



Stewardship

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News

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What Audubon Means

BY JEAN MACKAY

The name Audubon has long been synonymous with birds... and for good reason. Each of the more than 500 Audubon clubs, societies, and organizations in North America takes its name from the famous bird artist John James Audubon. Audubon lived from 1785 to 1851, and over the course of a lifetime he roamed across a still very wild America to paint hundreds of its birds.

Audubon was adventurous, passionate, and by all accounts charismatic. But, more than that, he was *determined*. Realizing his dream of not only painting North America's birds, but publishing *The Birds of America*, containing 435 hand-colored plates of 1,065 individual birds, required the determination of a man willing to leave his home for years at a time, labor tirelessly under difficult conditions, and risk everything to sell his life work.

It was that quality—*determination*—combined with his love of birds that made the name *Audubon* the perfect choice for a movement begun in the late-1890s to stop the unrestricted slaughter of birds. Early Audubon society members pledged to shun the fashion-of-the-day of wearing hats and coats adorned with bird feathers and wings. They pledged to hunt birds for consumption only, rather than sport or trade. North America's birds were under threat, and ordinary people took a stand.

The power of those early Audubon society members was not only in their individual acts, but also in the collective actions of thousands. Early Audubon members studied birds, improved their habitats, and fought for bird protection. Their determination fledged a conservation movement and eventually led to passage of the

Did You Know?

There are more than 500 Audubon societies in the United States today. Each of these groups is independent and separately incorporated, and each is free to establish its own goals, develop its own programs, and take positions regarding environmental issues. The Audubon Society of New York State is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental education organization working in New York State, and doing business as Audubon International throughout the U.S. and in more than two dozen countries.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918. The act ended trade in migratory birds, and was among the first federal protections ever afforded to wildlife.

Audubon International program members today stand in that tradition. We are still learning about birds and improving their habitats. But we're also doing much more. By joining a program—whether it be for backyards, hotels, golf courses, schools, or entire communities—Audubon International members are pledging their support for our land, water, wildlife, and natural resources.

Sustaining healthy bird populations can't be accomplished without sustaining healthy human populations. And that requires the same sort of passion, charisma, and determination that John James Audubon brought to his life work. It requires the same sort of conviction that early Audubon members brought to their struggles. And it will require the same dedication to individual actions, that, when taken together, will make all the difference.

Thanks for doing your part. ●



Audubon Junior Clubs were popular in the early part of the 20th century. Today, school children participate in bird protection activities through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools, as well as educational camps and programs offered by other Audubon organizations. Here, fourth graders show off their newly made bird houses at Chandler Elementary School in Indiana, a member of the ACSP for Schools.

Dear Members and Supporters,

Audubon International's approach—through the educational programs we offer, services we provide, and philosophy we adhere to—is grounded in the idea that protecting the natural environment and creating a more sustainable world all begins with you. You, the people who are taking positive actions in concert with us, are the ones writing the story of our shared future. We provide pen and paper (recycled), but it's you who do the writing. As you write, we work with you to edit the words, correct the minor mistakes, educate you on the best style, language, and structure, and invite others to read what's written. But in the end, they are your words...*your actions*...your environmental stories to tell.

In the same way, this issue of *Stewardship News* is largely written by you and your colleagues—both literally and figuratively. Look through the tales that Audubon members are telling, borrow their good ideas, and over time, tell us your stories. Henry David Thoreau once said that, “nature itself has tales to tell; it is we who must learn to listen.”

Keep writing, keep reading, and keep listening.



Kevin Fletcher
Director of Programs and Administration

In this issue...

4 Stewardship in Action: Our staff review more than 600 requests for certification annually, and among the volumes of documents we receive flow remarkable stories of stewardship in action. Find out about several creative and successful environmental projects taking place at Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and Signature sites, as members share their experiences.



Stewardship in Action: A local falconer visits Warner Springs Ranch in Warner Springs, California, to reintroduce injured birds and educate guests about raptors. The resort's outstanding outreach and education activities helped Warner Springs Ranch achieve Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification.

8 Following the Yellow Grease Road: Fueled by fat, several municipal vehicles are now running on biodiesel in Eufaula, Alabama, a Sustainable Community Program member.

10 On the Road for Stewardship: President Ron Dodson shares his recent journey to Fort Yukon, Alaska, and the questions it raises about what sustainability means.

11 Membership News: Welcome to our newest members and congratulations to our recently certified properties!



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2005 North American Birdwatching Open Update

Results from the 2005 North American Birdwatching Open are still coming in at press time, but we can tell you this: no one seems to be able to touch Eagle's Landing Golf Course in Berlin, Maryland. The Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary course reported a total of 98 bird species—an event and course record since the inception of the one-day competition in 1998. Located along the Atlantic coast, Eagles Landing boasts a prime location and extraordinary habitats, including fresh and saltwater wetlands, meadows, and woodlands.

We were pleased to see that 22 golf courses in southern and mid-Atlantic states took advantage of this year's early birding special by participating in March and April, before migratory birds headed north. An additional 42 courses signed up for the traditional May 14th Birdwatching Open. Though overall participation rates are down

slightly from last year's total of 68 and a high of 82 participants in 2003, enthusiasm among this year's participants remained strong.

Ron Hill, Director of Golf Course Maintenance, of Amelia Island Plantation in Florida wrote: "We assembled our team of seven and headed out early, around 6:00 a.m. Sunrise was beautiful—full sun during the day, 75-76 degrees...and the birds all seemed to be waiting for us. Seemed as though all the 'stars lined up' for us. It was an absolutely wonderful day for birding! The courses were full of golfers, but they enjoyed themselves and what we were doing. Even had some of the golfers 'participating.'" Amelia Island Plantation reported a total of 81 species, the southern zone's highest count ever.

Many thanks to all who participated in 2005! Final results are available online at www.auduboninternational/projects/birdwatchopen. ●

HARBOR RIDGE GOLF CLUB, FL



The Florida Sandhill Crane, a threatened species, was seen on nine golf courses during this year's North American Birdwatching Open.

ASNY Receives Grant for New Watershed Education Center

Selkirk Cogen Partners has generously donated \$5,000 to the Audubon Society of New York State (ASNY) as the first installment of a \$20,000 grant to explore the preliminary feasibility, engineering, and architecture for a new watershed interpretive center. The center will be located at ASNY's headquarters at Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary in upstate New York. In addition to educating the public about watersheds, the center building itself will serve as a model for energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable building materials. We thank Selkirk Cogen Partners for their generous support for this exciting project. ●

Selling Environmental Programs to Golfers

This spring, Great Lakes Field Representative Peter Leuzinger spoke with the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent's Association at Grand Geneva Golf Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The topic, *Selling your environmental programs to your golfers and the public*, is of central importance to superintendents. Golfer demands for fast greens and wall-to-wall perfection often undermine sound agronomic and environmental practices. A superintendent's ability to communicate about the benefits of good environmental stewardship can make all the difference in whether best practices are supported by golfers. To schedule a presentation or take advantage of other environmental services in the Great Lakes Region, contact Peter Leuzinger at



Peter Leuzinger heads Audubon International's Great Lakes Regional Field office.

(847) 494 2992 or e-mail pleuzinger@auduboninternational.org. Peter is also available for fee based consultation for those striving for certification and recertification. ●

Our staff review more than 600 requests for certification annually, and among the volumes of documents we receive flow remarkable stories of stewardship in action. On the next several pages, we share case studies from four ACSP and Signature sites. We hope their good ideas, hard work, and successes are as inspiring to you as they are to us at Audubon International.



Can you name these birds? Identifying birds and taking good photos were among the challenges faced by Peter Weidner in creating the *Hampton Bird Book*.

The Hampton Bird Book

BY PETER WEIDNER

Griffin Industries is an agribusiness located in Hampton, in rural north central Florida, as well as other sites in the Southeast. All of Griffin Industries' plants have been enrolled and certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Business Program for years. But when it came time to get recertified and submit a case study, I chose a project that was more than I bargained for.

The Hampton site encompasses about 32 acres, but industrial activities cover only four acres. We have four acres of treatment holding ponds and ten acres of field, where we apply the treated water. The rest of the land consists of totally natural coniferous forest, a stand of cypress, and scrubland. This site has so much natural open space and so much varied bird life that it seemed the best thing to do would be to encourage people to take note of and learn about the birds all around them. After all, what is Audubon known for? I decided to carry my camera with me whenever I went out on the site to photograph and identify all the birds that I could, and produce a nice little educational brochure.

I never realized what a challenge that would be. First, there are dozens of different bird species with one common trait: they won't let you get close enough or sit still long enough to get even a mediocre photo. Also, what looks good through a camera lens doesn't always look good in print. Imagine my dismay when my impressive and exciting sighting of a young bald eagle was transformed into a tiny, non-descript bird in my photograph. I amended my plans to include better quality stock photos along with my own.

When someone walks around with a camera taking pictures of birds, people notice and make comments. Some of my coworkers started referring to me as *the birdman*. In spite of the ribbing, most comments were positive and I decided to bring as

much attention to the bird pictures as possible. I started getting daily reports from various people on their bird sightings.

The greatest challenge was that I know no more about bird species and identification than any other average person. It turns out the birds we take for granted are more diverse than we know. Did you know that bluebirds (Eastern, Western, or Mountain Bluebirds you might ask) are in the thrush family, or that there are eight types of woodpeckers in the trees of northern Florida?

Fortunately, my nine-year-old son convinced me to buy an Audubon field guide just last summer, so I had a good start. I wound up doing quite a bit of research and found more information than I ever knew existed about birds and bird watching.

The finished product is a spiral bound, 8½ by 11 guide with color photographs and descriptions for about 15 birds. But I hope this is just the first installment of the *Hampton Bird Book*, growing to include more pages, more photos, and more birds in the future.

In the end, the project was more fun and engaging, and generated more interest and enthusiasm, than I would have expected. I actually felt guilty working on the project, because when it wasn't frustrating me greatly, it didn't seem like work. But like anything worth doing, it was both difficult and rewarding. ●

Peter Weidner is the Environmental and Safety Coordinator for Griffin Industries in Hampton, Florida, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary since 1999.

Proof in Hand

BY ELI MCGALLIAN

I've always been interested in making the TPC at Snoqualmie Ridge the best it can be, and, in particular, having the course serve the community as an environmental asset. But doing so takes more than just talk, it takes practice and proof.

When we initially applied for certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Program, we submitted a basic list of wildlife species we'd seen on the golf course. But it seemed important to get a more comprehensive and accurate picture of the wildlife found on the course throughout the year. We also wanted to get people not normally associated with golf out on the course, so they could see the kinds of things we are doing to care for the environment. A wildlife inventory would help to inform our management practices, as well as a skeptical public.

To accomplish this goal, we invited the East Lake Washington Audubon Society to conduct a 12-month bird and wildlife inventory at TPC at Snoqualmie Ridge. With twelve separate visits to the course, the surveyors were bound to see more types of wildlife than with just one or two visits.

We contacted Joyce Meyer of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society and she was very excited about the project. She and fellow Audubon member Hugh Jennings volunteered to come to the course each month to conduct the survey. They used a golf cart to go around just in front of or behind the agronomy staff. Joyce and Hugh started early in the morning and spent three to four hours each visit. They worked independently and did not disrupt the play of golf.

Joyce reported sightings verbally, when there was time to meet. But she also produced a wonderful data set, which includes the names and numbers of each bird species seen, what they were doing (e.g., perching, eating, nesting, singing, etc.), and



Snoqualmie Ridge's bird inventory boasts 67 species, including tree swallows and violet-green swallows that are attracted to the course's nest boxes.

when and where they were seen.

At the end of the 12 months, Joyce and Hugh had identified 67 different species of birds. In all, 2,841 individual birds were counted. We learned that our uncut grassland areas are used by Savannah Sparrows from March through September, and that Western Meadowlarks also benefit from the unmown areas. Our wildlife inventory will be useful for making decisions about future nest box placement, landscape plantings, and habitat management.

It was also excellent to get positive feedback from non-golfers regarding the golf course as a place for wildlife. "It was exciting to see birds such as Pileated Woodpecker, Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Western Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and MacGillivray's Warbler," reported Joyce.

I thought of the idea of having members interested in bird watching join the surveyors only after the conclusion of the survey. This would

have provided more interaction with the membership and boosted the project's educational value. Other courses interested in this type of project might consider asking the surveyors to host a tour with golfers.

With our inventory in hand, we can continue and expand our environmental management at Snoqualmie Ridge. But we can also do something more to let people know we're an environmental asset: prove it. ●

Eli McGallian is the Assistant Superintendent of the TPC at Snoqualmie Ridge in Snoqualmie, Washington, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary since 2000.

A Natural Solution

BY ANDREA VITTUM

We have been faced with a major dilemma for some time. Unlike most other cemeteries, White Haven Memorial Park is fortunate to possess about 85 acres of undeveloped land. This land is probably the last natural hardwood forest in the Town of Perinton, near Rochester, New York. The problem is that as we continue to need more burial areas, the obvious solution would be to clear the trees to make room for more roads, buildings, and lawn-style burial areas. Yet that doesn't fit well with our philosophy of environmental stewardship.

After much consideration and research, we came up with an idea that provides a natural solution. We created a nature trail through the woods that we now use for cremation burials. The trail is paved for wheelchair accessibility and includes sitting areas and an attractive small pond and brook (that we installed).

Customer response has been very enthusiastic—since the Nature Trail opened in October of 2004, we have sold more burial spaces in this area than in any other area of the park. The early public acceptance of the trail has been a great accomplishment, because it enables us to serve our customers and save at least parts of this beautiful forest. ●

Andrea Vittum is the President of White Haven Memorial Park in Pittsford, New York, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary since 1998.



Everything we did was a “first.” We had no model to follow and it took us several years of thought and research to figure out the best location, memorial markers, and appearance for the trail. Above is one of our stone memorial markers. Now, we are the model that others can follow.



Along with preserving the forest, the nature trail also provides us with an excellent platform from which to educate the public, other cemeteries, and our own employees and lot owners.



If the nature trail remains popular, we will continue to wind it through the forest. At the very least, this will enable us to preserve wildlife corridors, even if some parts of the forest eventually need to be cleared.

Revisiting Collier's Reserve Country Club

The World's First Audubon International Signature Sanctuary

BY ERIC CZARNECKI

Amidst both celebratory fanfare and close scrutiny, Collier's Reserve became the first certified Audubon Signature Sanctuary in 1995. Hailed as an environmental showpiece, Collier's Reserve set a new standard for golf course development and management. But that was just the beginning. The ensuing years have brought many changes to Collier's Reserve, and each change has opened up opportunities to build upon our dedication to the principles and guidelines for environmentally sound management that were established during the club's inception.

Our first big change occurred in 2001, when the club was turned over from the original developer to its members. This meant that the members had to choose whether or not to continue in the Signature Program. Thankfully, they not only choose to uphold the club's certification, but also to make various improvements. Club members decided to begin with a golf course renovation in the summer of 2003.

I came onboard in April of that year as the golf course and landscape operations manager, in yet another change for Collier's Reserve. The construction team from Ryan Golf and I quickly got to work transforming existing Tifdwarf greens to Tifeagle and 419 bermudagrass teeing surfaces to Sea Isle 2000 Paspalam. We also constructed additional bunkers, relocated some of the existing cartpaths, moved various tee boxes for better line of sight, and constructed a new putting green.

In addition to these golf course improvements, we also set out to address a growing problem in our native landscaped and designated preserve areas. In most of these areas aggressive pumpkin vines were taking over and, in some cases, covered 40 foot tall pine trees. Large "focal



Naturalized tee complexes are among the many improvements at Collier's Reserve.

trees" were becoming lost under a tangle of vines and we needed to take action to control them.

Because the club had not taken on such an extensive vine removal project before, I met with various groups of members to build support for the project, which required their approval. I gave frequent tours of the course to explain what needed to be done, and, in the end, most members agreed that we needed to protect and preserve the native feeling of Collier's Reserve.

Our plan was to hire temporary laborers to begin removing the vines by hand. Five months and 5,600 man-hours later, the vines were under control. With the bulk of the problem corrected, we implemented a program into our day-to-day operations for the golf course and common grounds staff to keep the vines in check.

With major renovations complete by November 2003, we set our sights on some additional naturalization projects. During renovation, we took one of our tee complexes and removed all of the existing 419 bermudagrass from around the paspalam teeing surfaces. We replanted with native plant material, including cordgrass, muhly grass, and saw palmettos. This became my test plot. Most everyone approved of the new

native look, so the following summer we naturalized tee complexes throughout the course.

In total, we planted over 20,000 muhly and cordgrass plants throughout the 2.5 acres of tee complexes. The finished product now included paspalam tee surfaces with surrounding native plant material and mulched walking paths. Not only does the native look fit in with the natural environment of Collier's Reserve, but it also helps to reduce labor costs by no longer having to mow and maintain these areas. We also reduced our water output within the tee complexes by 50 percent because we now irrigate only the paspalam tee surfaces.

We have accomplished a lot in ten years, but all of these improvements are not the end of our efforts. Rather, they are the starting point from which we will maintain our harmony and balance with the surrounding environment in the coming years. At the end of the day, it's good to know that you made a conscious effort to protect the ideals that Audubon International and Collier's Reserve Country Club represent. ●

Eric Czarnecki is the Golf Course and Landscape Operations Manager for Collier's Reserve Country Club in Naples, Florida, a Certified Audubon Signature Sanctuary since 1995.

Following the Yellow Grease Road

BY PETER BRONSKI

At one point or another, we all—or at least most of us—have been through the drive-thru at a local fast food joint for a burger, fries, and a coke. But what if that same meal helped to fuel the very car in which you drove to pick it up? Sound like science fiction? Such a scenario may be a long way off for passenger cars that run on unleaded gasoline, but it has already become reality for diesel engines.

Meet biodiesel, an alternative clean-burning fuel derived from renewable domestic resources, like waste vegetable oil and animal fats. Also known as Yellow Grease, these fast food byproducts are literally fueling a revolution in how we think about fossil fuel dependency. The McDonald's and Burger Kings of the world (and a team of fast food savvy research scientists) just may provide the answer.



According to the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), more than 150 million gallons of biodiesel are produced each year, a number that is expected to more than triple over the course of the next twelve months. An April

Biodiesel has earned a loyal following owing to its significant environmental and human health benefits. (The Bartkus Oil Company in Boulder, CO, distributor for Blue Sun Biodiesel.)

2005 NBB report cites 40 commercial biodiesel production facilities in 18 states across the country, with another 24 facilities expected to come online in the near future, and there are hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of retail biodiesel fueling locations across the country. Still, these numbers are just a drop in the bucket compared to the 50 billion gallons of diesel fuel consumed in the U.S. in 1991.

Biodiesel prominence is rapidly growing (liberal estimates suggest that up to 50% of U.S. demand for diesel could be met through biodiesel production), but its largely under-the-radar status leaves many people asking, What exactly is it again?

Biodiesel is created in a straightforward process known as *transesterification*. In plain language, waste vegetable oil is converted into two component parts: glycerin, which is a valuable byproduct used to make soaps and other products, and methyl ester, otherwise known as biodiesel.

Among biodiesel's many selling points is that it can be used in any existing diesel engine with few or no modifications. It is essentially ready



More than 30 Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program members are using biodiesel to fuel delivery trucks, school buses, tractors, and other diesel vehicles. Above, Superintendent Aidan O'Hara (left) and Richard Hayden of Mount Juliet Golf and Country Club, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in Thomastown, Ireland, show school children a mower that runs on biodiesel during a field trip to the golf course.

for market, and can be used in pure form or blended with its petroleum-based cousin. Such blends are designated by the letter B, followed by the percent content biodiesel. For example, B20, one of the most common formulations, contains 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel.

Biodiesel has earned a loyal following owing to its significant environmental and human health benefits. For example, it is *ten times less toxic* than table salt, and biodegrades at the same rate as dextrose sugar (four times faster than standard diesel fuel). Vehicle emissions are dramatically improved as well. Compared to standard petroleum diesel: hydrocarbon emissions, which contribute to ozone and smog, are reduced by 50-67%; carbon monoxide emissions are reduced by 47%; and sulfur emissions, a major contributor to acid rain, are virtually eliminated. Finally, pure biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to fully complete the health effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Making the Switch in Eufaula, Alabama

In October 2003 the City of Eufaula, Alabama, started to seriously consider biodiesel for its community. Years earlier, Eufaula began working with Audubon International as the first community to pilot the then-fledgling Sustainable Communities Program. During a visit to Eufaula in 2001, Audubon International President Ron Dodson introduced the idea of biodiesel as a part of sustainability. Bill Clark, a consultant for the city, developed an immediate interest, and spent the next two years leading up to October 2003 creating a plan for the establishment of a biodiesel refinery using locally available waste vegetable oil.

Although Eufaula's population is only 15,000, it is also the halfway point for Atlanta residents traveling to the beaches along Alabama's Gulf



Incorporating biodiesel contributes to a healthier environment for all of Eufaula's residents.

coast. Consequently, the community has "a few more fast food restaurants than would be normal for a town our size," notes Clark. By his calculation, those fast food establishments could reliably supply enough waste vegetable oil to generate upwards of 40,000 gallons of biodiesel each year. The City, for its part, used about 100,000 gallons of diesel per year for its municipal fleet and school buses. It seemed a match made in heaven, or least in Ronald McDonald Land.

Eufaula's City Council approved a \$10,000 budget line item to investigate the feasibility of Clark's idea. That \$10,000 proved unnecessary when less than a month later, City Horticulturist Neil Yarbrough learned of a grant opportunity through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. Eufaula applied and won the grant, receiving a total of \$50,000 paid over a two year period.

The plan called for the city to establish a system for recycling waste vegetable oil (including collection from commercial establishments and a drop-off point for homeowners), a production facility, and a distribution system. Today that entire system is a reality, thanks in large part to product donations and support from area companies, like Southern Plastics, a local fishing lure manufacturer, and

Resources

- National Biodiesel Board
www.biodiesel.org
- American Bioenergy Association
www.biomass.org
- Biodiesel Association of Canada
www.biodiesel-canada.org
- Biomass Research and Development Initiative
www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov
- U.S. Department of Energy:
 - Alternative Fuels Data Center
www.eere.energy.gov/afdc
 - FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies Program
www.eere.energy.gov/vehicle-andfuels
 - Biomass Program
www.eere.energy.gov/biomass
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean School Bus USA
www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/ (Site includes lessons for students and information on grants)
- Grant Opportunities
www.cleanair.org/dieseldifference/funding

LMR, a local latex products company. Ian Watson, a researcher at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Berkeley, California, also provided a pro bono design for a small-scale biodiesel production system.

To date the city operates a two-and-a-half ton truck and a tractor on biodiesel, with plans to bring the school bus fleet on board as well. Clark is quick to point out that "the impetus for action on this project evolved out of the Eufaula 2020 Plan, a citizen-led long-range strategic plan based on Audubon International's principles of sustainability." But perhaps the most credit is due to the local leaders who stepped forward: Clark, Mayor Jaxon, the City Council, Horticulturist Yarbrough, and area businesses. Ultimately, their teamwork made biodiesel a reality for Eufaula, and the environment that much better for all of us. ●

Fort Yukon, Alaska

BY RONALD DODSON

President and CEO Ron Dodson travels extensively on behalf of Audubon International and its programs. His reports from the field inspired our first newsletter, *Field Notes*, and will now resume as an occasional column in *Stewardship News*.

As I gazed out the window of our 10-seat twin engine plane at what seemed like an endless stretch of meandering, frozen streams and unbroken expanses of wilderness, my mind harkened back to the 1970s and the effort to preserve this last wilderness frontier in the United States. I was invited to Alaska by Dr. Steve Jones, Chancellor of the University of Alaska—Fairbanks. My task was to engage a variety of people associated with the University in a dialogue concerning sustainability—both through the university educational system, and on a practical level in the communities where people live and work.

On this particular day, I was flying to Fort Yukon, a small village just north of the Arctic Circle where the University has a rural campus. I was hosted by both University faculty and the leaders of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG). Fort Yukon is the “real thing” as it relates to people living in connection to the earth. In this region, there are ten tribes of Native Americans that have banded together to form the CATG. They are focused on maintaining their culture and heritage and recapturing some aspects of the culture that have been lost over the years.

If we equate sustainability with being connected to the land, then the people of Fort Yukon are closer to sustainability than most places that I have visited. Still, I couldn't help but imagine what many people who I work within the lower 48



Craig Gerlach, Chair, Anthropology Department for the University of Alaska/Fairbanks, Ron Dodson, and graduate student Shannon McNeeley standing on the banks of the Yukon River.

would think of Fort Yukon: “If this is your definition of a sustainable community, then I don't want anything to do with it. Sure, people are living close to the land in tight-knit communities and it's breathtakingly wild, but it's also isolated, impoverished by western standards, and *cold*.” Clearly, there are lifestyle issues related to sustainability. When I shared my thoughts with Craig Fleener, Executive Director of CATG, he offered that people in Alabama would likely say the same thing about New York City, and vice-versa.

Sustainability is not a destination or an end point—it is a way of life. It is an attitude. It is a means of thinking about the “place” where you live or work, and then taking actions that will preserve what is good about that place. It is making sure that future generations have equal opportunities to make decisions about their lives and their futures. What works in one place may not work in another.

“It is really up to us as individuals and as a community to come together to take leadership positions if we really want to help make our communities sustainable,” Craig offered.

“The ultimate fate of a community is not, and should not be, in the hands of people in some far off city who have no idea what it is like to live in a place like Fort Yukon, Alaska, or who can't even understand why anyone would want to live in Fort Yukon.”

Nothing I heard during my week in Alaska was quite as true or succinct. The lesson here is for you to personally take action, to get involved, to share your interests and your passions for the place that you call home with others in your neighborhood and your community.

While the Yukon River was still three feet thick with ice, the people of Fort Yukon were flowing freely with the spirit of community and their enthusiasm was refreshing and inspiring. I hope to make many return trips to Fort Yukon and to learn more, out there in the “real world.” If you want to know more about the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments and their region visit their web page at <http://www.catg.org>. ●

AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAM

(This list includes membership activity from 3/29/05 through 5/25/05)

NEW MEMBERS

Golf Program

International

Remedy Oak Golf Course, Wimborne, England
Cooke Municipal Golf Course, Prince Albert, SK, Canada
Hautes Plaines Club de Golf, Gatineau, QC, Canada
Niagara Golf Club, Niagara on the Lake, ON, Canada

Alabama

Florence Golf and Country Club, Florence

Arizona

Swing First Golf LLC, Queen Creek

California

Tehama Golf Club, Carmel
Wiles Group, Borrego Springs

Colorado

Links Golf Course, Highlands Ranch

Florida

Beachview Golf Club, Sanibel Island
Cedar Hammock Golf and Country Club, Naples
Country Creek Golf Club, Estero
Crandon Golf Course, Key Biscayne
Mountain Lake Golf Club, Lake Wales
Summerfield Crossing Golf Club, Riverview

Georgia

The Creek at Hard Labor Creek State Park, Social Circle

Illinois

Sunset Valley Golf Club, Highland Park

Massachusetts

Allendale Country Club, North Dartmouth

New Hampshire

Bald Peak Colony Club, Melvin Village
Lake Winnepesaukee Golf Course, New Durham

New Jersey

New Jersey National Golf Club, Basking Ridge

New York

Eagle Vale Golf Course, Fairport
Robert Trent Jones GC at Cornell University, Ithaca
Westwood Country Club, Williamsville

North Carolina

Mountain Air Country Club, Burnsville

Rhode Island

Shelter Harbor Golf Club, Charlestown

Virginia

Lake of the Woods Golf Course, Locust Grove

Wisconsin

Oconomowoc Golf Club, Oconomowoc

Business Program

Oklahoma

Bakery Feeds (Watts), Watts

Virginia

Bakery Feeds (Doswell), Doswell

Neighborhood Program

South Carolina

Oldfield, Okatie

School Program

Florida

Marchman Educational Center, New Port Richey

Ohio

Hinckley Elementary School, Hinckley

RECENTLY CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Blue Fox Run Golf Course, Avon, CT
Brunswick Community College, Supply, NC
Cordova Bay Golf Course, Victoria, BC
Griffin Industries (East Dublin), East Dublin, GA
Ryder Golf Course—Fort Bragg, Ft Bragg, NC
Spring Lake Country Club, Spring Lake, MI
Zaugg Property, Bolton, ON

RECERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Certified for 10 Years or More

Oakdale Golf and Country Club, Downsview, ON, Canada

Certified for Five Years or More

Eagle Springs Golf Course, St. Louis, MO
Fox Hollow at Lakewood Golf Course, Lakewood, CO
Foxfire Golf & Country Club, Naples, FL
IGM—Willow Run Golf Course, Pewaukee, WI
National Service Resort & Country Club, Republic of Singapore, Singapore
North Shore Country Club, Glenview, IL
Padre Isles Country Club, Corpus Christi, TX
Peel Village Golf Course, Brampton, ON, Canada
RiverRidge Golf Complex, Eugene, OR
Royal Montreal Golf Club, Ille Bizard, QC, Canada
Royal Poinciana Golf Club, Naples, FL
Sanctuary Cove Resort—The Pines Course, Queensland, Australia
Sand Creek Country Club, Chesterton, IN, St. Thomas Golf and Country Club, St. Thomas, ON, Canada
Superior National at Lutsen, Lutsen, MN
Toronto Board of Trade Country Club, Woodbridge, ON, Canada
TPC at Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Valderrama Golf Club, Cadiz, Spain
Widgi Creek Golf Club, Bend, OR

Certified for Two Years or More

Donalda Club, Don Mills, ON, Canada
Golf und Country Club Seddiner See AG, Wildenbruch, Germany
Lethbridge Country Club, Lethbridge, AB, Canada
Montessori Community School, Charlottesville, VA
Murphy Creek Golf Course, Aurora, CO
Naples Lakes Country Club, Naples, FL
Treesdale Golf & Country Club, Gibsonia, PA
Varpinge Golfbana, Lund, Sweden

AUDUBON SIGNATURE PROGRAM

NEW SIGNATURE MEMBERS

Juliette Falls, Dunnellon, FL
Rainmaker, Ruidoso, NM
St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA
Stowe Mountain Club Golf Course, Stowe VT

RECENTLY CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

The Bridge, Bridgehampton, NY
The Villages of Sumter Phase I (63 holes), The Villages, FL
The Villages of Sumter Phase II (Cane Garden & Sunset Pointe), The Villages, FL

RE-CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

Bonita Bay Club East, Naples, FL, *certified since 1998*
The Club at TwinEagles, Naples, FL, *certified since 2002*
The Villages of Marion (Lopez Legacy + 4 exec.) The Villages, FL, *certified since 2002*

AUDUBON GREEN LEAF ECO-RATING PROGRAM FOR HOTELS

NEW MEMBERS

Days Inn Hotel and Convention Centre, Owen Sound, ON
Delta Bessborough, Saskatoon, SK
Elkhorn Resort and Conference Centre, Onanole, MB
Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside, Vancouver, BC
The Lodges at Canmore, Canmore, AB

NEWLY ECO-RATED HOTELS

Canad-Inns Windsor Park, Winnipeg, MB 
Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, Moncton, NB 
Intercontinental Toronto Centre, Toronto, ON 
Sofitel Miami, Miami, FL 
Sofitel San Francisco Bay, Redwood City, CA 



"The Babysitter" submitted by Larry Schlipper, CGCS, Commonwealth National Golf Club, PA

Congratulations!

Members of Audubon International programs received accolades recently for their outstanding environmental achievements:

WCI Communities received a **2005 National Green Building Award** from the **National Association of Home Builders** for advancing the ideals of green construction. All of the homes in WCI Communities' Venetian Golf and River Club in Bonita Springs, Florida, were built using green techniques and are undergoing certification by the Florida Green Building Coalition's Green Home Standards. Venetian became a Certified Gold Signature Sanctuary in 2004.

Jeff Gullikson, Certified Golf Course Superintendent from **Spokane Country Club** in Spokane, Washington, was named the **2005 Turf & Ornamental Communicators**

Association (TOCA) Environmental Communicator of the Year.

Gullikson founded the First Green of Washington, a turfgrass management program for high school students that shows how a golf course can be used as an educational tool and living laboratory. Gullikson was previously recognized with the GCSAA's **2004 President's Award for Environmental Leadership.**

Peter Kinch, superintendent of **Glen Abbey Golf Club** in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, received notice in May 2005 that he was selected for a **2004 Conservation Award of Excellence** in Stewardship from Conservation Halton, an organization working to protect the Halton watershed. The organization saluted Kinch for Glen Abbey's stewardship activities related to certification in the ACSP for Golf Courses. ●

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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