plus-year-old public school serving 675 students in Hobe Sound, Florida, 90 miles north of Miami. We joined the ACSP for Schools in 1994, accomplished most of our certification in 1996, and became the first school in the nation to be certified as an *Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary* in January 1997.

Certification was just the beginning.

Every year since becoming certified, our program has grown by leaps and bounds. Sometimes I wonder how we can possibly do more, but inevitably it happens as each new school year starts, and more and more teachers, staff, and parents take an active role in the program.

Our theme at HSE is *Helping Save the Environment* and our motto is *Together is better*. We strive to instill a love of nature and ensure that our students and community are aware of how fragile and special our environment really is. We want our students to grow up to be responsible, environmentally aware adults who continue to “walk the walk,” just as they do now at HSE.

—Shelly Foy, *President, HSE Audubon Committee*



Hobe Sound Elementary

Hobe Sound Elementary School skillfully weaves ACSP activities into their curriculum. Learning about Florida's native habitats sparked this third grade activity, Oceans in a Bottle.

Tips For Busy Teachers

HSE is no different from most schools—teachers are forever busy trying to meet state mandates, curriculum requirements, and the day-to-day demands of their jobs. To the teachers who say, “*I can't possibly take on another program,*” here are a few tips for implementing the ACSP, or getting an existing program really going:

- Don't do it all yourself. Make it a school-wide effort.
- Start at the top. Get the support from your principal and assistant principal.
- Form an Audubon Committee that includes the principal, assistant principal, at least one teacher per grade level, parents, community members, and students.
- Develop a mission statement and short- and long-range goals.
- Consider hosting a fundraiser so that you will have money to implement programs at your school. There are a lot of grants available as well. At HSE, we host an annual dinner/dance/silent auction in which we raise \$10,000 per year for our Audubon programs. It has certainly taken us several years to get where we are today, but we are making the most of it.
- Don't forget to focus on curriculum. It does you no good to have a butterfly garden if you don't teach kids about the life cycle of the butterfly. Everything you teach your children about the environment, in science, and even math and language arts skills can all be implemented through the ACSP. Look at this program as the format for your environmental education efforts. *Curriculum is a big key!*

What has participating in the ACSP meant to you? Perspectives from administrators, teachers, and parents

environmental CASE STUDY

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program has gone beyond my expectation in its impact upon my school and the school community. Initially, I thought it would be another program that could be done in a classroom. But soon, I began to see the “bigger picture.”

The look of our school began to change as we planned for campus beautification. We removed many non-native plants and exotics and replaced them with natives, according to our landscape architect’s plan.

Our school logo was re-designed to reflect an environmental theme. We sold new school spirit shirts and purchased a school sign, both sporting the new logo.

Our students and parents became co-owners in the campus with our monthly *Help Save the Environment Days*. During these days, we devote time to campus beautification and environmental projects inside, as well as outside, the classrooms. Campus-wide discipline improved.

Parent participation increased. Community awareness of school and school events blossomed.

I cannot endorse highly enough the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. It has made our school more than a building, desks, and books. It is the heart of our small community.

—Don Merritt, *Principal*

In my classroom, I teach Audubon related programs every week. These unique programs allow me to integrate environmental education with science, language arts, writing, social studies, math, and other subjects of the school curricula. The children love the Audubon programs.

—Betsy Gunderson, *3rd Grade Teacher*

In 2002, Florida and Hobe Sound Elementary are gearing up for the statewide Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in the area of science. The FCAT science test will not be a standardized test, but one based on rigorous standards. *Hobe Sound is ready*. The students understand not only concepts, but also the processes of science. They see the big picture and how they fit into the often-fragile environment around them.

—Mary McWilliams, *Assistant Principal*

Our students are actively engaged in the preservation of their environment and REALLY know about it—just ask one of them!

—Julie Stellman, *Speech/Language Pathologist*

Since the Audubon committee has “adopted” a section of the library, we have established a separate section for Audubon materials, which we call the “Audubon Corner.” The bookcases are stocked with an assortment of field guides, books about birds, plants, endangered animals, composting, habitats, teacher’s activities, and more. The area has children’s outdoor furniture so they can have a cozy corner to read. A local artist painted a fabulous mural of Florida endangered animals and habitats.

Every child and teacher will benefit from our environmental reference center for years to come.

—Sheryl Molter,
Media Assistant

Many of the things we learn as a child stay with us throughout our lives. Give children the opportunity to learn about the environment, as we are doing at HSE, and they will remember it. Our students are exposed to the importance of conservation from kindergarten through

5th grade. Planting butterfly gardens, composting, weeding, and maintaining various conservation projects are stepping stones to responsible adult behavior toward our earth.

—Janet McCorkle, *Parent/Volunteer*

Bringing students outdoors to interact with their environment will assist them in gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to make responsible decisions in wildlife conservation and environmental protection.

—Janet Moran, *ESE Teacher*

At first, many of the teachers at HSE thought that participating in the ACSP was an imposition. But I am finding that now many feel as though the school and the students have really benefited from all that is done through the Audubon and the Green School programs. It has enriched not only my classroom and the way I present things to my class, but also how I feel about my home. I am much more aware of the importance of the unique relationships between humans and the earth and her inhabitants.

—Barbara Riggins, *2nd Grade Teacher*

The opportunity and resources for students to *Help Save the Environment* have instilled a sense of pride and accomplishment in our young people because they feel they are making a positive difference each day.

—Judy Moskal, *Parent/Volunteer*



HSE’s many murals help to link academics with hands-on habitat enhancement projects, such as butterfly gardening.

Hobe Sound Elementary

New Certification Handbook for Golf Courses Distributed This Fall

After many months of development and review, we are happy to announce that our new *Certification Handbook* has been distributed to ACSP golf course members. The comprehensive handbook, which replaces the *Resource Inventory*, *Environmental Plan*, and *Certification Workbook*, provides an improved framework for guiding environmental management efforts and completing certification.

Many thanks are due to our working group of golf course superintendents, USGA Green Section representatives, and academic advisors who tested multiple drafts and offered critical feedback. They contributed a wealth of practical information and provided invaluable assistance. In addition, we extend our thanks to our golf program sponsor, **The United States Golf Association** (USGA), for providing financial support for printing the new handbook.

If members have any questions about their certification status, or completing certification request forms, they may contact Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist, at 518-767-9051, extension 14, or email: jzeh@audubonintl.org.



Many thanks to our working group!

- Rob Bigley, Superintendent, Pine Haven Country Club, NY
- Patrick Blum, Superintendent, Colonial Acres Golf Course, NY
- Kimberly Erusha, Ph.D., Director of Education, USGA
- Shelly Foy, Office Coordinator, Florida Region, USGA Green Section, and AI Board Member
- John Foy, Director, Florida Region, USGA Green Section
- Rob Kloska, Superintendent, Jupiter Island Club, FL
- Tom Niebling, Superintendent, Columbia Golf and Country Club, NY
- Andrew Pludrzynski, Intern, Siena College, NY
- Frank Rossi, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of Turfgrass Science and Turfgrass Extension Specialist, Cornell University, NY
- Peter Salinetti, Superintendent, Schuyler Meadows Country Club, AI Board Member, NY
- Miles (Bud) Smart, Ph.D., Director of Environmental Planning, Audubon International Institute, NC
- Craig Weyandt, Superintendent, Yacht and Country Club, FL

Sustainable Development Principles Top the Agenda of Executive Training Seminar at WCI, Inc.

Ron Dodson, President and CEO of Audubon International recently led a full-day seminar on the *Audubon Principles for Sustainable Development* for corporate executives at WCI, Inc., one of the largest community/home developers in the United States. WCI, Inc., based in Florida, requested the seminar to educate its senior executives about sustainability issues and practices, as well as prepare a preliminary plan for merging the Principles into the corporate structure of WCI. Attendees drafted an environmental mis-

sion statement for inclusion in the WCI strategic plan and outlined an initiative to create and staff a new Environmental Stewardship Department. Both items will now be presented to and voted on by the WCI Management Team.

“We are very pleased to work closely with WCI’s corporate team to bring sustainability to the forefront of the company,” said Ron Dodson, AI president and CEO. “Our experiences will serve as a springboard for launching training initiatives with other corporations in the future.”

Multinational Companies with High Eco-Standards Most Likely to Succeed

Large companies that adopt strict global environmental standards in developing countries are rewarded with higher stock market performance, according to a study recently published in a journal of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management of Sciences (INFORMS). These findings run contrary to the widespread belief that multinational corporations suffer from environmental regulation.

The researchers examined 89 manufacturing and mining companies headquartered in the United States that are included in the Standard and Poor’s 500 Index. The report’s authors

found a significant and positive relationship between the market value of a company and the level of environmental standards it uses. Overall, choosing stringent environmental standards is more profitable than defaulting to lower or poorly enforced local environmental standards, the INFORMS report concluded.

INFORMS is an international scientific society with 10,000 members, including Nobel Prize laureates, that applies scientific methods to help improve decision-making, management, and operations. (*Source: Environmental News Service, September 2000*)

Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association Donates to Audubon Stewardship Fund to Support Environmental Education in Florida

Each year since 1997, the Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association has contributed to the environmental education of youth in Florida by making a generous donation to the Audubon Stewardship Fund. The Audubon Stewardship Fund offers grants and financial assistance to schools to cover the cost of ACSP membership and conservation projects. Treasure Coast raised \$5,000 this year alone through its annual Blue Pearl Tournament, bringing the total amount raised for environmental education to \$15,000. Numerous schools are benefiting from Treasure Coast's generosity and commitment to stewardship. Funds have been used to adopt fourteen schools and cover the cost of butterfly gardens, greenhouses, native plant landscaping, teacher resources, and more.



Mariposa Elementary School

Mariposa Elementary School is one of fourteen Florida schools benefiting from the generosity of the Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendent's Association. Students at the school manage aquatic plants and animals and give tours to schoolmates as part of a class project about wetlands.

We commend members of the Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association for their outstanding commitment to environmental education and exceptional partnership with local schools and Audubon International. If your organization would like to con-

tribute to the Audubon Stewardship Fund or adopt a school in your community, please contact Paula Realbuto, Executive Assistant of Operations, at 518-767-9051, extension 11, or email: prealbuto@audubonintl.org.

Liberty Elementary School Receives Funds for Stewardship Projects

Liberty Elementary School in Chesterton, Indiana, has been awarded a grant from the Audubon Stewardship Fund to help improve school grounds for wildlife and environmental education. The \$650 grant will be used to create a wildlife garden and start a composting project. The project, entitled "Liberty: A Place to Grow,"

will provide approximately 500 students with hands-on opportunities to learn about gardening, plants, soils, butterflies, birds, and insects, while restoring two acres of land to native prairie. Funds for the project were made available due to the generosity of the Michiana Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Check Us Out On-Line!

Audubon International's Web Page Gets a Whole New Look

Audubon International recently completed a major web page redesign and content update. Newcomers to the site and repeat visitors alike will find an attractive, easy-to-follow format with plenty of useful information. Contents include:

- **About Us**—Information about Audubon International's mission and environmental priorities.
- **Programs**—Description of AI programs, including the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, Audubon Signature Program, and Audubon Society of New York State. Includes Environmental Case Studies highlighting member accomplishments.
- **Educational Resources**—Provides an overview of AI books, fact sheets, education packets, and newsletter. Many back issues of *Stewardship News* are available on-line.
- **Special Projects and Research**—Highlights sustainable development projects and research initiatives spearheaded by the Audubon International Institute.
- **On-Line Store**—Our new on-line store is easy to browse—you'll find a variety of books, videos, and educational resources, plus signs, nest boxes, flags, and other goods to help you develop your Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

Check us out on-line at <http://www.audubonintl.org>

membership

NEWS

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

New Members Golf Program

PHILIPPINES

Riviera Golf & Country Club, Silang, Cavite

ALABAMA

Hoover Country Club, Hoover
Redstone Golf Course, Redstone Arsenal

ARIZONA

Shamrock Golf, Phoenix
Gainey Ranch Golf Club, Scottsdale

CALIFORNIA

Aliso Vieso Golf Club, Aliso Vieso
Indian Wells Country Club, Indian Wells
Malibu Country Club, Malibu
Adobe Creek Golf Club, Petaluma
Canyon Crest Country Club, Riverside

COLORADO

Deer Creek Golf Club at Meadows Ranch, Littleton

DELAWARE

Wild Quail Golf and Country Club, Wyoming

FLORIDA

Mizner Country Club, Delray Beach
IGM—West Bay Golf Club, Estero
Lexington Country Club, Fort Myers
Remington Golf Club, Kissimmee
PGA Country Club, Port St. Lucie

HAWAII

Dowling Company, Inc, Wailuku

ILLINOIS

Itasca Country Club, Itasca
Elliot Golf Course, Rockford

LOUISIANA

Tamahka Trails Golf Club, Marksville

MICHIGAN

Northville Hills Golf Course, Northville

NEW JERSEY

IGM—Bear Brook Village Golf Course, Fredon

OHIO

The Phoenix Golf Links, Grove City
Shawnee Lookout Golf Course, North Bend

PENNSYLVANIA

Brookside Country Club, Pottstown

SOUTH CAROLINA

Haig Point Club, Hilton Head
The River Golf Club, North Augusta

TEXAS

Riverchase Golf Club, Coppell
Hearthstone Country Club, Houston
Kingwood Cove Golf Course, Kingwood
Stonebridge Country Club, McKinney
The Ranch Country Club, McKinney

Southwyck Golf Club, Pearland
Willow Creek Golf Club, The Colony
The Tribute, The Colony

VIRGINIA

Keswick Club, Keswick

Business Program

CONNECTICUT

Essex Meadows, Essex

FLORIDA

Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park, Clearwater

ILLINOIS

Andrew Corporation, Orland Park

TEXAS

Dyess AFB, Dyess AFB

School Program

FLORIDA

Estero High School, Estero
Pelican Island Elementary, Sebastian

ILLINOIS

Edison Grade School, Danville

KENTUCKY

Walton-Verona Elementary, Verona

PENNSYLVANIA

Mcintyre Elementary, Pittsburgh

Backyard Program

ALABAMA

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby & Donna Wright, Eufaula

CALIFORNIA

Ms. June Silva, Aromas

FLORIDA

Ms. Lynne Page, Palm Bay

GEORGIA

Ms. Kathleen McManus, Gainesville

INDIANA

Ms. Elaine Pedersen, South Bend

Ms. Judy Stepanek, South Bend

LOUISIANA

Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Linda Brooks, Shreveport

Dr. & Mrs. Ron Byrd, Shreveport

Mr. & Mrs. Dewey & Gigi Corley, Shreveport

P. Fitzgerald, Shreveport

Mrs. & Mr. Brenda & Bob Haley, Shreveport

Dr. & Mrs. Richard D. Handley, Shreveport

Dr. & Mrs. J. R. Lang, Jr., Shreveport

Mr. James P. Williams, Shreveport

Recently Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries

Golf Program

Sanctuary Cove Resort—The Palms, Queensland, AUSTRALIA
Sanctuary Cove Resort The Pines, Queensland, AUSTRALIA
Cordillera Short Course, Edwards, CO

Burning Tree Country Club, Greenwich, CT
Quail Ridge Country Club, Boynton Beach, FL
Landings Club-Marshwood & Magnolia, Savannah, GA

Little Bennett Golf Course, Clarksburg, MD
Blackberry Patch Golf Club, Coldwater, MI
Country Club Of Blue Springs, Blue Springs, MO
The Members Club At St. James Plantation, Southport, NC

Edgewood Country Club, River Vale, NJ
Mesquite Grove Golf Course, Dyess AFB, TX
Kingsmill Resort: Plant./River Course, Williamsburg, VA

Everett Golf & Country Club, Everett, WA
Willow Run, Pewaukee, WI

Backyard Program

Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Abie Fleming, Eufaula, AL

Mr. Edward Pierce, Livonia, MI

Mrs. & Mr. Nancy & Eric Sorth, St. Louis, MO

Mr. & Mrs. Randy & Marsha Freed, Portland, OR

Ms. Linda Weiland, Houston, TX

Re-Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries

Bay Pointe Golf Club, West Bloomfield, MI, certified since 1997

The Ivanhoe Club, Ivanhoe, IL, certified since 1995

Audubon Signature Program

New Members

Heath Brook, Ocala, FL

The Ivanhoe Club Renovation Project, Ivanhoe, IL

Pinehurst #9, Pinehurst, NC

St. James Bay, Dallas, TX

West Fork Golf Course, Montgomery Newly Certified Golf, TX

Recently Certified Signature Sanctuaries

The Sanctuary GC at WestWorld, Scottsdale, AZ

West Bay Golf Club, Estero, FL

Red Hawk Golf Club, Sparks, NV

Turning Stone Casino Golf Course, Verona, NY

Audubon International Membership Fees

Audubon International has held its ACSS membership fee level for nearly a decade since the programs were instituted. Inflation and expanded services under the programs have steadily increased our costs, however. Unfortunately, we can no longer maintain our current fees without jeopardizing the quality of the programs and their value to members. To preserve the integrity of the ACSS, we must raise fees for the Golf Course, Business, and School Programs. Beginning January 1, 2001, the new membership fees will be:

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System

Effective January 1, 2001

Program for Golf Courses	\$150
Program for Businesses	\$150
Program for Schools	\$150
Program for Backyards	\$ 35

Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program Current Fees

Bronze/Basic Level Membership

Program and Registration Fee	\$12,000
Annual Renewable Membership Fee	\$ 500

Silver Level Membership (Resource Management and Education Projects) and Gold Level Membership (Sustainable Development Projects)

Program and Registration Fee	\$9,000
Annual Renewable Membership Fee	\$ 500

The program and registration fee does not include services provided by the Audubon International Institute, such as the development of the *Natural Resources Management Plan*, technical reports, site surveys, or employee training.

The Links are Natural in the Highlands

Congratulations to Highlands Links Golf Course, on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia! This historic course has become the 21st golf course in Canada, and the first in the Canadian Maritimes, to achieve the status of *Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary*. Built by the world-renowned designer Sir Stanley Thompson in 1939, Highland Links was dubbed by Thompson the “mountains and ocean” course, and was considered to be his masterpiece.

Over the years, Highlands Links has seen its share of wear and tear. In 1996, work began to restore the course, while ensuring the highest of environmental management standards for the future. In September of that year, once a great deal of the work had already been completed, Hurricane Hortense hit.

Wind snapped trees and torrential rain swelled rivers to overflowing. When things settled down, over half the course was covered by several feet of water, silt, sand, and beach rock. Crews cleared the mess by hand within a couple weeks, and the restoration continued. Staff and management were obviously successful in all their efforts, as this year *Score* magazine ranked Highlands Links the #1 course in Canada, and *Golf Digest* rated it as #57 in the world.

Highlands Links has another rare distinction in that it is situated

within a national park—Cape Breton Highlands. Thus, the management of the Links falls under strict scrutiny and environmental restrictions. Daily maintenance of this world-class course has always been carried out with strong consideration of the local environment, but since joining the ACSP for Golf Courses, Highland Links has taken its environmental

management to the next level. In 1999, a full-time Audubon Program/Integrated Pest Management specialist, **Heather Dauphinee-Wilson**, was hired to oversee the environmental workings of the course.

Heather worked closely with course superintendent **Gord Callan**, and course and national park staff, to produce an effective and comprehensive environmental program. In addition to expanding their testing, documentation, and reporting procedures, Highland

Links staff added more natural habitat around the course, created and expanded vegetative buffers around the Clyburn River, and extended outreach opportunities to park visitors. They also adopted their local school, Cape Smokey Elementary School, into the ACSP for Schools, and worked with students on several environmental projects.

The Highlands Links staff has developed an exemplary environmental program, and they deserve to be heartily congratulated as the first Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in the Canadian Maritimes.



Highland Links Golf Course is the first course in the Canadian Maritimes to be dedicated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

Preparing For A Winter of Birds

Now that we are well into fall, most of you have probably put your gardens to bed for the winter. Though the plants are dormant, there can still be plenty of life in your garden throughout winter. Now is the perfect time to establish a bird-feeding program to keep your garden alive with activity during winter months.

- Leave the seed heads on your perennials, such as coneflowers, black-eyed Susan, wild sunflowers, and native grasses. Birds and small mammals use these seeds extensively as winter food.
- Augment natural food sources with a variety of feeders and seed types. At this time of year, birds are scouting for food sources and stowing away seeds for use throughout the winter. By setting up your feeders now, your property will become a regular stop on their daily feeding route.

- If you have to go away, fill your feeders before you go, and be assured that the birds will fly to your neighbours' feeders and to natural sources that are already part of their regular feeding circuit.
- Clean feeders every couple of weeks to get

rid of any bacteria, mold, and feces that may have accumulated. Never, under any circumstances, feed moldy or rotting seeds.

- Use the opportunity to strengthen your identification skills and build your wildlife inventory. And of course, sit back and enjoy the birds!

Membership News

New Golf Members

- Alberta**
Stewart Creek Golf Course, Calgary
- British Columbia**
Ardmore Golf Course, Ltd., Sidney
- Nova Scotia**
Osprey Ridge Golf Course, Bridgewater

Ontario

Burlington Golf and Country Club, Burlington

Quebec

Club de golf de Beloeil, Beloeil
Club de golf du lac St-Joseph, Ste-Catherine-de-la-Jacques Cartier

New Backyard Members

Ontario
Peter Newman, Markham
Gwen Petreman, Barrie

New Business/ Corporate Members

Alberta
Columbia Icefield Centre, Banff

Newly Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries

Golf
Cedarbrook Golf and Country Club, Ste-Sophie, Quebec

Catalyst for Conservation



Chenal Country Club, AR

Audubon International highlights how members made a difference in 1999/2000.

STEWARDSHIP news

Audubon International publishes *Stewardship News* six times a year. Inquiries, contributions or letters to the editor should be addressed to:

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ACSS QUICK TIP

Give the gift of good environmental stewardship this holiday season with educational resources, books, videos, nest boxes, flags, and more, available through Audubon International's website and on-line store!

<http://www.audubonintl.org/store>

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