



## Fostering Sustainable Communities

BY JEAN MACKAY

*“The starting point for a better world is the belief that it is possible.”*

- Norman Cousins

Have you ever noticed how polarized debate about the economy and the environment tends to be? Residential growth gets pitted against open space preservation, good water quality against the need for food or timber or industry, and new jobs against the environment. If we believe only our media sources or politicians (or perhaps our neighbors), then our choices are limited, indeed.

It's no wonder we get extremes: developers rushing to fill wetlands when regulations are eased and environmentalists strapping themselves to trees. No wonder we litigate and regulate to the point of exasperation.

Rarely do we question whether



Audubon International emphasizes individual, property-wide, and community-level stewardship actions under the banner of its Sustainable Communities Campaign. Here, students from Seaside Neighborhood School install wildlife signs at Camp Creek Golf Club, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in Florida.

there might not be another way... whether we might create something far healthier and more vibrant for ourselves and the communities in which we live.

### A New Paradigm

As communities around the world struggle to address a host of complex problems, many are finding that old models for fixing them simply aren't working. Common environmental problems include degraded air and water quality, the loss of open space, and sprawling development, while issues such as jobs, taxes, crime, and poverty continue to rank among the primary concerns for many communities. The silver lining is that communities are increasingly seeing the linkages among the problems they face, and taking a new approach to addressing them.

The emphasis of this new approach is *sustainability*. That is, integrating

economic, environmental, and social factors together in planning, actions, and decision-making so that the long-term health of the community is not compromised by short-term choices.

“It's an approach that really makes sense,” says Ron Dodson, President and CEO of Audubon International. “Think of a community as a three-legged stool, ultimately supported by its economy, environment, and social fabric. If you focus just on one leg—say, just the environment or only the economy—you're bound to come up short and the entire structure will be unsupported.”

“That's why Audubon International's frame of reference for its programs and organizational outreach is our Sustainable Communities Campaign,” explains Dodson. Under the banner of the campaign, Audubon International emphasizes individual, property-wide, and community-level stewardship actions. To broaden its base, Audubon

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As part of their involvement with Audubon International programs, WCI employees are actively involved in company-wide environmental initiatives and community projects, including the Collier County Waterways Clean-up in Florida.

## Dear Members and Supporters,

As I travel throughout the country, I am increasingly meeting people from all walks of life who are concerned about the quality of life in the places they live. They express concerns about where their food comes from and how it is produced, the effects of residential and commercial growth that is not well planned, and the ability to preserve community character and a healthy environment. They wonder what kind of legacy we are leaving our children.

Such concerns require that we think carefully about the communities in which we live. We might do well to begin by asking *What is a community?* In my view, we need to broaden our view of communities merely as places where people live, work, and recreate to include the *natural communities* of native plants and wildlife that surround us and the natural resources upon which we all depend.

Then we can begin the important work of finding ways to foster healthier communities. One way to do just that is to incorporate the concept of *sustainability* in our decisions and actions. In other words, do the decisions we make and actions we take—on a personal level right on up to a community-wide level—strengthen or diminish the ability of future generations to meet their needs? How do our decisions and actions impact the environment? The economy? The social fabric of our communities?

People around the globe are discovering that using a sustainable approach fostering healthier communities brings about good results. In this issue of *Stewardship News*, you'll read about several success stories and about how Audubon International's programs can serve as a catalyst for positive change. I encourage you to look for ways take action at home, work, and in the community in which you live. After all, we have much to lose and everything to gain.

Ron Dodson  
President

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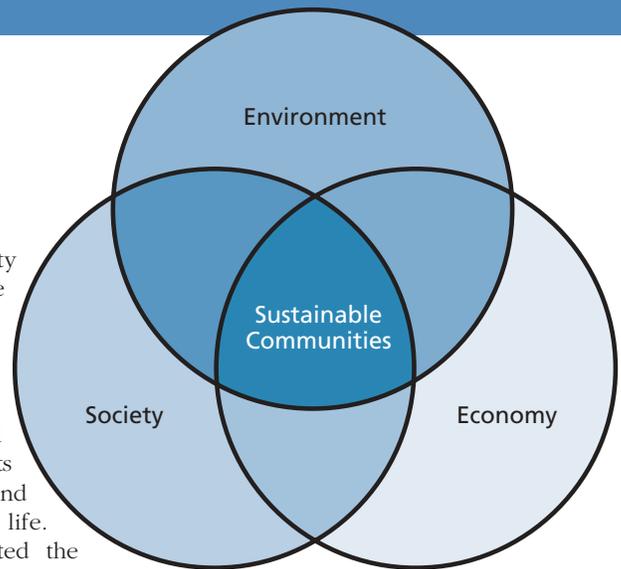
International is increasingly partnering with universities, non-profits, and governmental agencies to ensure that economic and social progress are rooted in the ecological systems upon which they ultimately depend.

“Through collaboration with a diverse array of organizations, we are fostering policies, programs, and practices that bolster the economy-environment-society triad, rather than pitting one against the other,” says Dodson. “But the essence of our work remains *getting people to take action*. Whether we start in our own backyards or at town hall, we can be a catalyst for fostering more sustainable human and natural communities.”

### A Place-based Approach

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to creating sustainable communities or sustainable developments. What makes sense in Seattle might prove disastrous in Sarasota or Salina. Audubon International advocates a *place-based approach* in which communities assess current strengths, resources, and areas for improvement, using their watershed and ecological region as the environmental leg upon which they stand. Then, based on collaboration with stakeholders and resource people, communities develop a shared vision of where they want to go, make plans, take action, and evaluate results.

A sustainable community is not possible to achieve alone. It is based on a shared vision and results from individual and collective actions. It preserves the best economic, social, and cultural features of a region and attempts to sustain all living things and the systems that support life. Audubon International created the Sustainable Communities Campaign to serve as a frame of reference to guide our efforts as we all move forward on our journey toward sustainability. It's a tall order, but believing that it's possible is a good place to begin. ●



Communities are a web of interactions among the environment, the economy, and society. Sustainability is a continuous process of integrating the three, not an end result.

### RESOURCES

The **Sustainable Communities Network** links citizens to resources and to one another to create healthy, vital, sustainable communities. The site offers extensive links. <http://www.sustainable.org/>

**Sustainable Measures** develops indicators that measure progress toward a sustainable economy, society, and environment. <http://www.sustainablemeasures.com>

### Audubon International Joins GreenScapes Alliance

Audubon International is among the first 10 organizations nationwide to become an Ally of the **U.S. EPA's GreenScapes Alliance**. The Alliance is designed to promote environmentally beneficial landscaping that preserves natural resources and prevents waste and pollution. It encourages companies, governmental agencies, and other entities to make more holistic decisions regarding waste generation and disposal and the use of land, water, pesticides, and energy. By focusing on the “4 Rs”—reduce, reuse, recycle, and rebuy—this program can help improve both an organization's bottom-line and the environment. As an Ally, Audubon International's efforts to promote such activities through its programs will be strengthened by the combined resources of the Alliance. More information about GreenScapes Alliance, as well as excellent educational resources for homeowners and businesses is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-bw/green/allies.htm>.



An employee removes invasive ball moss to protect live oak trees at Barton Creek Lakeside Course, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in Texas.

# Henrietta, New York, Joins Sustainable Communities Program

BY PETER BRONSKI

Most people who visit the Town of Henrietta, NY, for the first time arrive by car from the nearby interstate, where the first impression of Henrietta is not one of a community putting its best foot forward. Big-box retail—sprawling commercial development—dominates the interstate corridor, and the view. “The concern I have is the perception of Henrietta as all business; sprawl without planning,” says Laurie Broccolo, Henrietta resident and owner of Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care.

Broccolo’s concern mirrors that of other residents in the community, who worry that visitors don’t see the best of what Henrietta has to offer. And they’re right. A deeper look inside the community proves that in this case, first impressions aren’t everything.



Residents of Henrietta value the community’s open spaces, including forests, farmlands, and nature preserves, such as Tinker Nature Park (above). Through its participation in the Sustainable Communities Program, the town will strive to emphasize the best of what Henrietta has to offer as it plans for future growth.

Henrietta (population: 39,000) is a diverse community located in upstate New York’s Great Lakes region. The town lies just south of Rochester along the banks of the Genesee River, and within a short drive of Lake Ontario’s shores. Henrietta is home to open space—primarily farms and forests—as well as the new Tinker Nature Park, a strong source of pride among residents. “Henrietta has great quality of life assets,” says Broccolo. “We have good schools, diverse cultures, a convenient commercial district, and an active volunteer community. We also have lots of open space, parks, and residential neighborhoods, and want to uphold those things as cornerstone elements of our community.”

Town Councilman and Deputy Supervisor Michael Yudelson adds: “Henrietta offers a lot to its residents. The community features a nice blend of developed and undeveloped areas, the lowest taxes in Monroe County, and a high level of services, including excellent youth programs, and a parks system that has been greatly expanded in recent years.”

But like many communities throughout upstate New York, Henrietta also faces several challenges to its future, including the recent stagnation of the economy and development pressures from Rochester’s growing suburbs.

## Fostering Sustainable Communities

As part of Henrietta’s commitment to its future, the town recently became the third municipality in the country, and the first in the northeast, to join the growing Sustainable Communities Program. “We hope that being involved in the Sustainable Communities Program will give us an edge as we plan for a vibrant future,” says Yudelson.

As a member of the Sustainable Communities Program, Henrietta will work to merge its economic development with the protection and enhancement of the community’s environmental and social characteristics. Audubon International will serve as a catalyst for citizen-driven planning and community actions, and will facilitate partnerships with governmental agencies, businesses, academic institutions, and other organizations that provide local support and assistance to reach the goals envisioned in the community. Working in this way, Henrietta will take a big picture approach to community growth and environmental protection. With a focus on sustainability and environmental stewardship, Audubon International and Henrietta will partner to harness the best of what Henrietta is today, and plan for the best of what Henrietta can be tomorrow.

“I think one of the greatest values of Henrietta’s participation in the program will be in the educational components,” says Yudelson. “For example, stressing the importance of seeing how different issues impact one another, such as economic development and environmental issues. In addition, regular communication between all stakeholders can only be beneficial to the community. We will have a chance to highlight where the community has already been taking leadership on doing this, and we’ll also expand our efforts through partnership with Audubon International.”

Audubon International is currently working to develop leadership role models of sustainable communities in target states throughout the country. One goal is to make Henrietta the sustainable community model for New York State. The City of Eufaula, Alabama and the Town of Williamston, North Carolina are also members of the Sustainable Communities Program.

Henrietta is located along the banks of the Genessee River, just south of Rochester.

## Ripples in a Pond

Like the concentric ripples in a pond that come from the drop of a single pebble or stone, so too did Henrietta's participation in the Sustainable Communities Program start with a single property and a single person—Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program member Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, and business owner Laurie Broccolo. Broccolo shared Audubon International's environmental stewardship message with homeowners and other business clients throughout the community.

Her leadership spawned meetings between Audubon International and the community, which ultimately culminated in Henrietta's enrollment in the Sustainable Communities Program. Several meetings to date have brought Audubon International together with members of the local government, school district and board of education, rotary club, business leaders, and more. The Henrietta Chamber of Commerce, for its part, is interested in focusing on partnerships between businesses, schools, and the community, notes Broccolo.

"Henrietta's greatest asset is the people who live here," concludes Yudelson; "This is a caring and diverse community." Broccolo adds: "We're pleased to be moving forward in partnership with Audubon International." ●

## Fifty in Five Update: Soliciting Input and Commitment from the Golf Industry

On February 11, 2004, Barona Creek Golf Club, a Certified Audubon Signature Sanctuary located outside San Diego, California, hosted Audubon International's 2004 Golf-Environment Summit. The half-day event brought together more than 70 leaders from the golf course industry to discuss the role various industry sectors might play in Audubon International's *Fifty in Five Initiative* of having 50-percent of all golf courses enrolled and active in its programs in the next five years.

"To date, we have relied on individuals, specifically committed superintendents, to help grow our programs," stated Kevin A. Fletcher, Director of Programs & Administration. "While this approach has been successful, it is limited in scope. If the golf course industry is really serious about protecting and sustaining the environment, specifically through our programs, then the *entire* industry—suppliers, vendors, management companies, owners, architects, builders, etc.—needs to play an active role in supporting *Fifty in Five*. It can't just be a small number of special superintendents."

"This summit was an important part of continuing the dialog with a cross-section of the entire golf course design, construction, and management industry. It was particularly important and useful to spend time exploring the barriers holding back participation, as well as the incentives needed to get more courses involved in Audubon International's environmental programs," said Jason McCoy, Vice President, Greg Norman Golf Course Design.

Audubon International launched its *Fifty in Five Initiative* to replicate the successful environmental results already achieved by the 2,100-plus golf courses involved in the ACSP for Golf Courses and Audubon Signature Programs. By expanding participation to an additional 7,000 golf courses, the results will be cleaner water, more wildlife habitat, reduced water



Lively small group discussions were a key part of the 2004 Golf-Environment Summit.

and chemical use, and healthier natural environments in communities around the country.

The event was sponsored by Syngenta, Bayer Environmental Science, and The Scotts Company, with additional support from the San Diego Golf Course Superintendents Association and the California Golf Course Owners Association. The Barona Creek Resort & Casino along with Barona Creek Golf Club contributed staff time and meeting space for the event. ●

Audubon International is already making plans for a *Florida Sustainable Communities Summit* to coincide with the GCSAA/NGCOA conference in Orlando in February 2005. At this event, federal, state, and local government officials, developers, land managers (e.g., golf courses, community developments), university representatives, and environmental groups from the State of Florida will meet to discuss Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Campaign in the State of Florida. The connection between industry-specific efforts like the *Fifty in Five Initiative* and the larger goals of the Sustainable Communities Campaign will be discussed as well.

# We All Live Downstream

BY JEAN MACKAY

**D**id you know that you're standing in a watershed? That's right. Though your feet are dry, you and your house and workplace and school and town are located in a watershed, which includes the *total land area* that drains directly or indirectly into a particular stream or river. A watershed is *often named for the stream or river into which it drains*, so the name of the nearest major water body is likely the name of the watershed you're standing in.

Now, look around you or take a drive around town. What land uses and land management practices do you see in your watershed? What kind of impacts—and collective impact—might these have on the land and water needed to sustain people, wildlife, and healthy environment where you live?

What happens upstream affects all users and natural systems downstream.

It's as simple as gravity. As water flows down hill it carries sediments, pollutants, and other dissolved materials from roads, parking lots, buildings, construction sites, commercial and industrial sites, and residential areas into streams, rivers, lakes, or groundwater. Each parcel of land is like a drop in the bucket, either contributing to or degrading the watershed.

Unfortunately, property management and municipal land use planning and zoning are based more on land use demands and politics than on maintaining healthy watersheds. How different it would be to take a *watershed approach* to property management and community planning. Working with the natural, rather than political, boundaries of the landscape would require that we see the parts (each parcel of land in a community) in relation to the

whole (the entire watershed). The results could be dramatic—improved land management, proactive decision-making, integrated planning, a cleaner environment, and healthier communities.

## Getting There

Making such a monumental shift may seem nothing less than daunting. Yet numerous communities are moving in that direction, taking manageable steps over several years to involve citizens in developing master plans that attempt to balance property rights with community values and environmental assets. On an individual basis, we can consider a watershed approach to managing our own properties by implementing a variety of best management practices that are truly best for our own land and the watersheds we live in.

Let the suggestions and examples here offer inspiration and ideas for what may be possible in your watershed. We hope they help you stand up for the watershed you're standing in.



SPOTLIGHT NEWSPAPER, NY

Learning more about your area's water resources is a good way to begin protecting them. Residents of the Onesquethaw-Coeymans watershed in upstate New York will have a chance to explore the Onesquethaw Creek at a picnic at Audubon International's Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary on May 16, 2004.

Audubon International is taking a watershed approach to organizing members and planning for a more sustainable future. In addition to offering practical suggestions for ways to conserve and protect water, we're using water regions and watersheds as the basis for collaboration with non-profit organizations, universities, and government officials. Together, we are striving to promote the ecological, economic, and social health of the places we call home.



Pelican Marsh Golf Club in Florida saved 14 million gallons of water by implementing a variety of conservation measures.

### Upper Hudson River Watershed, Eastern New York

The location of Audubon International's headquarters in upstate New York presents the perfect place for us to *practice what we preach*. Our office is situated on the 140-acre Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary that is bounded by the Onesquethaw Creek, a prime trout stream and drinking water source that provides recreational opportunities and quality riparian habitat along much of its length as it makes its way to the Hudson River. Limestone bedrock and thin soils within the surrounding watershed make the creek especially sensitive to pollutants.

In 1999, we collaborated with a core group of stakeholders to form the Onesquethaw/Coeymans Watershed Council (OCWC). The OCWC is dedicated to protecting and preserving the quality of the Onesquethaw-Coeymans Creek and its watershed for the benefit of people, wildlife, and the environment.

From its inception, the OCWC has been mapping the watershed and monitoring water quality. In the past two years, it has partnered with local high school students, who monitor water quality each month. A grant received in 2003 from the Hudson River Basin Estuary Program enabled OCWC to develop a GIS-based PowerPoint presentation to educate landowners and officials from surrounding towns about the creek and water quality issues. The comprehensive, easy-to-understand presentation has been recently singled out by the Hudson River Basin Estuary Program as a model for watershed education to be replicated elsewhere.

This March, Audubon International's Fred Realbuto, who also serves as OCWC's current president, joined colleagues from a number of non-profit organizations in the Hudson River valley to explore the creation of a Hudson River Watershed Alliance. Realbuto was selected to serve on an organizing committee charged with developing a mission statement, bylaws, and standing committees. This is the first and only group to look at the preservation of the Hudson River watershed from Mt. Marcy in the Adirondacks to the mouth of the Hudson at the Atlantic Ocean.

### Schuylkill Watershed, Eastern Pennsylvania

The Schuylkill River supplies drinking water to 1.5 million people in the City of Philadelphia and surrounding suburbs. Charged with its protection, the Philadelphia Water Department employs innovative solutions to preserve and protect local waterways and watersheds, including promotion of voluntary environmental stewardship as a means to protect drinking water quality. As part of this effort, it has partnered with Audubon International to present a series of seminars to golf courses located in the Schuylkill watershed. Peter Bronski recently completed the second full-day seminar in the series, which featured a half-day presentation, lunch, and an afternoon golf course tour. Ace Golf Club, a Silver Signature project in Lafayette Hill, hosted this year's event. Skippack Golf Course, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, hosted last year's presentation.

In the coming year, Audubon International plans to expand its work in the Schuylkill watershed by working in continued partnership with the Philadelphia Water Department, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to involve schools and youth in watershed-wide environmental stewardship and education.

### Big Cypress Watershed, Southwest Florida

Water is a shrinking resource in Southwest Florida, where population growth in Naples alone grew by 65% from 1990 to 2000. Since 2002, David Smith, Superintendent of Pelican Marsh Golf Club in Naples, has been doing his part to conserve water used for golf course irrigation. Smith set a goal of reducing use by 10% and is employing a variety of measures to achieve it, including maintaining electrical rain sensors, reducing watering times and frequency, maintaining proper spray patterns on irrigation heads, and closely monitoring water use. As a result, Pelican Marsh saved 14 million gallons of water during 2003, compared with 2002. The course has been a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary since 2001, and is joined by 72 ACSP and Audubon Signature Program members located in the Big Cypress Watershed. ●

# Get in on the Action

If clean water—for drinking, irrigation, recreation, and wildlife—is important to you, you can count yourself among the millions of people who rank water quality and conservation as a top environmental priority. Better still, you can count yourself among the thousands of Audubon International program members who are committed to doing something about it.

What's to be done? Everything from personal action to watershed-based planning. Here are a few key ways to make a difference. Additional suggestions can be found at [www.audubonintl.org/esource/](http://www.audubonintl.org/esource/).



All in a days work—Steve Kealy, CGCS of Glendale Country Club in Washington, has volunteered for the City of Bellevue Stream Team since 1989. He conducts salmon spawning counts, monitors water quality, spearheads a salmon in the classroom program at local schools, and clears the stream channel so that endangered Chinook and Coho salmon can pass through (above). Steve's community involvement has been a key part of Glendale's continued certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

- **Explore your watershed.** Find out where your drinking water comes from and where storm water runoff goes. For a wealth of information on water quality, monitoring activities in your watershed, and organizations near you, check out EPA's Surf Your Watershed Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/surf/>. Support local watershed groups and consider getting involved in water quality monitoring.
- **Keep it green.** Work with local citizen groups, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to protect valuable natural resources, open space, and agricultural areas and carefully plan future development. Keep your own property green, too. Add native trees and shrubs to your landscape to provide habitat for wildlife and showcase the unique plants of your region.
- **Fix the big drains.** Almost every community and property has them—fixable problems that strain water resources. Whether it's aging infrastructure at a municipal sewage treatment plant, a faulty irrigation system that wastes water, or a leaky faucet, focus your attention on the things you can do that will have the greatest positive impact.
- **Plan smarter, drive less.** Cars are a major culprit of pollution and environmental degradation. Oil, gas, and other fluid leaks are all prime sources of water pollution, as is stormwater runoff from paved roads and parking lots. Auto exhaust contributes to atmospheric deposition of toxics into waterways. And environmental impacts associated with the oil industry are monumental. Clustering commercial development, revitalizing downtowns, creating walkable communities, and developing reliable public transportation systems are effective ways to reduce reliance on automobiles, while also enhancing a sense of community. On an individual level, regular car

maintenance, choosing energy efficient vehicles, and reducing the amount of driving you do are all part of the solution to this pressing problem.

- **Focus on your own home.** Fix that leaky faucet or toilet. Dispose of paint and household chemicals only at your community's hazardous waste collection facilities and days. Don't pour them down the drain. Reduce the amount of water, fertilizer, and pesticides you use on your own lawn and landscaping. Educate yourself on non-chemical ways to keep your lawn and gardens in good shape. Take Audubon International's Treasuring Home pledge and begin acting on it ([www.audubonintl.org/homepledge](http://www.audubonintl.org/homepledge)).
- **Work with neighbors.** If you are part of a neighborhood association or residential community, work with that organization to help you spread the word about what homeowners can do to protect the environment. Select one or two projects—mounting nest boxes, planting trees, developing landscape guidelines—to kick off your efforts. Better still, enroll in the ACSP for Neighborhoods pilot program and we'll help you get organized.
- **Extend your reach.** Audubon International members have extensive experience in environmental management and education. Time and time again, we've seen amazing results when our members extend their reach beyond their own properties. Involvement with schools, watershed organizations, professional associations, and community groups are tried and true options for sharing what you know and getting others involved. If you're comfortable with what you've been able to do on your own property, why not identify a group or organization to reach out to? The more people get involved, the greater our impact can be. ●

# New Partnership Puts Students at the Forefront of Watershed Protection

BY PETER BRONSKI

The Rouge River watershed is a 438-square mile area that is home to 1.5 million people in and around Detroit in southeastern Michigan. The watershed includes 48 distinct municipalities that span three counties, and the river itself totals 126 miles, divided among its four main branches: the Main, Upper, Middle, and Lower.

Like many rivers throughout the country, the Rouge is rebounding from pollution, yet at the same time facing new pressures. Rapid urbanization in the watershed has increased storm water runoff and flooding. Contaminants, including fertilizers, pesticides, oils, and bacteria from animal waste, erosion, and loss of wildlife habitat all pose continuing threats to the health of the Rouge.

One organization that is working locally to promote restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River is Friends of the Rouge, a non-profit organization formed in 1986. Its efforts include the Rouge Education Project (REP), a K-12 school-based initiative to raise young people's awareness of the Rouge River. The comprehensive program teaches students about the river's history and current issues, as well as how to monitor its health, restore its degraded areas, and become its steward. Each year, the REP reaches roughly 100 elementary, middle, and high schools, actively engaging an impressive 7,000 students.

Audubon International recently unveiled an exciting new partnership with Friends of the Rouge. The partnership is tied to Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Campaign and emphasizes a place-based approach to environmental stewardship, education, and local community partnering, in this case anchored in the Rouge River watershed. When the partnership is functioning at its fullest, it will represent a cooperative effort among Audubon International, Friends of the Rouge, local schools, Audubon International's program members, and communities within the watershed.



Students from Thompson Middle School test water quality along Michigan's Rouge River as part of the Rouge Education Project, administered by Friends of the Rouge. A new partnership among Friends of the Rouge, Audubon International, ACSP members, and local schools will promote environmental stewardship and watershed protection.

## The partnership has four primary components:

1. Audubon International is cultivating a network of Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) properties that are willing to offer their sites as environmental education locations for the REP. ACSP members earn credit towards the Outreach and Education and Water Quality Management portion of their certification, while providing accessible locations for the REP. Currently, thirteen properties within the watershed are enrolled in the ACSP and eligible to participate in the partnership.
2. Students in the REP will conduct water quality tests and macroinvertebrate surveys on ACSP properties and share their data with program members. One school that's already involved is Salem Elementary School, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.
3. Working with Friends of the Rouge as the primary local environmental representative, Audubon International will encourage municipalities within the watershed to enroll in the Sustainable Communities Program. This level of participation will allow a comprehensive approach to community growth and environmental protection in the watershed.
4. Friends of the Rouge will identify golf courses within the watershed that are not currently registered in Audubon International programs, and recommend them for participation. Municipalities including Plymouth and Salem Townships and Washtenaw County have already demonstrated their support for the ACSP for Golf Courses by hosting a seminar earlier this year at ACSP-certified Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center to encourage environmental stewardship at area golf courses. Such efforts will help Audubon International move closer to meeting its national *Fifty in Five* goal, while maximizing the potential for positive environmental outcomes within the watershed.

For information about participating in the Audubon International—Friends of the Rouge partnership, or if you are interested in starting a similar partnership in another watershed, please contact Peter Bronski at Audubon International at (518) 767-9051, extension 24 or e-mail [pbronski@audubonintl.org](mailto:pbronski@audubonintl.org). ●

# Welcome Back Canada!

BY KEVIN FLETCHER

After seven years of hard work by our Canadian friends in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada (ACSSC), Audubon International has made the decision to once again resume all of the education, management, and administrative responsibilities directly for Canadian cooperators. As we have for other Audubon International members operating in over twenty-five countries, we will provide high-quality, accurate, and speedy service in order to help you manage your property in ways that protect and sustain the natural environment around you.

We pledge to work with you to expedite your educational and certification needs. Returning your emails and calls, and answering your requests for information in a timely fashion is our number one priority. Here are a few reminders that will help us serve you:

- Please send registration and renewal forms and certification requests to Audubon International, 46 Rarick Road, Selkirk, New York, 12158.
- Don't hesitate to call or e-mail us if you have any questions about

the status of your certification, or need information to begin or expand your conservation activities. Sometimes e-mail is the fastest way to get in touch, so include an e-mail address on information you send us. Contact Program Manager, Joellen Zeh at (518) 767-9051, ext. 14 or e-mail [jzeh@audubonintl.org](mailto:jzeh@audubonintl.org), or contact Membership Secretary Jennifer Batza at (518) 767-9051, ext. 12 or e-mail [jbatza@audubonintl.org](mailto:jbatza@audubonintl.org).

- February through June is our busiest time for reviewing certification requests. We receive more than 80 certification requests per month and our ecologists carefully review each one. You will receive a response within eight weeks. If you have also requested information to help you with a project and you need it sooner, please call or e-mail us.

Many thanks to ACSSC President Teri Yamada, Board members Janice McDougall and N. Douglas Ross, National Director Scott Martin, and Membership Secretary Shannon Rattray for their years of service. ●

## Take the One-Tonne Challenge

The Canadian federal government is asking every Canadian to take a unique challenge—the *One-Tonne Challenge*. It's a call to help protect the Earth's atmosphere by using less energy and fewer resources and reducing individual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by one tonne. That's about 20-percent of the average emissions each Canadian produces every year.

If that sounds like a lot, it is. According to Environment Canada, the volume of a tonne of GHGs is enough to fill an ordinary two-story, three-bedroom house. Everyone produces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Every time we drive a car, start a computer, turn up the heat, or do anything that uses energy from fossil fuels, we produce GHGs and other emissions that create air pollution. In fact, each Canadian produces more than five tonnes of GHGs every year.

Greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants contribute to poor air quality and smog. As the concentration of these gases increases in our atmosphere, they are thickening the blanket that insulates the Earth, causing average temperatures to rise. The result is not necessarily warmer local temperatures, but more erratic and extreme weather and a disruption in normal weather patterns.

Environment Canada has produced excellent information to help you reduce your output of GHGs at home, at work, and on the road. Following recommendations and best management practices of the ACSP will also help you increase energy efficiency and reduce waste.

Get started by visiting the One-Tonne Challenge Web site, <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/one-tonne/english/index.asp>. An online Tips Guide lists dozens of conservation and energy-saving actions you can take. A free printed version of the Guide is also available by calling 1-800-O Canada.

Source: *EnviroZine*, Environment Canada, [www.ec.gc.ca/envirozine/](http://www.ec.gc.ca/envirozine/)

MONTEIRA GOLF AT BLUE MOUNTAIN RESORT, COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO



Eighty-nine percent of Canada's 280 ACSP members are golf courses. Audubon International will continue to provide information and resources to help Canadian members showcase the country's regionally unique plants and wildlife.

# AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAM

## NEW MEMBERS

### Golf Program

#### Arizona

Desert Hills: City of Yuma, Yuma

#### California

Canyon Crest Country Club, Riverside  
Porter Valley Country Club, NorthRidge

#### Colorado

Red Sky Golf Club—Fazio, Wolcott  
Red Sky Golf Club—Norman, Wolcott  
Rio Grande Club, South Fork

#### Connecticut

Wintonbury Hills Golf Course, Bloomfield

#### Florida

Boca Rio Golf Club, Boca Raton  
Coral Creek Club, Placida  
Countryside Country Club, Clearwater  
Naples National Golf Club, Naples  
Orange County National Golf Center  
and Lodge, Winter Garden  
Queens Harbour Country Club, Jacksonville

#### Georgia

Country Oaks, Thomasville  
Golf Club at Bradshaw Farms, Woodstock

#### Illinois

Crestwicke Country Club, Bloomington

#### Indiana

Christiana Creek Country Club, Elkhart  
Purgatory Golf Club, Noblesville

#### Iowa

Landsmeer Golf Club, Orange City

#### Maine

Poland Spring Golf Course, Poland Spring

#### Maryland

Ruggles Golf Course, Aberdeen Proving  
Ground

#### Massachusetts

Gannon Golf Course, Lynn  
Hillview Golf Club, North Reading  
Ipswich Country Club, Ipswich

#### Michigan

Cascade Hills Country Club, Grand Rapids  
Pierre Lake Golf Course, Chelsea

#### Mississippi

Highlands Plantation Golf Club, Starkville

#### Missouri

St. Andrews Golf Course, St. Charles

#### New Jersey

Heron Glen Golf Course, Ringoes  
Tavistock Country Club, Haddonfield

#### New York

National Golf Links of America,  
Southampton  
Rye Golf Club, Rye  
Southward Ho Country Club, Bayshore  
Van Cortlandt Golf Course, Bronx  
Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison

#### North Carolina

Champion Hills Club, Hendersonville  
North Ridge Country Club, Raleigh  
Point Lake and Golf Club, Mooresville

#### North Dakota

Apple Creek Country Club, Bismarck

#### Ohio

Silver Lake Country Club, Stow

#### Oregon

Club at Pronghorn, Bend  
Salmon Run, Brookings  
Stone Creek Golf Club, Oregon City

#### Pennsylvania

Chartiers Country Club, Pittsburgh

#### South Carolina

Bear Creek Golf Club, Hilton Head Island

#### Texas

Hearthstone Country Club, Houston  
Kingwood Cove Golf Course, Kingwood  
Preston Trail Golf Club, Dallas

#### Utah

Talons Cove Golf Club, Saratoga Springs

#### Vermont

John Larkin Country Club, Windsor  
Stowe Country Club, Stowe

#### Virginia

Cannon Ridge Golf Club, Fredericksburg  
Cascades Course, Hot Springs  
Salisbury Country Club, Midlothian

#### Washington

City of Renton Maplewood Golf  
Course, Renton

#### Wisconsin

Glenway Golf Course, Madison  
Monona Golf Course, Madison  
Odana Hills Golf Course, Madison

## INTERNATIONAL

#### Canada

Black Water Golf Course, Mount Albert,  
Ontario  
Caledon Country Club, Inglewood,  
Ontario  
CFB Borden Golf Club—Circled Pine,  
Borden, Ontario  
Cornerstone Golf Club, Tobermory,  
Ontario  
Greywolf Golf Course, Pahorema  
Mountain Village, BC  
Indian Lake Golf Course, Halifax, Nova  
Scotia  
Kananaskis Ranch Golf Resort,  
Canmore, Alberta  
Le Club de Golf Drummondville,  
Drummondville, Quebec  
Ridge at Manitou Golf Club, Parry  
Sound, Ontario  
Wildfire Golf Club, Lakefield

#### Great Britain

London Golf Club, Ash, Nr. Sevenoaks,  
Kent

#### South Africa

Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf  
Club, Orange Grove, Gauteng

## Business Program

#### Colorado

Aurora Sports Park, Aurora

#### Connecticut

Maywood Estate, Bridgewater

#### North Carolina

Uwharrie Vineyards, Albemarle

#### Virginia

Tidewater Community College,  
Chesapeake

#### Wisconsin

O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility, Verona

## Cemetery Program

#### New York

Foxwood Memorial Park, Ogdensburg

## School Program

#### Minnesota

Olson Elementary School, Bloomington

#### New York

Camp Venture, Stony Point

#### North Carolina

T.C. Henderson, Lake Toxaway

## RECENTLY CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Adams Pointe Golf Club, Blue Springs, MO  
Camp Creek Golf Club, Panama City  
Beach, FL  
Devil's Thumb Golf Club, Delta, CO  
Hammock Dunes - Creek Course, Palm  
Coast, FL  
Harbor Pines Golf Club, Egg Harbor  
Township, NJ  
Loch Lloyd Country Club, Belton, MO  
New Seabury Country Club, Mashpee, MA  
Olde Scotland Links Golf Course,  
Bridgewater, MA  
Venice Golf & Country Club, Venice, FL

## RECERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Bryn Mawr Country Club, Lincolnwood,  
IL, *certified since 2001*  
Crystal Springs Golf Club, Burlingame,  
CA, *certified since 1999*  
Forest Hills Country Club, Rockford, IL,  
*certified since 1997*  
Quail Ridge Country Club, Boynton  
Beach, FL, *certified since 2000*  
Troon Golf & Country Club, Scottsdale,  
AZ, *certified since 1999*  
White Bear Yacht Club, White Bear  
Lake, MN, *certified since 2001*

# AUDUBON SIGNATURE PROGRAM

## NEW SIGNATURE MEMBERS

The Shores at Kohanaiki, North Kona,  
Hawaii

## RECENTLY CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

Venetian Golf & River Club, Venice, FL

## RE-CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

Collier's Reserve, Naples, FL, *certified  
since 1994*

## Congratulations!

Certified ACSP member, **Colonial Acres Golf Course** in Glenmont, New York, was selected by the U.S. EPA to participate in its **National Environmental Performance Track Program**. Program members are recognized as environmental leaders because their business models are delivering environmental results beyond what is expected or required. The program rewards facilities that voluntarily exceed regulatory requirements, implement environmental management systems, work closely with their communities, and set three-year goals to continuously improve environmental performance. Colonial Acres is the first golf course to participate in the program, which requires a rigorous approval process. For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/performance-track/>.

Since 1992, **CourseCo, Inc.**, the largest golf course management and development company in Northern California, has worked with

Audubon International to ensure that the courses it manages meet high environmental standards. The company's dedication to environmental protection and resource conservation vaulted it into the spotlight recently when it received a **2003 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award** in the category of **Sustainable Practices**. CourseCo is the first golf-affiliated organization to earn the award.

Golfweek recently released its **2004 America's Best** list of top notch golf courses. Once again, members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program have a strong showing. Fifty-percent of the courses on the list are ACSP members, including 34 certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries. So who says you can't have well-manicured, environmentally-sensitive golf course? For more information and a list of America's Best, visit: <http://www.golfweek.com/features/default.asp#best>.

## Stewardship News

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

Jean Mackay, Editor  
Audubon International  
46 Rarick Road  
Selkirk, NY 12158

Or sent via e-mail to:  
[jmackay@audubonintl.org](mailto:jmackay@audubonintl.org)

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*The newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*

To participate, register and submit results online at: [www.audubon-intl.org/projects/birdwatchopen/](http://www.audubon-intl.org/projects/birdwatchopen/)  
Saturday, May 8, 2004  
**2004 NORTH AMERICAN BIRDWATCHING OPEN**

**Help us to keep up to date!**  
If you have a change of address or contact person, please let us know. Call (518) 767-9051, ext. 12 or E-mail [jbatza@audubonintl.org](mailto:jbatza@audubonintl.org)

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*Helping people help the environment*



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