



The Day After Tomorrow Sarasota, Florida, Joins Sustainable Communities Program

BY PETER BRONSKI

It's not everyday that the environment gets top billing from Hollywood, yet the summer of 2004 saw just that with the release of the blockbuster hit, *The Day After Tomorrow*, a doomsday scenario where the Earth's weather systems go on a rampage in the wake of global warming and catastrophic climate change. Most people dismissed the movie as an entertaining and action-packed flick full of gross exaggeration and Hollywood exercising its creative license, but a few short months later, no one was laughing as the southeast United States, and especially Florida, braced for an unprecedented four major hurricanes in a short six-week period.

While no one thought that fall 2004 was a case of the movie coming to life, the consequences were nevertheless very real. Islands were literally bisected by the sea. Entire communities of homes disappeared or were destroyed. Lives were turned upside down. Audubon International staff and program members experienced damage to their homes with individual cases in excess of \$25,000. And the environmental damage, like that done to Lake Okeechobee, may take



decades to heal.

If a silver lining is to be found on that otherwise black cloud, the hurricanes, and the movie, did cause many people to scratch their heads and wonder about legitimate and realistic questions—How do our actions today, and the choices we make, affect our future? How do we make decisions and live our lives so that our future is secure; so that our natural environment is healthy, with good air to breathe and water to drink; so that our quality of life is protected; and so that our economic livelihoods remain intact? These are not necessarily questions of global warming and doomsday scenarios, however...these are questions of *sustainability*, and how to make our communities more sustainable. What do we want our world to look like, not just today or tomorrow, but the day after tomorrow, and how do we get there?

Sustaining our Communities— Sustaining Sarasota

Journey to the Sunshine State's Gulf Coast, about an hour's drive south of Tampa, and you'll find yourself in

Sarasota County in Florida is taking a sustainable approach to its future. It recently became the first municipality in the state and the first county in the nation to join the Sustainable Communities Program.

the middle of Sarasota County. Like much of Florida, Sarasota was hit hard by the 2004 hurricane season. But when it comes to asking questions about sustainability and the future of their community, Sarasotans didn't need a Hollywood movie or weeks of hurricanes to prompt a discussion. They have a long track record of not just talking about sustainability, but also in taking leadership to make it a reality in their community through action and progress.

In fact, in May 2002, the Board of County Commissioners for Sarasota County did something that, up until then, you didn't hear happening very often—they made sustainability the core of all county policy. Their resolution, No. 02-119, mandated that all "policies, guidelines, goals, and strategic plans promote sustainability." That same resolution gave birth to Sustainable Sarasota, a division of county government staffed with

Sarasota County in Profile

POPULATION: 346,000
AREA: 620 Square Miles
MUNICIPALITIES: CITIES
Sarasota
Venice
Northport
TOWNS
Longboat Key

Dear Members and Supporters,

New promises, new resolutions, new initiatives... each year starts out with a bang: always good intentions, but preventing a bust means staying the course. Big pronouncements often help us to get started, but meaningful change is a gradual, step-by-step process. It starts with commitment, moves forward with defined goals and tangible projects, and stays in motion by force of action and positive results.

Environmental stewardship is like that. It needs both commitment and follow-through. Indeed, caring for the land and resources you manage is a progressive, long term practice. Day after day, year after year, momentum builds and results multiply.

We're here to help you keep the momentum going, celebrate the milestones, and stay the course. Please call or e-mail our staff if you need resources or want to talk about projects. Let's get 2005 off to a great start!

Yours,

Jean Mackay
Director of Educational Services

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TPC AT HERON BAY, FL

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What wildlife species make your property unique? See page 10 for information on developing a wildlife inventory.



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Get on Track to Improve Environmental Performance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking for environmental leaders to participate in its National Environmental Performance Track program, and certified ACSP and Signature members are well poised to apply. The Performance Track offers incentives and rewards to companies of all types that go beyond environmental compliance and embrace environmental stewardship. Performance Track provides companies with recognition, regulatory and administrative flexibility, and a more collaborative relationship with regulators.

Companies seeking involvement in Performance Track apply electronically, briefly describing their environmental management systems, past achievements, and future commitments for improved environmental performance. The applicant may choose from a variety of "indicator areas," such as emissions, waste, water, and energy, as the focus for improvements.

Certified ACSP and Signature members are good candidates for involvement because they have already demonstrated and documented leadership in environmental management and pollution prevention. A good example is Colonial Acres Golf Course

in Glenmont, NY, the first golf course in the nation to participate in EPA's Performance Track. A winner of the NY Governor's Pollution Prevention Award and the 2002 National Environmental Leaders in Golf Award, Colonial Acres has reduced water use, emissions of volatile organic chemicals, and use of synthetic pesticides by 70%.

U.S. (EPA) Regional Administrator Jane M. Kenny congratulated Colonial Acres general manager Fred Budzyna and its superintendent Patrick A. Blum during a visit to the course in October. Kenny commended the course's commitment to go beyond compliance to environmental stewardship. "The Colonial Acres course proves that you can have high quality grass on your golf course at the same time you lower the use of synthetic pesticides and water," said Kenny. "Performance Track is about protecting the environment, and honoring members who are committed to environmentally-sound practices that will protect people's health and the health of our nation's land, air, and water."

Currently, the program has over 300 members and welcomes all qualifying facilities. Applications are accepted twice a year: February 1 – April 30 and August 1 – October 31.



EPA Administrators Jane Kenny and Eric Wilson tour Colonial Acres with Superintendent Pat Blum (right).

For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/performance-track>, or contact Julie Spyres, Member Services Team Leader, at (202) 566-2885 or spyres.julie@epa.gov. ●

Golf Industry Show

We are pleased to be attending the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL, in February. Please stop by booth 4958 to meet us or attend one of several presentations offered by our staff. We hope to see you there!

- *Integrated Environmental Management*, 2/9/05, full day seminar
- *Selling Your Environmental Management Program to Golfers and the Public*, 2/10/05, 3 p.m., Agronomic Solutions Center
- *Greening Your Maintenance Facility on the Cheap*, 2/10/05, 12 p.m., 2/11/05, 10 a.m., 2/12/05, 11:30 a.m., Equipment and Maintenance Solutions Center
- *Water Quality Monitoring*, 2/11/05, 1 p.m., Agronomic Solutions Center
- *Turf Management*, 2/11/05, 10:30 a.m., NGCOA 2005 Solutions Summit
- *The Golf Course as a Model for Environmental Sustainability*, 2/12/05, 10 a.m., Agronomic Solutions Center ●

Conference to Explore Urban and Community Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Audubon International President Ron Dodson will be a keynote speaker at the Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference to be held March 15–16, 2005, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Community and urban settings present special challenges when it comes to managing pests. In our homes, schools, parks, golf courses, roadways, and other public spaces, we must place greater emphasis on using low-risk, environmentally sound methods to control insects, diseases, weeds, and wildlife pests. The conference will bring together researchers, educators, regulators, and pest managers from across the Northeast to share their insights and expertise on the emerging issues of community and urban integrated pest management (IPM). For more information, visit the conference Web site at http://nepmc.org/conference2005_index.cfm or contact Liz Thomas at (315) 787-2626, e-mail: egt3@cornell.edu. ●

The Day After Tomorrow *Continued from page 1*



Sarasota's Florida House Learning Center demonstrates how to improve energy efficiency, conserve water, use green building materials, and incorporate native plant landscaping at home.

University of Florida Extension employees charged with spearheading and coordinating the county's growing sustainability efforts.

At the helm is Manager Jodi John, a woman committed to making Sarasota a leader, not just for Florida, but for the entire United States. "Sarasota County has a long track

record of environmental stewardship, and we have a beautiful environment within our community—beaches and tropical landscapes, Mote Marine Laboratories, Selby Botanical Gardens, several state parks, and a very strong environmentally sensitive lands acquisition program," she explains. "We treasure our piece of

paradise and realize that it is more than just a great place to live. It provides for our overall quality of living—clean air, minimal roadway congestion, a locally vibrant economy, good medical care facilities, a major cultural and arts center, and a good base in the sciences."

Under John's direction, Sustainable Sarasota champions high performance green building construction, energy efficiency, resource conservation, environmentally preferred procurement efforts, and sustainability education (though the county's efforts date all the way back to 1979 and have expanded exponentially since). According to John, Sarasota is home to more green building construction than any other community in Florida. The centerpieces of the county's green building efforts are two environmental learning centers: the Florida House Learning Center, and the Twin Lakes Park Office Complex, which provide examples of residential and commercial construction possibilities, respectively.

Partners for Florida

Audubon International recently welcomed Sarasota County as the first municipality in the Sunshine State to join the Sustainable Communities

1979	1987	1991	1992	1994	1995	1996	1997
Established Environmental Library	County launches voluntary recycling program, and used motor oil and automotive battery drop-off recycling	Recycling becomes mandatory	Master Gardener and Master Conservationist Programs launched	Florida House Learning Center opens	County adopts Integrated Pest Management Resolution	Community Gardens Program initiated	Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance adopted

Program. Sarasota is the first county to join nationwide, and the fourth government overall. Audubon International will work with Sarasota to help its communities expand and enhance their activities, implement Audubon's approach to sustainability, and support Sarasota's efforts with staff expertise and resources. Reciprocally, Audubon International plans to learn from Sarasota's experiences of what has and hasn't worked as we continually refine our process of fostering more sustainable communities.

But perhaps most importantly, Audubon International and Sustainable Sarasota plan to break new ground together for Florida by developing a replicable model for sustainable communities in the state. "We are so busy doing what we do, that we had not thought about being a model for anyone," says John. Yet, under Audubon International's leadership, and with the local experiences of Sarasota to bear, the plan is to do just that—work to create a statewide model for sustainable communities and enable other communities in the Sunshine State to walk Sarasota's path with assistance from Audubon International. ●

Florida Sustainable Communities Summit *Resource Efficiency in the Built Environment*

February 8, 2005
Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL

Audubon International and the University of Florida's Program for Resource Efficient Communities are proud to co-host the Florida Sustainable Communities Summit. The event will bring together people and organizations working toward a more sustainable Florida to facilitate networking, share information, and highlight success stories. Representatives from government agencies, universities, local conservation organizations, and corporate entities that develop and manage land throughout Florida will discuss relevant issues and explore ways to strengthen efforts to foster sustainable communities.

From 1990-2000 Florida's population grew by 23.5 percent with an increase of three million people. Approximately 6,000 people move to Florida each week. Now number four in population among the 50 states, Florida is poised to pass New York for the number three spot by 2024, behind only California and Texas. Issues including declining water supplies, traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, and the loss of natural areas are intimately tied to Florida's growth. Such pressing concerns make Florida an excellent target for introducing sustainability as an integrated approach to addressing the state's environmental, economic, and social needs.

The summit will be held at Walt Disney World's Osprey Ridge and Eagle Pines Golf Courses, who generously donated meeting space. All five of Disney's golf courses are Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries. The event has been generously sponsored by WCI Communities, Inc. and Harmony Homes (Birchwood Acres, LLC), with additional support from The Bonita Bay Group and The Old Collier Golf Club.

1999	2001	2002	2003	2004
Citizens approve tax for Environmentally Sensitive Lands	Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance adopted	County approves sustainability policy resolution and establishes Sustainable Sarasota office County purchases first hybrid vehicles County reorganizes to take a watershed approach to water resource management and conservation	County adopts environmentally preferred procurement policy Sustainability committees established to focus on specific issues Rails to Trails Program begun County hosts Energy Efficiency Workshop Construction begins on numerous green municipal offices and other buildings County launches Sustainable Sarasota newsletter and monthly Community Partner meetings	Commuter Assistance/Van Pool established First hydrogen fuel cell installed at North Port High School Ecological footprint analysis of the county's environmental impact conducted County partners with Monterey Bay Aquarium to produce a sustainable seafood guide for Southeast U.S. Customized sustainability education curriculum distributed to schools Sarasota County joins Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Program

Site Visits to Strengthen Recertification for Golf Courses

BY JEAN MACKAY

On a brisk but bright November day, Tom Niebling, superintendent at Columbia Golf and Country Club in Claverack, NY, showed off what was left of golf course naturalized areas put to bed for the winter, a hawk's nest long empty of its young, and wooded wetlands where spring peepers will remain silent until the spring thaw. The habitat areas were among several stops made during a site visit conducted as part of the course's recertification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Golf Courses.

golf course environmental management activities and provide an opportunity for golf course representatives to demonstrate some of the voluntary actions they have taken to protect the environment.

Niebling was among a group of superintendents selected to test run the site visit and work out any concerns prior to launching it more broadly. "The site visit took about 1½ hours, and I enjoyed showing how we've improved golf course habitats, even though it's not the peak season for viewing them," says Niebling. "We also toured the maintenance

Independent party to conduct the site visit

The golf course superintendent or other course representative will conduct the site visit with an "independent third party"—someone not employed by or affiliated with the golf course—to add a heightened level of credibility to certification. The third party may be a representative from an environmental, watershed, or governmental organization, cooperative extension agency, or an Audubon Steward or Audubon International staff member.

"We've wanted to incorporate a site visit for a long time, but our limited staff and budget, and the need to keep program costs reasonable, have made it difficult to do so using only our staff," says Joellen Zeh, Program Manager. "Inviting a local, third-party representative to conduct the site visit is an excellent alternative and it will facilitate much greater awareness of the positive things golf courses are doing."

Third-party representatives are responsible for touring the course and recording their observations. However, they are *not required* to make an assessment or judgment determining recertification—that decision still rests with Audubon International.

Site visit promotes productive exchange

About fifty certified ACSP golf courses will host site visits in the next six months. Over the next several years, all certified courses will have an opportunity to conduct a site visit. The new requirement for a site visit will alternate with requests for written documentation. Courses that are recertified based on written documentation this year will be required to host a site visit next time they are recertified.



Superintendent Tom Niebling (left) discusses the management of a large naturalized area with Shawn Williams of Audubon International during a site visit at Columbia Golf and Country Club.

Beginning in 2005, a site visit will be incorporated into ACSP recertification to complement the written and photographic documentation that courses provide to become certified. The purpose of the site visit is to help Audubon International verify some of the more visible aspects of

facility, looked at the pump house, and talked about turf care practices that safeguard the environment. I hope other certified courses agree that the site visit is a great addition to the program. We can all fit this into our busy schedules."

A Celebration to Remember

BY KAREN I. SHRAGG

Longtime ACSP member Jon Scott of Gull Lake View Club in Michigan also hosted a site visit and offered this feedback: "I found it very beneficial to let the representatives from the local conservation district know who we are and what we are accomplishing. I found it equally valuable to find out about them and their perspectives. They provided feedback that is leading to new environmental efforts. Overall, I was really, really happy with the visit."

At a third site visit test site, Lane Lewis, superintendent at Old Brockway Golf Course in California, also found the visit to be a productive exchange. "In preparing for the visit, we reevaluated our programs and what we had been done to date," shares Lewis. "Our reviewer asked good questions, creating valuable dialogue, and got us thinking. The reassessment led to the decision to do a few things differently."

"This first year will be a bit of a test run for everyone and we'll follow closely the response from superintendents and third-party visitors alike," says Zeh. "We feel confident that having site visits will be a positive change in the program."

Site visit guidelines and instructions will be sent directly to certified courses due for recertification. Questions can be directed to Joellen Zeh at jzeh@audubonintl.org or (518) 767-9051, extension 14. ●

The tables were set, the organic, shade-grown coffee brewing, and Braemar Golf Course was all decked out in autumn's brilliant orange, crimson red, and harvest gold. Minnesota's newest certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary was ready to welcome its 25 special guests.

I was more excited for this particular event than for the other dozen or so I help to organize each year at the nature center I manage. I think it was because it was a rare opportunity to bring together people who have so much to gain by getting to know each other and this great effort to bring together conservation and the game of golf.

Between the golf course staff and me, we invited an eclectic group of community leaders and golf course representatives who enthusiastically responded to the invitation for a continental breakfast, presentation, and tour of the course. Joining the Braemar staff, Men's Club, and Green Committee representatives were folks from the Izaak Walton League, Metropolitan Council, Bluebird Recovery Project, local Audubon society, National Recreation and Parks Association, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation District, 9-Mile Creek Watershed District, Department of Natural Resources, and my own supervisor from the neighboring City of Richfield.

There was a palpable excitement in the air as people trickled in to partake of the organic muffins, breads, fruits, coffee, and juice. Something special was happening: this diverse group had come together to congratulate the efforts of the Braemar staff, particularly Bob Atol, assistant superintendent, for meeting the goals of certification which had been years in the making. Bob told how he and his staff went about meeting the goals of each particular category. I spoke of the great impact this program



Braemar Assistant Manager Todd Anderson recognizes Karen Shragg, Director of Wood Lake Nature Center, for helping the golf course achieve ACSP certification.

could have if every golf course in the land of 10,000 lakes got involved and planted even one acre of mowed grass back into prairie.

Getting to drive a golf cart around the course as a tour guide couldn't have been more fun. To see the looks on the faces of our guests when we saw the bluebirds, killdeer, song sparrows, and herons was rewarding. The conversations were non-stop about how to create more interest in the program. Business cards flew from one pocket to another as important contacts were made.

"Can you believe you're on a golf course?" I asked when we arrived at the wetland path. If anyone had been at all skeptical, they left believing in the program and the way it can help protect watersheds and wildlife, while promoting a more aesthetic game of golf.

Karen I. Shragg is the director of Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield, Minnesota, and also serves as an Audubon Steward.

Designs for the Environment

BY NANCY RICHARDSON

All members of Audubon International's Silver Signature Program meet the same criteria and requirements for environmentally-sensitive design and construction, and follow the same guidelines to become certified. Yet each Signature site is unique, with an interesting history, notable natural elements, and a distinct contribution to make to its natural region and watershed. The recently certified projects showcased here demonstrate the many benefits of this *design for environment* approach.

Red Tail Golf Club Contributes to Sustainable Reuse of Former Military Base

Fort Devens Military Reservation in Devens, MA, served as the largest active duty military installation in New England for nearly a century, from 1917 to 1995. Since 1996, the 9,280-acre facility has been in the hands of the State of Massachusetts, which created the Devens Reuse Plan, a massive undertaking involving the clean up more than 300 Superfund sites on the property, protection of significant natural areas, and plans for economic re-development. A major goal of the Reuse Plan is *sustainable development*, and today the property supports a variety of uses. A planned residential community and industrial park are nestled amidst 2,100 acres of protected woods, wetlands, and recreational areas along the Nashua River, while 4,880 acres of largely undeveloped land are still used for military training.



Classic New England woodlands of maples, oaks, and birches were preserved throughout Red Tail Golf Club, providing refuge for the course's signature bird, the red-tailed hawk.

Audubon International contributed its expertise in sustainable golf course development to the 194-acre Red Tail Golf Club at Devens, which became New England's first certified Audubon Signature Sanctuary in 2004. The course takes its name from the many red-tailed hawks that soar over the rolling wooded hills and numerous streams and ponds that lend natural beauty to the course. The terrain varies from classic New England landscapes of maples, birches, oaks, and pines to tall grasses and sands reminiscent of coastal courses.

The golf course was largely laid out on lands formerly used for ammunition supplies, thereby disturbing little of the previously undeveloped deciduous woodlands that make up over 80 percent of the parcel. Several concrete ammunition storage bunkers were even incorporated into the design, as grassed mounds that serve as backdrops to several sand bunkers. A former security tower remains on hole 18 and provides the public with a fine overlook of the course.

Virtually all low lying wetland areas and surface waters were avoided in the layout of the course, with holes generally following the ridge lines and upland areas. Much of the golf course lies over a high-yield aquifer and just off the property is the Patten well, operated by the Devens Water Authority. Both the proximity to the well and the course's sandy soils heightened Red Tail's commitment to an integrated pest management regime and required water quality monitoring protocols outlined in the Natural Resource Management Plan, written by Audubon International for the golf course. The course was singled out by Golf Digest on its Top 10 New Courses list and by GolfBoston Magazine as the number one new course in Massachusetts.



Improved Urban Habitat and Award-Winning Golf Course Result from Audubon Partnership

When the Audubon Nature Institute of Louisiana set out to redesign and renovate a golf course on 80 acres of disturbed infill in the historic Garden District of New Orleans, it sought out the Audubon



Giant live oaks sweep to the ground at Audubon Park Golf Course, Louisiana's first Audubon Silver Signature Sanctuary.

organization with the expertise to help them do it right: Audubon International. Audubon Nature Institute and Audubon International worked cooperatively not only to reconstruct the urban golf course, but to restore habitat and provide an educational program aimed at golfers, area residents, and park users. The result is the new Audubon Park Golf Course, Louisiana's First Silver Signature Sanctuary and one of Golf Digest's Top 100 public courses in 2004.

The course is part of the Audubon Park complex, which also includes the Audubon Nature Institute offices, Audubon Zoo, and other public park land. A number of isolated wildlife habitat patches and lakes existed previously on the site and our primary challenge was to connect them with corridors, while increasing the diversity of vegetation in the patches themselves.

Arguably the most impressive natural features at Audubon Park are the giant live oak trees lining a

pedestrian and bike path which encircles the golf course. The wide, sweeping tree canopies provide shade and habitat for many songbird species that use the property for nesting and foraging. Along the northern and eastern periphery lies a 13-acre lagoon, which was excavated as part of the original plan for Audubon Park in the early 1900s. Within that lagoon near golf hole 18 sits a small island which, over the

years, has become habitat and nesting cover for many wading birds.

The goal of the educational program at Audubon Park is to reintroduce native vegetation and keep the natural environment as a prominent feature in the lives of visitors. Eighty percent of the property remains as open space, where more than a million visitors each year can learn about and enjoy Louisiana's rich natural history. ●

Re-Certification Corner

The Bridges Golf Club at Casino Magic Bay St. Louis, MS

Fifty miles east of New Orleans, near the small town of Bay St. Louis, MS, lies The Bridges Golf Club at Casino Magic, Mississippi's first certified Silver Signature Sanctuary and the world's first resort course built to Audubon Silver Signature standards. Staff at the course, certified in 2002, have continued their commitment to the environment on the 115-acre, environmentally sensitive property. The Arnold Palmer designed course was kept to 80 acres of turfgrass, while 35 acres remain wetlands, considered highly valuable because of their proximity to extensive coastal marshes.

Due to its shallow groundwater table, which lies within four to six feet of the surface, extra care has been taken at The Bridges to monitor and maintain good water quality. Specially-designed water collection devices were installed on four holes. The devices are tapped to test water quality and to evaluate the success of filtration in reducing excess pesticide and nutrient runoff and infiltration into groundwater.

The Bridges also planted a significant quantity of myrtle-leaved St. Johnswort (*Hypericum myrtifolium*) and Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), two plant species of special concern in Mississippi. This past fall, staff expanded the propagation area and also added golden canna (*Canna flaccida*) and Dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*), two additional species that are considered to be imperiled due to the small number of sites where they continue to be found.



Developing a Wildlife Inventory

BY JEAN MACKAY

How many species of birds and mammals inhabit your property? Which wildlife species breed there and which come for part of the year only? Which ones are common? Which are unique in your area? Which species wouldn't be on your land if you weren't providing good habitat for them?

If you're not sure or haven't kept track, it's time to develop a wildlife inventory. Recording the birds, mammals, amphibians, and other wildlife species you see is an excellent way

to learn more about the wildlife value of your land and gauge the success of your habitat improvement efforts.

A wildlife inventory is so much more than a list. It's a statement. Read between the lines and

you'll find that a basic wildlife inventory communicates *We're learning.*

A well developed wildlife inventory says *We know about wildlife; we keep track of what's going on here; and we're doing things to enhance wildlife habitats.* An inventory with unusual species says *This property is providing good habitat.* It's fine to tell people that you care about wildlife, but how much more impressive it is to document it with an inventory of 40, 60, or 100 species.

Getting started

You don't need to be an expert to begin an inventory, but you may become one as you record the species you see over time. Start by listing common species, such as the birds you see at your feeder. Consult field guides to help you identify new species and expand your knowledge and skill. By recording species throughout the year, you'll note seasonal variations, including which species spend the winter, which ones migrate through, and which are year round residents.

A helpful way to organize your list is to group the different species of wildlife you see according to general categories. Begin with familiar wildlife, such as mammals or birds. Later, expand your list to include species such as amphibians and reptiles, and butterflies or other insects. Your inventory can also include the date of the sighting (or the date of the first sighting of the year) and any relevant comments, such as breeding activity or interesting behaviors. This information will tell you more about how your property is being used by wildlife and whether changes in wildlife populations are occurring from year to year.

Developing an inventory is also a great way to reach out to community groups. Why not invite someone from a local bird club or nature center to visit? You might even have a staff

member, student, or regular guest with knowledge and skills who can help.

Equipment

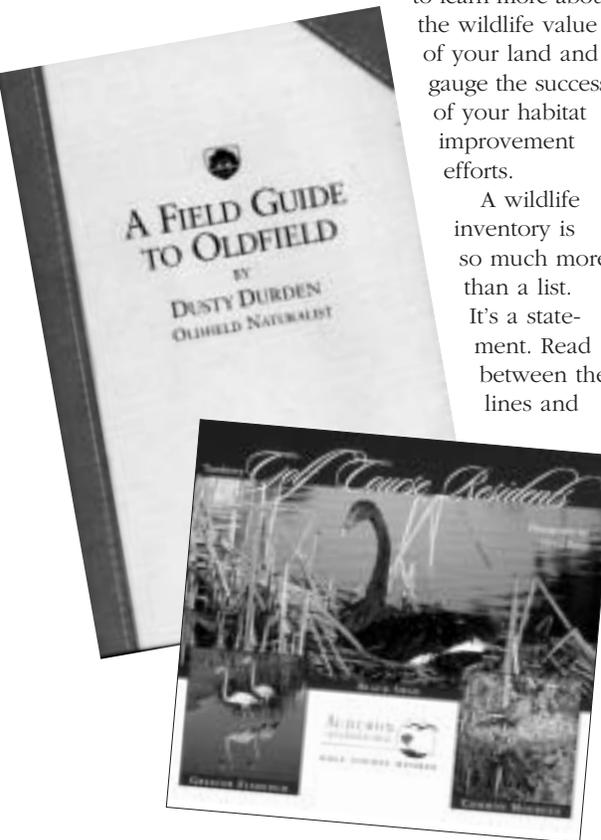
When it comes to identifying wildlife, your own eyes and ears are the best equipment to rely upon. With practice and heightened awareness you can train yourself to identify birds and mammals by sound, tracks, scat, and other wildlife signs alone. The actual sighting may be the icing on the cake.

At the same time, a couple of field guides and a good pair of binoculars are most useful to have on hand. Field guides are available for all major groups of wildlife. We recommend regional guides if you are a newcomer to wildlife identification, since they limit information to your region (*See our list of staff recommended field guides in the Resources section on the back cover.*)

Make the most of your inventory

Once you have an inventory, don't hide it in a file drawer. At the very least, type the list and post it or frame it for people to see. Take the next step and turn it into a simple field guide to your own property or post it with other environmental information on your Web site. Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and Signature members have used wildlife inventories as the basis for educational signage, displays, posters, published articles, and promotional and education guides.

Use your inventory to make a statement. Document what you have and then share it with others to let people know that you treat your property as the sanctuary it is. ●



Use your wildlife inventory to educate guests and promote your environmental efforts. Superintendent David Bailey combined his interest in photography with his bird inventory to create an attractive educational guide for guests at Turnberry Isle Resort & Club in Aventura, FL. Similarly, Naturalist Dusty Durden created *A Field Guide to Oldfield* to educate residents at Oldfield residential community and golf course in Okatie, SC, about the property's plants and wildlife.

AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAM

NEW MEMBERS

Golf Program

International

Gull Lake Golf Course, Red Deer, AB, Canada

Rock Golf Course, Minett, ON, Canada
Golf Le Royal Bromont, Bromont, QC, Canada

Gosser Memorial Golf Course, Misawa Air Base, Japan

Lakes at Osan Golf Course, Osan Air Base, South Korea

Arizona

Tubac Golf Resort, Tubac

View Point Golf and RV Resort, Mesa

California

Bayonet & Black Horse Golf Course, Seaside

Coto De Caza Golf & Racquet Club (South), Coto de Caza

Connecticut

Hartford Golf Club, West Hartford

Florida

Broken Sound Club The Club Course, Boca Raton

Cove Cay Country Club, Clearwater

Harmony Golf Preserve, Harmony

Hideout Golf Club, Naples

Northdale Golf and Tennis Club, Tampa

Viera East Golf Course, Viera

Iowa

Duck Creek Golf Course, Davenport

Emeis Golf Course, Davenport

Illinois

Butterfield Country Club, Oak Brook

Crystal Lake Country Club, Crystal Lake

Geneva Golf Club, Geneva

Highland Park Country Club,

Highland Park

Ridgemoor Country Club, Chicago

Rolling Green Country Club,

Arlington Heights

Pinecrest Golf & Country Club, Huntley

Pontiac Elks Golf Course, Pontiac

Indiana

Crooked Stick Golf Club, Carmel

Lake of the Four Seasons Country Club,

Crown Point

Michigan

Birmingham Country Club, Troy

Garland Golf, Lewiston

Red Hawk Golf Club, East Tawas

Texas

TPC at Craig Ranch, McKinney

Utah

Park City Municipal Golf Course, Park City

Wisconsin

Janesville Country Club, Janesville

Business Program

Illinois

Oak Crest, Dekalbo

Neighborhoods Program

Philippines

Sta ElenaVillage, Laguna

School Program

Vermont

U-32 High School, Montpelier

RECENTLY CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Stewart Creek Golf Course (Three Sisters), Canmore, AB, Canada

Eureka Golf Course, Eureka, CA

Meadowbrook Golf Course, Hopkins, MN

TPC at Wakefield, Raleigh, NC

Paris Landing Golf Course, Buchanan, TN

RE-CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Certified for 10 Years or More

Applewood Golf Course, Golden, CO

Gull Lake View Golf Club, Augusta, MI

Kapalua Land Co.—Plantation Course,

Lahaina, HI,

Kapalua Land Co.—Village Course,

Kapalua, HI

Kapalua Land Co.—Bay Course,

Lahaina, HI

Certified for Five Years or More

Innsbrook Resort & Conference Center,

Innsbrook, MO

Kapalua Land Company, Kapalua, HI

Newton Country Club, Newton, NJ

Silver Creek Valley Country Club,

San Jose, CA

Certified for Two Years or More

Columbia Golf & Country Club,

Claverack, NY

Skokie Country Club, Glencoe, IL

AUDUBON SIGNATURE PROGRAM

NEW SIGNATURE MEMBERS

Brightleaf at the Park, Durham, NC,
Silver member

RECENTLY CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

Hammock Bay Golf and Country Club,
Naples, FL, *Gold certified*

RE-CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

Forest Dunes Golf Club, Roscommon,
MI, *Gold certified since 2003*

Stevinson Ranch—Savannah Course,
Stevinson, CA, *Bronze certified since 1996*

Tierra Verde Golf Club & Martin Luther King Jr. Sports Center, Arlington, TX,
Bronze certified since 2000

Colbert Hills, Manhattan, KS, *Silver certified since 2001*



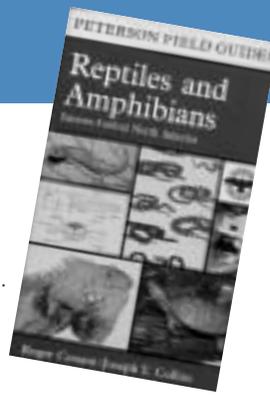
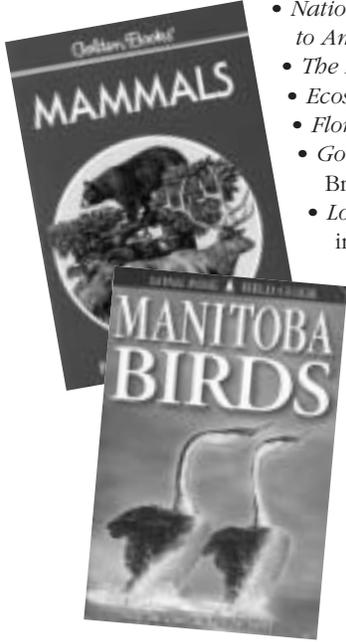
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The Toro Giving Program, we were able to produce and distribute *Audubon International's Greatest Hits of Golf* CD-ROM, featuring over a decade of environmental stewardship on golf courses. The CD-ROM includes video clips, stories, and information to promote the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and Signature programs for golf courses. It has been mailed to thousands of non-member golf course owners, club managers, and superintendents nationwide. To request a copy for distribution to your peers not currently in the ACSF, contact Jen Batza at (518) 767-9051, ext. 12, or e-mail jbatza@audubonintl.org.

Field Guides

With so many field guides on bookstores shelves, it can be hard to know which ones will be most useful. Here are a few of our staff favorites:

- *National Audubon Society First Field Guide to Amphibians*, Brian Cassie
- *The Birder's Handbook*, Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin, & Darryl Wheye
- *Ecosystems of Florida*, Ronald L. Myers and John J. Ewel
- *Florida's Birds*, Herbert H. Kale and David S. Maehr
- *Golden Guide to Birds of North America*, Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Brunn, & Herbert S. Zim
- *Lone Pine Field Guides*; available for each Canadian province and, in some instances, larger metropolitan areas
 - *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 4th edition
 - *Native Florida Plants*, Robert J. Haehle and Joan Brookwell
 - *Peterson Field Guide to Birds* (Eastern/Central and Western regions available), Roger Tory Peterson
 - *Peterson Field Guide to Forests* (Eastern and Western regions available)
 - *Peterson First Guides*, various authors
 - *Peterson Birding by Ear* (cassette or CD available)
 - *Stokes Field Guide to Birds*, Donald and Lillian Stokes
 - *Stokes Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians*, Thomas Tynning



Stewardship News

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Help us to keep up to date!
If you have a change of address or contact person, please let us know.
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