



## Partners Make All the Difference

BY NANCY RICHARDSON

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

For more than a dozen years, Audubon International has worked with landowners and developers all over the world, helping them to design, construct, and manage properties with the goal of preserving biodiversity, improving water quality, and enhancing and preserving wildlife habitats. Our programs are successful, in large measure, due to the willingness of people from all walks of life to work cooperatively with us to improve the places they care about.

This is especially true in the Audubon Signature Programs, where

a variety of professionals and stakeholders must work toward achieving conservation goals throughout the long process of permitting, planning, and all that follows to build and manage a new development. In addition to collaborating with each developer, we work with government officials, educators, contractors, landscape and turf specialists, consultants, architects, engineers, other environmental organizations, and concerned citizens. Getting such a diverse team to come together is not always easy, as any developer can attest. Yet involvement in a Signature Program provides common ground and opportunities for collaboration that result in better land development.

What follows are several highlights of Signature Program projects to give you a flavor of how this type of collaboration works and why this approach is so important for more sustainable land development. We'll introduce some of the people we are working with to make these projects both economically and environmentally successful. We hope you'll gain an appreciation for the vision and dedication of our program partners as they make each Signature project come to fruition.

### St. Mark Presbyterian Church Project Newport Beach, California

St. Mark Presbyterian Church congregation, by its own admission, is a group of free-thinkers, and perhaps ahead of its time in its approach to environmental preservation. The church is building a new educational and spiritual complex that will showcase its commitment to stewardship of the environment. As the first church to enroll in an Audubon Signature Program, the building project represents a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to merge spiritual beliefs with environmental actions.



St. Mark Presbyterian Church is the first church project to enroll in the Audubon Signature Program. The St. Mark's team (from left): Judy Gielow, congregation member and environmentalist; Gary Collins, PhD, pastor; Scott Barnard, principal, Barnard Ventures; Vic Gibeault, PhD, faculty member at University of California at Riverside; Tom Gielow, congregation member; Erik Katzaier, landscape architect of Katzaier, Newell & Kehr; Nancy Richardson, Signature Program director. (Photo by John Benner, building committee chair).

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## Dear Members and Supporters,

The environmental movement was born from conflict. The fight to protect drinking water, conserve the spectacular diversity of plants and wildlife, and keep our air, water, and land clean and healthy has long been just that—a fight amongst citizens, communities, government agencies, and businesses. Lawsuits, the law, and least allowable environmental performance came to define the movement from the 1960s through the Reagan Administration.

Yet the past fifteen to twenty years have seen a slow but steady growth in the understanding that people can do more through partnering than posturing. We can go further by working together for the common good of clean air and water, responsible use of natural resources, and sound organizational and public environmental policies.

Audubon International has taken this partnership approach from the beginning *and it works*. Every day, our members prove just how much can be accomplished when we share resources and work together to accomplish our common goals. We see it in the prairies and wetlands created on golf courses; we see it in the smiling faces of school children who are learning how to protect wildlife and water; we see it in new green homes being built; and we see it in the countless small and large environmental accomplishments of the individuals, organizations, and communities who have joined us. We're proud to have helped lead the way towards a cooperative approach, and we're proud to have each of you as partners with us in this new environmental movement.



**Kevin Fletcher**  
Director of Programs and Administration

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Cub Scouts from Pack 74 stand proud in front of the osprey platform they built for Blue Rock Golf Course. See story on page 6.



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## Participate in the North American Birdwatching Open

Saturday, May 13, 2006

Join the fun and gather valuable information about migratory birds during our 2006 Birdwatching Open, held on International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday, May 13. Southern members may choose to participate earlier to take advantage of peak migration, and schools may participate on the Friday preceding each date.

**March 11:** Southern Tier (southern Florida and Texas)

**April 8:** Southeast and Southwest

**May 13:** Mid-Atlantic, Central/Midwest, Great Lakes, Northeast, Northwest

Rules for participation are simple: over the course of 24 hours, make a list of each bird species you see or hear within the boundaries of your property. Then send your results to us, so we can gather information about bird migration and habitats. We encourage participants to invite someone experienced in bird identification to help, if needed, to contribute to a more accurate count.

Results for each 24-hour count must be sent to us *within one week of each event*. All results will be compiled together for overall and regional winners. Certificates are awarded to members in each region who record the most species.

To participate, register online at: <http://www.auduboninternational.org/projects/birdwatchopen/>. You can download registration forms, rules, a bird checklist, and tips for success. If you would like to participate, but do not have internet access, please call Jennifer Batza at (518) 767-9051, extension 12, or contact Jen with questions at [jbatza@auduboninternational.org](mailto:jbatza@auduboninternational.org).

## 2006 Nestbox Survey

Audubon International's Nestbox Survey is one of our most valuable member research efforts. It gives us information about the box locations and characteristics that work best for different kinds of birds. It also enables us to offer advice for successful nest box placement. The more data we receive from all over the country, the better the advice we can provide.

We ask for your help in gathering information about the nest boxes on your property. Please keep an eye out for the Nestbox Data Sheet that should arrive in your mailbox in March. Also, we are still entering data from the 2005 nesting season, so if you have not yet returned that survey, please send it in now. (If you need an extra copy of the survey form, it can be downloaded from our website. Just be sure to change the date so we know what year you are reporting!) Thank you for your help!

## Donors Contribute to Success!

Audubon International programs and initiatives depend on the generous financial support of our members, program sponsors, and donors. Contributions help us to develop new educational materials, participate in partnerships with allied organizations, and reach out regionally to achieve our environmental goals. Our Conservation Country Club, now in its second year, is a major backer of our golf and environment initiative, while several regional initiatives are gaining traction thanks to Sustainable Community Campaign donors. Many thanks to the following donors (*Donations July 1, 2005 through January 10, 2006*):

### Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses

- United States Golf Association

### Conservation Country Club

- PGA of America
- Aquatrols Corporation of America
- ClubCorp
- Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association
- International Golf Maintenance
- North America Green
- PGA Tour Golf Course Properties

### Sustainable Communities Campaign

- Hudson River, NY: The Dodson Group
- Southern California: Green Acres Farm/Global Organics

### Treasuring Home

- John & Julie Anderson
- Edward J. Nolan, III
- Channing S. Smith, Jr.
- James Snow
- Sherry-Lehmann, Inc./Bald Eagle Wine

### Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary

- James & Andrea Modney

### Memoriam: Kenneth Parker

- Nanci Caldwell
- P.A. Forni
- New Mountain Capital
- Alok & Mary Singh

## Partners Make All the Difference *Continued from page 1*

Behind the effort is Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, a grassroots organization founded to help Presbyterian congregations educate and energize church members about environmental justice and to address environmental concerns from a faith perspective. St. Mark's environmental focus group, the Ecophilians, is very involved in the building project.

Site clearing for the project is expected to begin early in 2006 and will occur in two phases. Plans call for a new church sanctuary, fellowship hall, administration building and counseling center, preschool buildings, expansion building, and nature center plaza, set on an 11-acre site. Because buildings are one of the major direct and indirect contributors to many of our environmental problems, and offer important opportunities for environmental management, the church will follow both Audubon International's green building requirements and guidelines of the LEED™ program. We look forward to seeing how this project progresses at the hand and oversight of the Ecophilians and their partners.

### Stowe Mountain Club Golf Course Stowe, Vermont

Stowe Mountain Resort's "Triple A" company philosophy emphasizes attitude, awareness, and accountability, with a special focus on environmental preservation. So when the ski resort decided to build an 18-hole golf course to attract summer vacationers, joining the Audubon Signature Program made perfect sense.

Vermont's Mount Mansfield provides an impressive backdrop for the project, as well as the environmental imperative for sustainable design and management. Just east of the project lie 2,000 acres of wilderness that have been conserved for black bear, while 15 acres of wetlands and 2,800 linear feet of stream shoreline on site make water quality protection all the more essential.

A diverse team has come together at Stowe Mountain Resort to shepherd the project from concept to grand opening. Front and center is David Marshall of Civil Engineering Associates

of Shelburne. Marshall has worked with the project since its inception and helps to advocate for and implement the Signature Program's goals for water quality. Among them is reducing erosion as golf holes are built in the mountain setting.

Another critical member of the team is Assistant Golf Course Superintendent Frank Baraslow, who coordinates Signature Program activities on a day-to-day basis. Baraslow is responsible for monitoring construction and submitting monthly progress reports to the Signature office. And since he'll be directly involved in day-to-day operations, Baraslow is also working closely with the team of professionals who are writing the Natural Resource Management Plan for the 175-acre property.

Audubon International staff often addresses local groups or concerned citizens to explain how environmental goals of a project will be met. More often than not, we find that such stakeholders seem relieved to discover that their interest in preserving environmental quality is shared, and that the Signature Program offers a demonstrable way to achieve that end. During my initial site visit to Stowe, for instance, we met a representative of the Regional Impact Pure Water League (RIPPLE) to discuss the use of pesticides on the property. We were able to share information on the best management practices and IPM strategies that will be used, and allay her concerns.

Stowe Mountain Resort's new golf course promises to be a model for



Protecting its natural heritage is among Stowe Mountain Resort's top priorities. Members of the development team work with a diverse group of experts to write the Natural Resource Management Plan for the Stowe Mountain Golf Course project. The Stowe team (from left): Signature Program Director Nancy Richardson, Assistant Superintendent Frank Barsalow, Turfgrass Extension Specialist Frank Rossi, PhD, of Cornell University, Golf Course Superintendent Kevin Komer, Principal/Aquatic Biologist Mary Nealon of Bear Creek Environmental, David Marshall, P. E. Principal, Civil Engineering Associates, and Environmental Educator/ Naturalist Kim Jensen of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science.



sustainable design and golf course development in the Green Mountain state. *Ski* and *Skiing* magazines recently presented Stowe with the prestigious Golden Eagle Award for environmental excellence, and the State of Vermont recognized Stowe Mountain Resort as an Environmental Partner. All involved agree that while garnering recognition means a great deal, it is far better to know that the beauty and natural resources of the Green Mountain state can be enjoyed for years to come.



Members of the Cragun's Resort team (from left): PGA Host Professional and Golf Manager Chuck Klecatsky, Golf Course Superintendent Matt McKinnon, Resort owners Irma and Dutch Cragun, Signature Program Director Nancy Richardson, and Garrett Gill, ASGCA, Gill Design Golf Course Architects.

## Cragun's Resort Brainerd, Minnesota

What makes Cragun's Resort such an enjoyable vacation destination is not just the variety of amenities offered, but its setting on 104-acre Gull Lake in Minnesota's Northwoods. Visitors often glimpse deer, ruffed grouse, and beaver scurrying about, while bald eagles, osprey, and migratory waterfowl are frequent visitors to the lake and surrounding wetlands. By all accounts, there is a lot that's worth preserving here.

The resort is owned and operated by Dutch Cragun, who is determined to leave a legacy of fond memories for resort guests while protecting the quality of the local environment for future generations. In 1999, Cragun

built the Legacy Courses at Cragun's to Audubon Signature standards, and discovered along the way that he could do good business and do good by the environment. The golf courses achieved Audubon Signature certification for protecting the serene natural beauty and biodiversity in Cragun's corner of the Northwoods.

Now, Cragun is ready to strike out again, expanding the resort to include another 18 holes of golf. As a first step, Cragun called together a group of stakeholders, including local government officials, course designer Garrett Gill, maintenance staff, the golf professional, and Audubon International. Our meeting presented an invaluable opportunity to discuss the new layout and to work

Environmental planning is most successful when begun right from the start of a new development. Resort owner Dutch Cragun brought together a team of stakeholders to discuss how to best protect the natural assets of the property while constructing a new golf course.

out an approach that would satisfy diverse interests, while protecting woods and water. Now an ongoing process, each member of the team has a sense of the project's overall aims, as well as individual needs—and, most important, we have created a forum for working together.

Since joining the Signature Program, The Legacy at Cragun's has not only operated under our guidelines, but, in recent years, also reported to a local environmental enforcement group called Environmental Responsibility Committee (ERC). This group includes representatives from East Gull Lake, Minnesota DNR, USACOE, Cass County, and the Signature Program, and reports to the City of East Gull Lake. The group focuses on monitoring compliance with approved plans and specifications for construction of the new golf holes. We anticipate that a similar committee may be assembled for the new proposed holes, demonstrating the city's interest in protecting the environment and Dutch Cragun's agreement to do so. ●

# A Winning Combination

BY GERRY BOUCHER

Constructing the osprey platform helped teach the boys about the needs of wildlife, while also giving them a chance work cooperatively and build their skills.



Saturday, November 19, 2005 is now known as *Osprey Day* among the Cub Scouts from Pack 74, Holy Trinity School in West Harwich, Massachusetts. That's the day they came to Blue Rock Golf Course in South Yarmouth to help build an osprey platform and erect it next to the 18th hole. As the golf course superintendent and den leader, I found the project to be a perfect fit for the kids, the course, and the birds.

We have an osprey that circles the golf course pond several times every day. Erecting an osprey platform enabled us to take advantage of the habitat the golf course already provided and make it better. But it also gave us a great opportunity to promote nature and teach kids that they can make a difference. The project turned out to be a winning combination.

The week before the scouts arrived, my sons, Alex and AJ, spent an entire day mixing eleven loads of cement, which would serve as the anchor for the 21-foot pole and five-foot square platform. Normally a day of hard labor might not be met with enthusiasm, but the boys readily mixed cement and hauled stone for hours. "Mixing the cement was fun,"

remarked AJ, "but I thought we would never finish." After hauling the stone into the mix, Alex even boasted insightfully, "It may be small, but the stone is what gives the cement its strength."

## Ready for Action

On the big day, the Cub Scouts gathered around to receive instructions and then were off. The whirring of battery operated drills, amidst comments like "*Isn't this cool!*" resounded near the edge of the pond.

Our platform may be the first on Cape Cod to be constructed from vinyl fencing materials, which gives it a classic Cape Cod look. The local businesses of Davenport Companies, Blue Rock Golf Course, Cape Cod Fence, B&L Pump Company, and Paul Smith donated materials toward the project. Lavelle Tree Service donated the use of its boom truck to lift the platform into place.

Before the platform was lifted, all scouts, parents, and batteries had to recharge. Waiting for the building crew was a delicious lunch of Campfire Tacos, hot chocolate, and cookies.

Unfortunately, raising the platform proved to be more of a challenge

than we first thought, because the platform weighed more than the bucket could lift. So we activated Plan B, whereby we used the elbow in the arm of the boom with an engine come-along to swing it into place. The kids loved the big machinery and excitement of the challenge at hand, and learned a bit about problem solving, too.

What's unique about this osprey platform is that you can see into it from above. We have a perfect birds-eye view of the nest platform from the top of a hill on the 18th hole. This spring, we hope golfers will be able to enjoy a rare glimpse of the adult osprey as they construct the nest, incubate eggs, and feed young. We'll also bring the boys back to see the result of their labor. I'm confident that we'll hear again a resounding "*Isn't this cool!*" as the cry of the osprey rings out from the edge of the pond. ●

*Gerry Boucher is the golf course superintendent at Blue Rock Golf Course and den leader for Pack 74. Blue Rock Golf Course has been a member of the ACSP for Golf Courses since 1997.*



### About Blue Rock's platform:

The platform is a five-foot-wide square made from 2 x 6 vinyl fencing. Inside the 2 x 6 fencing is 1 x 3 pine strapping for screw support. A three-foot-square nest "box" is attached with oak branches screwed to the sides to act as a nest guide. A perch is screwed to the side. Underneath the platform are 4 x 4 pressure treated rails to support the platform and attach to the pole.

The pole is constructed from a 16-foot and an eight-foot pressure treated 4 x 4, with a vinyl rail around it. That pole is then placed inside a 5 x 5 vinyl fence post. Half-inch pine stock is inserted into the space to prevent any movement in the pole. Then white aluminum trim is wrapped around the entire pole to hide the rail holes in the fence post sleeve. The entire work of art is placed in a sleeve in the concrete pad, which is five feet wide and three feet deep. The pole is supported with four, 16-foot vinyl wrapped 4 x 4s. A critter guard rests on top of those to prevent animals from attacking the nest.



The osprey is also widely known as the "fish hawk," because its diet consists primarily of fish.

### The Osprey

The osprey (*Pandion haliaetus* or "sea eagle") is a large bird of prey well known for its spectacular feeding behavior and distinctive plumage. With a wing spread of up to six feet, ospreys are often distinguished in the air by their white under parts, dark "elbow" patch, and arched wings. They feed almost exclusively on fish, patrolling lakes, rivers, and seacoasts for their prey. When a fish is sighted, the osprey plunges into the water, sometimes totally submerging itself, to grasp the fish with its sharp, spiny talons and reversible toe. With catch in tow, the bird flies off to a favored perch to feed.

#### Habitat and Range

Ospreys live along rivers, lakes, seacoasts, and bays. They are seen on every continent except Antarctica.

#### Nesting

Ospreys usually build their nests high in dead or dying trees. The birds will return to successful nest sites year after year, building them up with sticks each spring.

Development in coastal areas and along lakes and rivers has reduced the number of natural nest sites, forcing osprey to be a bit creative in finding suitable places to raise their young. Osprey have built nests on top of radio antennas, water towers, old utility poles, and even smokestacks. Osprey nesting platforms provide an even better option, and enable people to become directly involved in osprey conservation.

#### Attracting Osprey

If you are interested putting up an osprey platform, first evaluate the land and water on your property to determine if it provides suitable habitat. Here are a few criteria for good sites:

- Potential nest site is near or over water, along rivers, lakes, and coastal areas.
- Fish populations are healthy and in sufficient numbers to support adults and their young.
- The nest site must offer some privacy. Areas of heavy human use or traffic are not advised.
- Osprey have been sighted in the area.

To find out more about attracting osprey and constructing a platform, visit our Web site at [www.auduboninternational.org/esource](http://www.auduboninternational.org/esource). A fact sheet on osprey is available under Wildlife and Habitats.

# Tidewater Community College Recognized For “Going Wild” on Campus

BY JEREMY TAYLOR

When you hear the words “going wild” and campus together, it often brings to mind images of Spring break, frat parties, or out-of-control students. But Audubon International recognized Tidewater Community College for going wild in an altogether different way: the school recently achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for its outstanding efforts to enhance habitat for wildlife and integrate environmental stewardship into its Chesapeake, Virginia campus.

Biology Professor Lisa Behm spearheaded Tidewater’s certification, incorporating wildlife monitoring and habitat improvement into the curriculum. Each of Behm’s Biology 102 students was required to complete eight hours of wildlife observation in the natural areas on campus. “We participate in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Wildlife Mapping program, so the information that we gathered was used to build our wildlife inventory and to contribute to the growing database of wildlife observations that the VDGIF is building,” shared Behm.

According to Behm, being involved in the program has helped give students a sense of ownership of the campus. “It is actually pretty amazing when a new semester starts and I tell my new class sections about our certification. Eyebrows raise and I even see some eyes twinkle!”

As part of their efforts to achieve certification, students and staff undertook a number of conservation activities, from enhancing habitat areas to improving energy efficiency to community outreach. Among its many accomplishments, Tidewater created nature trails and developed a summer Bird Camp for children as a way to connect local citizens to their environment and promote strong relationships with city residents. They



Above: The Tidewater Community College campus is located on 69 acres of land on a tributary of the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River, within the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area.

Right: Tidewater is providing opportunities for kids to learn about the environment during its summer Bird Camp.



also conducted campus cleanups, hosted a variety of Earth Day activities, and involved students in nest box construction and monitoring.

Indoors, the college invested in the installation of energy-efficient lighting and low-flow water fixtures in new buildings and upgraded equipment in several older buildings. Efforts are also underway to promote campus-wide recycling and manage purchases of supplies to minimize waste.

“With our campus’s proximity to the Great Dismal Swamp, the Elizabeth River, and wetlands that harbor irreplaceable native species, we’re proud to serve as a model, promoting environmental stewardship for our region through education, conservation, and outreach,” notes Linda

Rice, Provost of the Chesapeake campus. Indeed, strong leadership at all levels at Tidewater—from the administration to faculty to students to the community—has been key to Tidewater’s success.

Congratulations to Lisa Behm, Linda Rice, and the staff and students at Tidewater for making a difference to improve the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources on campus and in the Chesapeake Bay community! ●

# Opinion of the People

BY PETER BRONSKI

Be-coming a more sustainable community isn't always easy. The benefits far outweigh the effort, for sure, but it takes determination and persistence to make real and lasting changes. A community faces an even greater challenge, however, when economic forces threaten to undermine its progress. An unstable or distressed local economy can turn the path to sustainability into a case of "one step backward for every two steps forward."

Consider, for instance, Williamston, North Carolina. Here is a rural community in eastern North Carolina where the median salary is 22% below the national average; where the unemployment rate is 67% above the national average; and where one in five people live at or below the poverty level. Williamston is a place where economic forces could theoretically prevent sustainability from ever getting off the ground. Yet it has made great strides towards becoming a more sustainable community.

## Responding to resident's needs

What Williamston needed was a strategy that would engage its residents and still meet three important criteria. The strategy had to be: 1) inexpensive, 2) easy to implement, and 3) responsive to residents' needs. The town also wanted the chosen strategy to raise awareness about sustainability and local environmental issues and motivate residents to participate in helping to address those issues.

The solution, simply enough, was Audubon International's own Treasuring Home Initiative. One part survey and one part pledge, Treasuring Home offered an opportunity to poll community members about their primary concerns and allowed them to commit to actions at home that would help to address the issues they singled out.

Town officials conducted a direct mailing to all town residents, merging



Williamston, NC, is making great strides to address water issues, revitalize its main street, and boost economic prosperity. Three years ago its Main Street had approximately 20 empty rentable buildings. Today, it has only one.

the Treasuring Home Initiative with a mailing list database for town water bills. Sustainability Coordinator Tom Ward also went out into the community, giving presentations to congregations at local churches, as well as to civic and other organizations, including garden clubs, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, and the local chamber of commerce.

## Water is number one concern

To date, more than 180 residents—almost 3% of the population—have responded. And while responses continue to come in, the tallied data is already yielding valuable results. We know that water—both the availability of a reliable and adequate supply and quality—rates as the number one environmental concern among residents. In fact, it ranks three times more common than the next most frequent responses: loss of open space and natural areas, and litter and waste.

These results are encouraging for two reasons. Number one, they in part mirror the results of a similar survey conducted among high school students in the county, indicating a consistent sentiment throughout the community. And number two, they match up

with the science—Williamston is in the middle of a confirmed water crisis that demands immediate attention, which residents recognize.

Now, Audubon International and the Town of Williamston are working together to directly address these concerns. And thanks in part to the Treasuring Home Pledge, residents are already doing their part, too:

- More than 86% eliminate or reduce the use of harmful chemicals in landscape maintenance;
- Nearly 84% have implemented indoor water conservation practices;
- 87% actively recycle, helping to minimize waste and litter concerns;
- More than 66% support the protection of local natural assets, such as open space, agricultural lands, or wildlife habitats.

As we look to the future, Audubon International and the town will continue reaching toward a 10% survey response rate and engaging a broader segment of the population. There is much to be done to make Williamston a more sustainable community. Yet Treasuring Home, combined with other Sustainable Community activities, has given us solid footing for the journey ahead. ●

## Puntacana, Dominican Republic

BY RONALD DODSON

It was two and a half hours by plane from Albany to Atlanta and three hours more to the airport in Puntacana, Dominican Republic. With those five and a half hours behind us, Eric Dodson and I found ourselves in the midst of a throng of happy, vacationing people, standing in the heat and humidity of an “open air” airport. I thought, “This is going to be a mad house!” But, waiting just inside the thatch-covered terminal was a smiling young woman and a young man with a sign that said: “Ron and Eric Dodson.” I reached across the rope barrier and introduced myself. To my surprise she moved the barrier aside and said “come in.” So, Eric and I immediately left the crowds and were introduced to Jake Kheel, Executive Director of the Puntacana Ecological Foundation, and our host for the next couple of days.

Our first stop was behind the customs counter. About a thousand people in line were giving us the “evil eye” for seemingly cutting the line and going around behind the counter and, by the expression on my face, Jake could tell that I was wondering what exactly we were doing. Jake smiled and said, “We own the airport so you won’t have to go through all the normal channels.” So, just as quickly as we had walked in the front door, we found ourselves in Jake’s pickup truck heading toward the Puntacana Resort, our intended destination.

### Responsibilities, Challenges, and Opportunities

The Puntacana Company owns nearly 30 square miles of land on the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic. The country actually comprises about two-thirds of an island, with the other one-third being the country of Haiti.



Golf Course Superintendent Julio Diaz, Audubon International President Ron Dodson, and Puntacana Ecological Foundation Director Jake Kheel talk about golf and the environment on the site of the proposed golf course at Puntacana Resort.

Most of the 30 square miles is not developed, but a small portion is the Puntacana Resort, with a hotel, golf course, marina and the typical amenities associated with a resort development.

However, the Puntacana Company seems anything but typical. It is planning to develop two new golf courses and has decided to become involved in the Audubon Signature Program. It was trying to decide which Signature Program (Bronze, Silver, or Gold) it was interested in and our job was to see if it was qualified to join the Gold Signature Program.

Puntacana Company has already taken many actions to support sustainable development and management, including the creation of the Puntacana Social Foundation and the Puntacana Ecological Foundation, directed by Jake Kheel. The Ecological Foundation was created nearly 20 years ago in partnership with a number of universities, including Cornell in New York. A prime focus in the beginning was to investigate the biodiversity of the Dominican Republic (the most biodiverse island in the Caribbean.)

Eric and I spent the next couple of days not only looking at the proposed golf course sites, but also

touring much of the land owned by the company and even one nearby village. While the Dominican Republic boasts a beautiful environment, the country and the region also face many cultural and social challenges. The Puntacana Company is trying hard to do its part to address those challenges, not only as a company committed to sustainable development on the land that it owns, but in helping the region, too. For example, the company has built and helped staff a technical school and also built a hospital for the local village. Even more telling, it is hiring local people and building them homes on company land so that they can improve their quality of life conditions.

In the end, we were so impressed with what we heard and saw that we thought the Puntacana Company was not only qualified to enroll the golf courses in the Gold Signature Program, but it should register the entire 30 square miles in our Sustainable Communities Program. As I write this, the company is reviewing what being a member of the Sustainable Communities Program entails and we hope it will partner with us. Future reports from the field will provide updates on our partnership efforts with the Puntacana Company. ●

## AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAM

*This list includes membership activity from November 29, 2005 through January 24, 2006.*

### NEW MEMBERS

#### Golf Program

##### International

BraeBen Golf Course, Canada  
Garra De Leon Golf Course, Costa Rica  
Kota Permai Golf & Country Club, Malaysia  
The Links at Desert Blume, Canada

##### Arizona

Lakes East and Lakes West, Sun City

##### California

Black Gold Golf Club, Yorba Linda  
Callippe Preserve Golf Course, Pleasanton  
Empire Golf, Rancho Murieta  
The First Tee of Monterey County, Salinas  
Palos Verdes Golf Club, Yorba Lina  
The Reserve Club, Indan Wells  
Saddle Creek Resort, Copperopolis

##### Colorado

The Ridge at Castle Pines North, Castle Rock

##### Florida

Saddlebrook Resort (Palmer Course), Wesley Chapel

##### Georgia

The Golf Club at Sanctuary Cove, Waverly

##### Illinois

Hughes Creek Golf Club, Elburn  
Marriott Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire

##### Michigan

South Haven Golf Club, Fennville

##### North Carolina

Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Raleigh

##### New Jersey

Shore Gate Golf Club, Ocean View  
Spring Lake Golf Club, Spring Lake

##### New York

Four Seasons Resort, New York

##### South Carolina

Fort Jackson Golf Club, Fort Jackson

##### Texas

Gleneagles Country Club, Plano  
Redstone Golf Club, Humble

##### Virginia

Laurel Hill Golf Club, Lorton

#### Cemetery Program

Heritage Memorial Gardens, Westminster, SC



MONICA HIGGINS



KYLE SWEET

Spring brings all kinds of new life to Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries, including this baby gopher tortoise at Sanctuary Golf Course in Florida and a bobcat kitten born at Shadow Glen Golf Club in Kansas. Send us your photos and let us know what's coming to life on your property!

Oswego Lake Country Club, Lake Oswego, OR  
Round Hill Club, Greenwich, CT  
Settler's Hill Golf Course, Batavia, IL  
Sterling National Country Club, Sterling, MA  
Winchester Country Club, Winchester, MA

#### Certified for Two Years or More

Highlands Country Club, Highlands, NC

## AUDUBON SIGNATURE PROGRAM

### NEW SIGNATURE MEMBERS

Bahia Beach Resort & Golf Club, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

### RE-CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

#### Certified for 10 Years or More

Collier's Reserve, Naples, FL  
Indian River Club, Vero Beach, FL

#### Certified for Five Years or More

Legacy Courses at Cragun's, Brainerd, MN, certified since 1999

#### Certified for Two Years or More

The Bridges Golf Club at Casino Magic, Bay St. Louis, MS  
FAZIO Canyons at Barton Creek, Austin, TX  
The Old Collier Golf Club, Naples, FL  
Quinta da Marinha Oitavos Golfe, Cascais, Portugal  
The Sanctuary, Charlotte, NC  
Shark's Tooth Golf Club, Panama City, FL  
St. James Bay Golf Course, Carrabelle, FL  
WCI—Hammock Bay Golf & Country Club, Marco, FL

### RECENTLY CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Bear Creek Golf Club, Hilton Head Island, SC  
Burnham Woods Golf Course, Burnham, IL  
Copperleaf Golf Club, Bonita Springs, FL  
Deep Cliff Golf Course, Cupertino, CA  
George W. Dunne National Golf Course, Oak Forest, IL  
Manasquan River Golf Club, Brielle, NJ  
Wilderness at Fortune Bay, Tower, MN

### RE-CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

#### Certified for 10 Years or More

Hyannisport Club, Hyannis Port, MA  
Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, FL

#### Certified for Five Years or More

Airport Golf Course, Cheyenne, WY  
Beatrice Country Club, Beatrice, NE  
Countryside Golf Club, Mundelein, IL  
Eagle Pines Golf Course, Lake Buena Vista, FL  
Elmcrest Country Club, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Heron Lakes Golf Course, Portland, OR  
Innsbrook Resort Golf Course, Innsbrook, MO  
Kemper Lakes Golf Club, Kildeer, IL  
Loch Lomond Golf Club, Dunbartonshire, Scotland  
Osprey Ridge Golf Club, Lake Buena Vista, FL

## Kudos!

Audubon Sustainable Community Program member **Sarasota County** recently won the first **Florida Energy Achievement Award**, given by the Florida Solar Energy Center, for the government's wide variety of energy and environmental programs. Congratulations especially to Jodi John, manager of Sustainable Sarasota; Nina Powers, Sustainable Sarasota education specialist; and Gary Patton, Sarasota County energy coordinator.

**Casa Verde**, located in The Venetian Golf and River Club—a Certified Gold Audubon International Signature Sanctuary—is a model home that is certified as the greenest home in Florida by the Florida Green Building Coalition. The home also showcases a backyard certified by the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program. Congratulations to WCI's Venetian project team!

The **2005 GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards** were announced in January. Out of 26 winners, 25 are Audubon International members and 21 (85%) are certified Audubon Cooperative or Signature Sanctuaries. These awards recognize the extraordinary environmental efforts and innovation of our members. Congratulations to all the chapter and merit winners, as well as the National Winners, which are:

- National Public and Overall Winner: Alan R. Andreasen, CGCS, Las Lajos Golf Course, San Jose, CA
- National Private: David J. Faucher, CGCS, TPC at River's Bend, Maineville, OH
- National Resort (tie): Anthony L. Williams, CGCS, Renaissance PineIsle Resort & Golf Club, Sugar Hill, GA; Troy E. Russell, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, Bandon, OR
- International: Ben J. Marshall, Club Pelican Golf Course, Golden Beach, Queensland, Australia

## Stewardship News

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Audubon International is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to fostering more sustainable human and natural communities through research, education, and conservation assistance. Programs seek to educate, assist, and inspire millions of people from all walks of life to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them. Funding is provided by memberships, donations, and program sponsorship. The ACSP Golf Program is sponsored by The United States Golf Association.

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