



Increase the Success of Your Nest Boxes

BY JEAN MACKAY

It is bird nesting season once again—a much anticipated time of year for many Audubon program members (and staff). Now is the time we get to see whether the bluebirds, swallows, wrens, wood ducks, and osprey we've been awaiting actually take up residence in the nest boxes and platforms we've carefully constructed for them.



In fact, putting up nest boxes for birds is among the most popular projects for Audubon program members. An estimated 75 percent of members have mounted nest boxes. Our yearly Nest Box Survey records upwards of 5,000 new birds fledged from just a small number of survey participants—so the actual number of birds fledged on member properties is likely closer to 100,000 each year.

There are a number of simple things you can do to attract birds to



The moment we long await—a clutch of beautiful eggs, followed by a successful hatching of five hungry bluebird chicks. Photos by Chris Pekarek, Village Links of Glen Ellyn, IL.

your nest boxes and ensure that they nest successfully. Try these tips and enjoy your success.

Location

If you want to attract bluebirds, locate your nest boxes in the open, on mowed turf greater than 10 feet away from any trees and greater than 100 feet from water. Swallows will readily take up residence in boxes placed closer to water, while wrens, chickadees, and nuthatches will seek out boxes placed closer to trees or woods.

Monitoring

Briefly open your nest boxes every week or two to monitor progress. It's fun to watch the nest take shape, see the eggs laid, and then observe the young as they grow. Monitoring enables you to record how many

young birds fledge successfully each year and share your good results with others.

Predator Guards

New research suggests that predator guards are highly effective in preventing mammals and snakes from preying on bird eggs and young. "If a box is worth erecting and monitoring, it's worth protecting," says Dr. Mark Stanback, Associate Professor of Biology at Davidson College in North Carolina. Stanback and his students studied tree mounted nest boxes on golf courses over several years. They discovered that raccoons, cats, and opossums were responsible for just over half of the 385 cases of predation they noted, while snakes were responsible for the remaining nest failures.

Continued on page 4

Dear Members and Supporters,

As I write this, spring has finally arrived in New York State. The first green shoots have popped through the earth and migratory birds are returning to our sanctuary and headquarters. Our staff is finally able to clean up downed branches and debris and prepare the sanctuary for visitor season.

This is always a great time of year to remember what it means to be a steward of the environment. In spring, it is easy to enjoy the beauty of new life around us. At the same time, the earth often needs a bit of tending after the long winter: there is trash on the side of the road that needs picking up; winter-eroded hillsides and shorelines that need to be mended; places where flowers, shrubs, or trees could add beauty; bird nests that need a bit of extra protection from disturbance.

Look around your home, work, and community and see what needs to be done. Then take an active role in lending a helping hand. Our programs are based on each of us doing our part to contribute to the greater good. Now is the perfect time to dig in!

Yours,



Kevin Fletcher, PhD
Director of Programs and Administration

In this issue...

- 5 **Getting Started on Stewardship:** Get great results from your nest boxes with a few simple tips for success. *Plus*—Take your conservation efforts to new heights by inviting in experts from your community.
- 6 **Audubon Partners for the Environment:** A unique mentoring program at Seaside Neighborhood School in Florida gets kids out of the classroom and into the field; while a bird feeding project at Trinity Nursery School and Kindergarten in Pennsylvania is turning youngsters into budding bird experts.
- 8 **Lyme Disease Update:** Brush up on how to protect yourself and those around you from Lyme Disease.
- 9 **Nature of Golf:** Ten golf courses in the Cook County Forest Preserve District in Illinois achieve a significant milestone, while helping the park district meet its goal to preserve and enhance biodiversity and preserve district lands in “as near a natural condition as possible.”
- 10 **On the Road for Stewardship:** Audubon International staff are tapped by the ministry of environment and planning in Portugal to share their expertise on sustainable golf course siting, design, and management.
- 11 **Membership News:** Welcome to our newest members and congratulations to recently certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries.

Take advantage of local experts to further your environmental efforts. Story page 5.



46 Rarick Road
Selkirk, New York 12158
(518) 767-9051
www.auduboninternational.org

You can reach our staff via e-mail by typing the person's *first initial, full last name @ auduboninternational.org*.
e.g., jmackay@auduboninternational.org

ADMINISTRATION

Ronald Dodson, President
R. Eric Dodson, Manager, Sustainable Communities Campaign
Kevin Fletcher, PhD, Director of Programs and Administration
Howard Jack, Vice President
Mary Jack, Executive Assistant to the President
Paula Realbuto, Executive Assistant for Operations

AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAMS

Jennifer Batza, Membership Coordinator
Peter Leuzinger, Great Lakes Field Office
Jeremy Taylor, Staff Ecologist
Shawn Williams, Staff Ecologist
Joellen Zeh, Program Manager

AUDUBON SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Nancy Richardson, Signature Program Director
Linda Snow, Administrative Assistant, Signature Program

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

Fred Realbuto, Director

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Jean Mackay, Director of Educational Services

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Sarah Anderson, Natural Resource Manager
Natalie Archambault, Project Administrator
Rich Henderson, Manager
Alicia Oller, Director of Technical Services
Charles Peacock, PhD, Senior Scientist
Miles (Bud) Smart, PhD, Director of Environmental Planning
Larry Woolbright, PhD, Director of Wildlife Conservation Services

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Peter Bronski, Coordinator



Adopting a school builds good community relations and offers students a chance to participate in conservation activities. (COZUMEL COUNTRY CLUB, MEXICO)

Audubon International Reaches Out to Chambers of Commerce

Audubon International has recently launched a Sustainable Business Initiative to promote more widespread adoption of environmental management practices among business owners and managers in the United States. Working in partnership with chambers of commerce, as well as other business associations, will help Audubon International spread the word about available management tools, education and certification programs, and on-site assistance to help businesses protect and sustain the natural environment.

“Chambers of commerce play a critical role in economic development, social networking, and community leadership,” says Kevin A. Fletcher, Director of Programs & Administration. “By working together, we can help them provide leadership on the environment as well.”

As a first step, chambers of commerce can take a pledge to promote environmental management among their business members. The pledge offers a show of support and provides impetus for further action.

To find out more about the *Sustainable Business Initiative* or to take the *Audubon Green Chamber & Association Pledge* please visit www.auduboninternational.org/initiatives/business-initiative.htm. ●

Selkirk Cogen Partners Donate to Center for Sustainability

On March 1, 2006, Selkirk Cogen Partners, an energy-efficient steam and electricity producer located in the Capital District of New York, made a \$20,000 contribution to The Audubon Society of NY (ASNY). The funds are earmarked to conduct feasibility studies and preliminary engineering for ASNY's new Center for Sustainability. The Center will be used as an environmental classroom and laboratory and as a demonstration center that showcases green building technologies. Audubon International extends great appreciation to Selkirk Cogen Partners for its very generous contribution. ●

Adopt-a-School for 2006/07

We are looking for golf courses, businesses, and other organizations to sponsor a school or youth organization in the Audubon Partners for the Environment Program for 2006/07. Adopting a school enables a school or youth organization of your choice to become an Audubon Partner for the Environment. The program helps kids learn about and improve the environment at school and in their own communities.

As Audubon Partners, schools and youth groups choose from a variety of environmental projects, based on their interests, curricula, resources, and time. Audubon International provides educational and project information, as well as staff support, while school partners agree to carry out at least one environmental improvement project each year and document their results. Awards and recognition are given to each school annually for completion of an environmental project.

As the adopter, you choose the level of involvement that you wish. There is no requirement that you bring students to your property.

- Cover the registration fee to help a school get involved;
- Offer assistance with a project taking place at the school; or
- Work together on a joint project at the school, in the community, or on your property.

This is an excellent time to contact a school near you, as schools are planning for the 2006/07 school year. To find out more, contact Jean Mackay at (518) 767-9051, extension 13, or e-mail jmackay@auduboninternational.org. ●

Increase the Success of Your Nest Boxes Continued from page 1

Stanback and his students also compared nesting success in boxes mounted on poles provided with stovepipe-style predator guards versus those mounted on trees. Nests in tree boxes suffered a 28 percent predation rate. Those with predator guards suffered only a two percent predation rate.

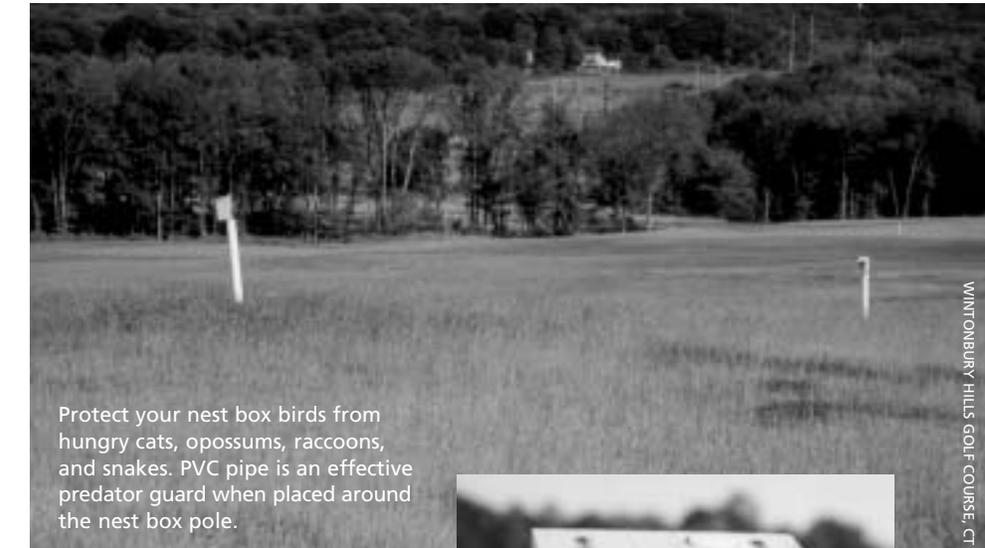
Predator guards can be purchased commercially or built at home or in the shop. Plans are available at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/bird-house/basics/nestboxplans.htm>.

Yearly clean out

Remove old nests once the young have fledged. Since the box is used as a cradle, rather than a house, the young birds don't need it once they are old enough to fly. An old paint scraper is a useful tool for lifting out the used nest. Cleaning out the box will prevent a build up of mites and other parasites that prey on birds.



Building nest boxes presents a fun opportunity to reach out to local schools or community groups. Superintendent Mike Ferdinandi of the City of Vancouver's Fraserview Golf Course in British Columbia works with the Sunset Community Center's Eco-mentor Program. The golf course supplies materials for various projects, including nest box construction.



Protect your nest box birds from hungry cats, opossums, raccoons, and snakes. PVC pipe is an effective predator guard when placed around the nest box pole.

WINTONBURY HILLS GOLF COURSE, CT

Send us your results!

Audubon International's yearly Nest Box Survey gathers information on the characteristics of successful boxes and tracks the contribution of our members to songbird populations. To participate, monitor your nest boxes and record your results. Identify the species of bird that use each box, count the number of eggs laid, and record how many young are born. A survey form is available at www.auduboninternational.org/projects/nestbox/. ●



ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF CLUB, VA

Here's a great idea for checking what's happening inside your nest boxes: use a small cosmetic or dental mirror.

Improve your record keeping by clearly numbering each box. Sam Fried, member and ACSP coordinator at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT, partners with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to monitor the course's nest box trail and contribute data to the state's Bluebird Restoration Program.

Reaching Out Yields Big Rewards

BY SCOTT WITTE, CGCS

As Audubon International program members, we sometimes have the opportunity to harness the abilities of others, and help support their passions. Over the years, I have learned that there are a tremendous variety of experts and enthusiasts right in my own backyard. Sometimes just a little reaching out can pay back big rewards!

Let me share a story about my new friend, Ray Feld.

Late in the summer of 2004, I walked into the office to check my voice mail. After sifting through a few messages, I finally got to a one from Ray, the “purple martin enthusiast.” Now *that* caught my attention. After returning Ray’s call, I was intrigued by the fact that he thought Cantigny Golf Course had ideal habitat for purple martins. *Imagine that.*

Ray sweet talked me into purchasing a new martin motel, which I installed in accordance with his strict specifications. Then I waited...and waited...and waited.

As it turns out, we were only *advertising* for the *next year’s* martins. This, I learned, is because martins tend to scout for suitable habitat during the fall, as they prepare for their long southerly migration. So Ray plugged all the entrance holes in the motel just before winter, and he cranked the motel to the down position (four feet off the ground) and left it for the winter.

“If you build it...”

Spring came around and I had to endure snide remarks, like “What have you got in there, mosquitoes?” I had to explain that Ray said the martins might not come until late May or early June, if they came at all. As the spring progressed, Ray made some design modifications to the motel and decided it was time to crank it up and hope for the best.

Before long, we had sparrows and tree swallows attempting to move in this highly coveted piece of real estate. But if other birds colonized



Ray Feld keeps a watchful eye on Cantigny’s purple martin colony.

the motel prior to the martin’s arrival, the martins would never move in. Ray responded quickly by cranking the motel down and plugging the entrance holes. He then installed two small single bird houses within 15 feet of the motel to encourage the tree swallows to nest there instead. Ray also set a number of sparrow traps to keep the sparrows from overrunning the motel. (Sparrows are an extremely aggressive and invasive non-native bird species that have contributed to the decimation of native song bird populations.)

Low and behold, the tree swallows immediately moved into one of the small adjacent houses, and the pressure from nearby sparrows subsided. Ray then cranked up the motel and opened up some of the nesting compartments for the martins. Not too long after that, I got a call on my cell phone from Ray. *We had our first pair of martins!* This pair nested successfully in the summer of 2005, and raised one little martin. Since then, we have seen many more martin visitors that we hope will come back to join our first pair in 2006.

Be receptive

The whole point of my purple martin story and my friend Ray Feld is that I have been enriched by reaching out and welcoming Ray to Cantigny. Ray is an incredible wealth of bird knowledge, and a tremendous part of our Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary team. Not to mention the fact that he’s just an all around nice guy.

As Audubon program members, we are armed with good intentions and many skills, but often limited by a lack of time to devote to a project like this. In this case, I felt like all I had to do was empower a passionate man, and he ran with it. The trick is to be receptive and responsive to those around you that want to help.

Prior to last summer, I didn’t even know what a purple martin looked like. Now, I can hear their song a hundred yards away, and know they are there. That’s the reward. Thanks to Ray. Keep ’em flying! ●

Scott Witte, CGCS, is superintendent at Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary since 1993.

Students Learn Life Skills Through Mentoring Program

BY NANCY RICHARDSON



Students explore various career choices through Seaside Neighborhood School's community/mentoring program. Here, they sample water quality while visiting Camp Creek Golf Course.



While many students sit inside on this sunny afternoon in Florida, middle school students from Seaside Neighborhood School energetically wade into the shallow waters of a lake at Camp Creek Golf Course. Net in tow, their afternoon assignment is to sample fish and other vertebrates living in the lake and assess the quality of the water. This outdoor classroom experience is part of the school's community/mentoring program, which gives students the opportunity to explore career possibilities and to build relationships with local professionals.

"Too often, students are not exposed to career choices until they have to declare a major in college or choose training in a technical field," says Cathy Brubaker, Mentoring Program Coordinator for Seaside Neighborhood School, located west of Panama City on Florida's panhandle. "Here at Seaside, we try to expose students to choices at an earlier age, so that when it comes time for them to make a decision they will have a broader base from which to choose."

The mentoring program fits perfectly with the school's involvement

in the Audubon Partners for the Environment Program. Students not only learn about the environment locally, they take an active role in improving it.

The school participates in both Audubon Partners and mentoring projects at Camp Creek Golf Course compliments of Superintendent Larry Livingston, CGCS, whose daughters attend Seaside. Livingston began inviting Seaside students to the golf course four years ago, and has since honed the lessons he offers.

Learning to be Stewards

"The first mentoring classes at Camp Creek focused on the environmentally-sensitive maintenance techniques at the golf course and included opportunities to learn about and use maintenance equipment," says Livingston. "But I soon learned that these students were interested in more than just management of a golf course. I saw the opportunity to help them become stewards of the environment."

Livingston is in a good position to share his expertise in both golf course maintenance and environmental

stewardship. He spearheaded his course's involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, earning certification in 2004, and is currently working toward Audubon Signature Certification for a new golf course, WaterSound North-Walker Course.

"What they learn at Camp Creek can be passed along to their parents, who can incorporate things learned into their home environment," continues Livingston. "For example, many people use fertilizer on their lawns with no idea of how excessive applications can impact water quality. Students at Camp Creek learn how important good water quality is and how they can conserve and protect water in their own backyards."

And what do Seaside Neighborhood students think about Camp Creek? Here is part of an essay by a student that reveals how rewarding the experience has been: *"Camp Creek Golf Course has been my exploration for only one semester, but it interests me more than any other exploration that I have done at Seaside Neighborhood School. The other students and I learned how the course is maintained and improved every day by the Camp Creek staff... We learned how Camp Creek strives to reduce the use of harmful chemicals around the course and clubhouse to provide food and shelter for animals. We also examined the soil and wildlife. Camp Creek has been a wonderful experience for me and has taught me so much in such a short time."* ●

Bird Feeding Project is a Perfect Fit for Kindergarten Students

BY HEIDI MARK



Audubon Partner for the Environment, Trinity Country Nursery School and Kindergarten students proudly display their artwork and bird bulletin board.

Last September, I introduced a small plastic feeder, a bird watchers guide book, and a small container of sunflower seed to my kindergarten class. They were more excited than I imagined they would be. Each child added one cup of seed to the feeder and we hung it on a small maple tree just outside our room. The children watched diligently as we waited for our first birds to come.

Finally, in December, our first birds arrived: purple finches, mourning doves, cardinals, woodpeckers, chickadees, and sparrows. We wrote down each new arrival and researched the birds using our bird guide. My kindergarteners are always thrilled to see any birds and to find a new bird is so exciting. The kids continually run to one of our bird books to check on the type and its characteristics.

Our bird feeding area has really grown over the course of the year. I asked for donations of feeders from parents and was happily supplied with many new feeders and seed. We now have two tube feeders, two

suet feeders, and five other hanging feeders! In the next few weeks, we'll add a bird bath and a hummingbird feeder.

It cost us less than \$10 to start this project and parents have continued to donate seed. It has been worth every cent! My students know more about birds than most teachers in the school!

Our feeders have fueled a number of engaging learning activities. For example, we copied our bird feeder tree on our bulletin board and the children made and labeled birds to mimic all the birds that we had seen. We tested various types of seed and discovered our bird's favorite: sunflower seeds. Now, as spring unfolds, we are talking about the color changes about to happen as the goldfinches get their summer yellow back.

I've been really pleased with this project and what the students have learned. Our Audubon Partners Award is hanging in our room and the kids are really proud of what they have accomplished. ●

Attention Audubon Partners for the Environment: Project Report Forms Due This Spring!

Please remember to send us your Project Report Form this spring to tell us about what you have done this year. You can send it at any time, once your project has been implemented. Once we receive it, we will send your school (or class) an Audubon Partner Award certificate to recognize your efforts.

The Project Report Form is really important to us! First, it is how we learn about all the wonderful projects taking place at schools across the country, and it's how we recognize your efforts. We also use the Project Reports to generate stories and case studies to share with all of our members and inspire continued participation. Finally, the reports help us to gauge the overall success of the program. Please send us your Project Report before the end of the school year!

Heidi Mark teaches kindergarten at Trinity Country Nursery School and Kindergarten in Fairview Village, Pennsylvania.

Lyme Disease Update

BY FRED REALBUTO

It is getting to be that time of year when Lyme disease rears its ugly head, particularly in the Northeast. Since many of us spend quite a bit of time working outdoors, it's wise to bone up on this nasty malady. The more you know—about what it is, what to look for, what to avoid, and what to do if you think you have it—the better you can protect yourself and others from getting it. Here is the latest information compiled from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which normally lives in mice, squirrels, and other small animals. It is transmitted to humans primarily by the bite of the tiny deer tick. Although deer do not become infected, they are important in transporting ticks and maintaining tick populations.

Is Lyme disease prevalent throughout the United States?

No. Although the disease has been reported in almost every state, it is far more prevalent in the Northeast and in the northern Midwest, specifically Michigan and Illinois.

When am I most likely to be exposed to Lyme disease?

More new cases of Lyme disease are reported in June and July than the rest of the year combined.

Can my pets get Lyme disease?

Yes, they can and they should be protected. They can also be carriers of infected ticks. They cannot, however, pass the disease directly on to you.



How can I avoid getting Lyme disease?

The best prevention is to reduce your exposure to ticks and be vigilant about checking yourself after being in and around woods, brushy areas, meadows, and even lawns. Ticks commonly hide in shady, moist leaf litter, on taller vegetation, and on old stone walls, especially near the edge of woodlands where white-footed mice and deer (the tick's primary hosts) are common.

- Wear light-colored clothing to spot ticks easily. Tuck pant legs into your socks when working in high risk areas.
- Always do a full body “tick check” when leaving high-risk areas and at the end of the day.
- Stay on cleared, well-traveled trails.
- If you find a tick, remove it using a pair of tweezers. Grasp the head or mouthparts where they enter the skin, rather than the body, to pull the tick out.
- Seek treatment early if you believe you've been exposed. The majority of early Lyme disease cases are treated and cured successfully.

Helpful Web Sites:

American Lyme Disease Foundation, Inc.: www.aldf.com
 Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/
 Lyme Disease Association: www.lymediseaseassociation.org

How I know if I have Lyme disease?

Fever, headache, and skin rash are all typical symptoms of the disease. According to the CDC, almost 70 percent of Lyme disease patients exhibited a characteristic skin rash called *erythema migrans*. It is a circular rash that occurs between three and 30 days after the bite of the tick, at the site of the bite.

If the disease is left untreated, several other symptoms begin to exhibit themselves. These may include loss of muscle tone on one or both sides of the face, severe headaches, shooting pains that interfere with sleep, and joint pain. Often these symptoms will go away without any treatment at all. However, after several months many patients will

begin to suffer from arthritis and severe joint pain and swelling. Migraine headaches may also be present, as well as problems with concentration and short-term memory.

Is there help?

Fortunately, yes. In most cases, antibiotics administered for two to three weeks after diagnosis are effective in combating the disease. Early detection and treatment will most often stop the symptoms. The bad news is that a small percentage of patients with symptoms may continue to fight the disease for months or even years after treatment with antibiotics. There is no known medical reason why patients continue to exhibit symptoms. ●

Greening Golfers

Golfer surveys confirm that being outdoors in nature is an important aspect of playing golf. Yet golfers may not realize that some of the demands they make for perfect conditions or fast greens undermine the very *nature* of the game.

In fact, golfers play a critical role in just how *green* their courses are. Demands for perfect conditions and fast greens, for example, often drive the need for increased chemical use to keep golf course greens alive under stressed conditions and exceedingly low mowing regimes. Likewise, preserving natural areas for wildlife and native plants on golf courses depends on support from golfers.

Recently, the PGA of America, United States Golf Association (USGA), and Audubon International joined forces to foster environmental awareness and action in cooperation with golfers and the golf industry. Under the banner of The Golf and the Environment Initiative, we are encouraging golfers to learn more about golf's environmental issues and opportunities and take action. Golfers can lend their support by pledging to protect the environment as they play the game. The Audubon GreenGolfer Pledge is available online or in a downloadable PDF version at www.golfandenvironment.org. ●

The Golf and Environment Initiative is funded, in part, through generous donations from businesses and organizations that have joined Audubon International's Conservation Country Club.

Forest Preserve District Golf Courses Achieve Significant Milestone

Golfers in the greater Chicago area have reason to celebrate this spring as all ten golf courses within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPD), Illinois, recently achieved Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Certification. That represents 1,764 acres of land that are managed for recreation and wildlife habitat within the 67,000-acre park system. The courses are managed by Billy Casper Golf, a company that specializes in golf course management, marketing, and consulting services for public and private golf courses.

"We are very pleased that our golf courses have achieved this stellar designation," says Vito Benigno, Superintendent of Permits and Recreation for the FPD. "We applaud our Billy Casper Golf and Forest Preserve Golf teams for collaborating on this important conservation initiative."

The criteria adopted by Billy Casper Golf to complete Audubon certification include: reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, increasing naturalized areas to minimize main-

tenance costs and enhance habitats for plants and animals, as well as working with community groups and volunteers, such as a number of local Boy Scout troops, to conduct bird, mammal, and ornamental plant inventories at each facility. To maintain the Audubon International designations, each FPD course will have scheduled site visits from local naturalists, as well as certify ongoing stewardship practices.

"The Forest Preserve District's courses are an important part of the fabric of the community, adding to the quality of life for millions of local residents," says Billy Casper Golf Regional Vice-President Bill Rehanek. "Working with Audubon International to certify our ecologically-conscious maintenance practices and to promote the intersection of golf and the environment is a wonderful opportunity for Forest Preserve Golf."

Congratulations to the golf course staff at the Forest Preserve District and Billy Casper Golf for their hard work and dedication! ●

Congratulations!

- Chick Evans Golf Course, Jason Wolf
- George W. Dunne National Golf Course, Jeremy Turton
- Billy Caldwell Golf Course and Edgebrook Golf Course, Jim Bennett
- Burnham Woods Golf Course and River Oaks Golf Course, Doug Weiss, Bob McCallum
- Highland Woods Golf Course, Roger McDuffa
- Indian Boundary Golf Course, Jesse Seguin
- Joe Louis "The Champ" Golf Course, Jerry Cotton
- Meadowlark Golf Course, Kim Bartlett
- Bryan Bielecki, Vice President and Director of Agronomy, Billy Casper Golf

EDGEBROOK GOLF COURSE



Lisbon, Portugal

BY RONALD DODSON

Oitavos Golf Clube, an Audubon International Gold Signature Certified Sanctuary, is located near Lisbon in the coastal community of Cascais, Portugal. The course has garnered much positive attention as an outstanding example of environmentally sensitive golf course development and management. Because of our involvement in Oitavos and other sustainable development projects around the world, we were recently invited to participate in a day-long seminar in Lisbon, Portugal, co-hosted by the ministries of environment and tourism.

"The design and management of golf courses in connection to the concepts of sustainability and natural resource management are important issues in Portugal due to the pressure of water resources and the need to balance social, economic, and tourism concerns with the interest of creating new golf courses and opportunities for development," wrote Maria da Graca Saraiva, Advisor to the Minister for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development of Portugal, in her invitation.

Seminar Prompts Information Exchange

The seminar focused on some of the major issues facing golf in Portugal, and, as might be expected, those topics included water use, pollution from the misuse of chemical products, loss of wildlife habitat, energy efficiency, and waste management. Representatives of various governmental agencies, from the federal level to the regional level, attended. Presentations were made by representatives of permitting agencies, universities, and three certification organizations, including Audubon International and a representative of the International Standards Organization. It was a



Despite rainy skies, a number of seminar participants toured Oitavos Golf Clube in Portugal to learn more about Audubon Gold Signature standards for golf course siting, design, and long-term management.

great exchange of information and interesting to hear from both scientists and public policy makers.

Dr. Miles (Bud) Smart, director of Audubon International's Environmental Planning Department, and I, along with Susana Morias, Audubon International's Portugal representative presented during the day-long seminar and also led 15 seminar participants on a tour of Oitavos Golf Clube the following day. The tour gave participants a valuable opportunity to see some of the innovative land management practices that earned Oitavos the Gold Signature designation.

Tour participants were especially interested in the long-term management and monitoring issues associated with Oitavos, and paid particular attention to the golf course maintenance facility. The maintenance facility is not only a state-of-the-art operation, but the main building is actually a former duck processing factory that has been "recycled" into the golf course Natural Resource Management Center.

Golf's Future Depends on Industry Action

It was generally recognized that golf can, and does, play a very important

economic role in many areas of Portugal. However, golf management and development also compete with the needs of others. Therefore, it is critically important to establish a united effort to guide the management of existing golf courses on a country-wide basis, as well as to develop a unified plan of action for the design and management of new golf courses. The future of golf in Portugal rests on the golf course industry's commitment to being a leader in adopting and implementing best management practices in regard to golf course siting, design, and management. If golf embraces environmental stewardship and sustainability, its future looks bright. If it fails to take this positive action, golf courses will find continued existence in an increasingly competitive environment more and more difficult.

Audubon International and its representative in Portugal, Susana Morias, will continue to work with the Ministry in an effort to forge such a plan of action. We were honored to be invited to participate in the seminar and field trip, and we look forward to a long and productive partnership with those who care about golf and the environment in Portugal. ●

AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAMS

This list includes membership activity from January 24, through March 31, 2006.

NEW MEMBERS

Golf Program

International

Ambassador Golf Club, Windsor, Canada
 Craik & District Golf Club, Craik, Canada
 Links at Crowbush Cove Golf Course, Morell, Canada
 Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club, Carmona, Cavite, Philippines
 Stuttgart Golf Club, Kornwestheim, Stuttgart, Germany

Arizona

The Estancia Club, Scottsdale
 Rio Verde Country Club, Rio Verde

California

Buenaventura Golf, Ventura
 CrossCreek Golf Club, Temecula
 Dublin Ranch Golf Course, Dublin
 Eagle Ridge Golf Course, Gilroy
 Los Robles Greens Golf Course, Thousand Oaks
 Olivas Park Golf Course, Ventura
 Rolling Hills Country Club, Rolling Hills Estates
 Trinitas Golf Club, Valley Springs

Colorado

Broadlands Golf Course, Broomfield
 Sanctuary, Sedalia

Florida

The Ritz-Carlton Members Golf Club, Sarasota

Georgia

Cherokee Town and Country Club, Atlanta

Iowa

Talons of Tuscany, Ankeny

Illinois

Glen Club, Glenview
 Western Acres Golf Course, Lombard

Indiana

The Course at Aberdeen, Valparaiso

Massachusetts

Concord Country Club, Concord
 Pawtucket Country Club, Seekonk

Michigan

Drummond Island Resort, Drummond Island
 Oakland University Golf and Learning Center, Rochester

Missouri

Tower Tee Golf Center, Eureka

North Carolina

Mountain Top Golf & Lake Club, Cashiers
 The Reserve Club, Southport

New Hampshire

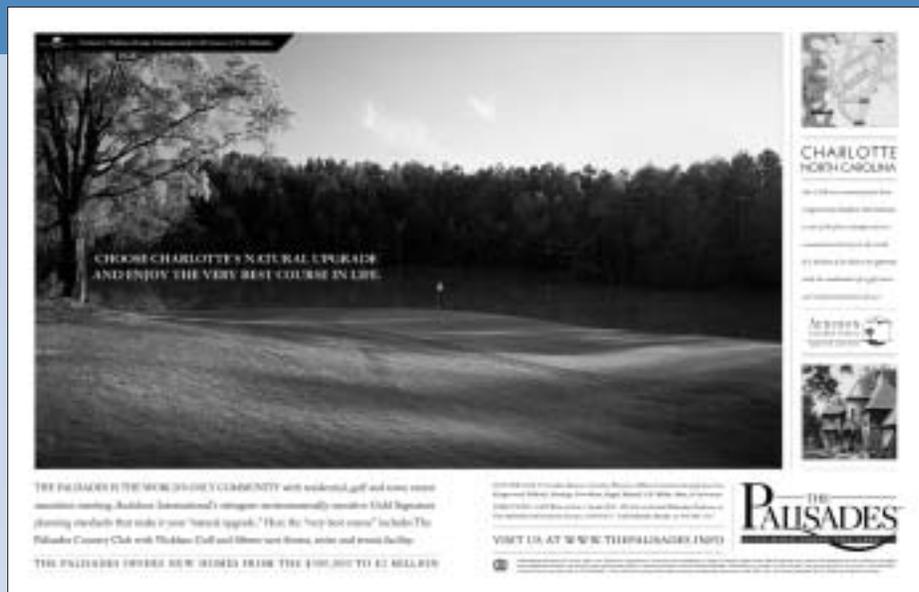
The Shattuck Golf Club, Jaffrey

New Jersey

McCullough Emerald Golf Links, Egg Harbor Township
 Westwood Golf Club, Woodbury

New Mexico

Angel Fire Resort Golf Course, Angel Fire



Congratulations! Rhein Interests, developer of The Palisades, a residential community located in Charlotte, North Carolina, and member of the Audubon Gold Signature Program, recently won several national and regional awards from the National Association of Homebuilders. The Palisades won awards for best campaign for a green-built community, best logo design, best overall advertising campaign, and best signage program. Rhein Interests supports the work of Audubon International and is following its specifications to develop The Palisades.

New York

Philip J. Rotella Memorial Golf Course, Thiells

Oregon

Astoria Country Club, Astoria
 Chinook Winds Golf Resort, Lincoln City

Pennsylvania

Lebanon Country Club, Lebanon
 Warminster's Five Ponds Golf Club, Warminster

Texas

Clear Creek Golf Course, Houston
 Deerwood Golf Club, Kingwood
 Hearthstone Country Club, Houston

Virginia

Herndon Centennial Golf Course, Herndon

Washington

The Plateau Club, Sammamish

Wisconsin

Oneida Golf & Riding Club, Green Bay

West Virginia

The Snead Course at the Greenbrier Sporting Club, White Sulphur Springs

Business Program

City of Fort Collins Parks "City Park" Community Park, Fort Collins, CO
 Lishakill Softball Complex, Niskayuna, NY

RECENTLY CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Algonquin Golf Course, St. Andrews By-The-Sea, Canada
 Bakery Feeds, Inc. (Honey Brook), Honey Brook, PA
 Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Canada
 Chick Evans Golf Course, Chicago, IL
 Cozumel Country Club, Cozumel, Q. Roo, Mexico
 Hobbits Glen Golf Course, Columbia, MD
 Kingsbrae Horticulture Garden, St. Andrews, Canada
 Maywood Estate, Bridgewater, CT

Palmer Course at Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV
 Pine Mountain Lake Golf Course, Groveland, CA
 Ritz-Carlton Golf Club & Spa—Jupiter, Jupiter, FL
 River Oaks Golf Course, Oak Forest, IL
 Shadow Wood Country Club, Bonita Springs, FL
 Shadow Wood Preserve, Ft. Myers, FL
 Somerby Golf Club, Byron, MN
 TPC at Craig Ranch, McKinney, TX
 Washtenaw Country Club, Ypsilanti, MI

RECERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Certified for 10 Years or more

Baker National Golf Course, Medina, MN
 Cantigny Golf Club, Wheaton, IL
 Egypt Valley Country Club, Ada, MI
 Links at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach, CA
 Loblolly Golf Club, Hobe Sound, FL
 Quail Run Golf Course, Lapine, OR
 Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club, Blaine, WA
 TPC at Piper Glen, Charlotte, NC
 TPC of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, AZ
 Village Links of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn, IL
 Woodhill Country Club, Wayzata, MN

Certified for Five Years or more

Amherst Country Club, Amherst, NH
 Aspen Glen Club, Carbondale, CO
 Ballyowen Golf Club, Hamburg, NJ
 Brickyard Crossing Golf Resort & Inn, Indianapolis, IN
 Broadmoor Golf Club—East and West Courses, Colorado Springs, CO
 Bryn Mawr Country Club, Lincolnwood, IL
 Chartwell Golf & Country Club, Severna Park, MD
 Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club, Clearwater, FL
 Everett Golf & Country Club, Everett, WA

Continued on page 12

AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAMS

Continued from page 11

Hassayampa Golf Club, Prescott, AZ
 IGM at The Habitat, Malabar, FL
 Interlachen Country Club, Winter Park, FL
 Itasca Country Club, Itasca, IL
 Kinston Country Club, Kinston, NC
 Reynolds Plantation—Great Waters Golf Course, Eatonton, GA
 Saucon Valley Country Club, Bethlehem, PA
 Somerset Hills Country Club, Bernardsville, NJ
 Widgi Creek Golf Club, Bend, OR

Certified for Two Years or More

Cheraw State Park Golf Course, Cheraw, SC
 Cherry Creek Golf Club, Greensburg, PA
 Classic Golf Club, Spanaway, WA
 The Currituck Club, Corolla, NC
 Deerfield Golf & Tennis Club, White Clay Creek State Park, Newark, DE
 Fraserview Golf Course, Vancouver, Canada
 Highwood Golf & Country Club, High River, Canada
 Markham Green Golf Club, Markham, Canada
 Mather Golf Course, Mather, CA
 Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, CA
 PGA of South California Golf Club, Beaumont, CA

Riverside Golf Course, Fresno, CA
 Sanctuary Golf Club, Sanibel Island, FL
 Smock Golf Course, Indianapolis, IN
 Spyglass Hill Golf Course, Pebble Beach, CA

NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM
Neighborhood for Nature Award
 Oldfield Community, Okatie, SC

AUDUBON PARTNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

NEW MEMBERS

Citrus Elementary School, Vero Beach, FL
 T.J. Connor Elementary, Scottsville, NY
 Trinity Country Nursery School and Kindergarten, Audubon, PA
 Upper Canada College, Toronto, ON, Canada

AUDUBON SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

NEW SIGNATURE MEMBERS

The Hasentree Club, Wake Forest, NC
 Ocala Springs, Ocala, FL
 The Villages of Sumter Phase IV, The Villages, FL

Stewardship News

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

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

Or sent via e-mail to:
jmackay@auduboninternational.org

Layout and Design: 2k Design, Clifton Park, NY

Printing: Benchmark Printing, Schenectady, NY

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.

The newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

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

Audubon International
 46 Rarick Road
 Selkirk, New York 12158
 Phone: (518) 767-9051
 Web Page: <http://www.auduboninternational.org>
 e-mail: acss@auduboninternational.org



AUDUBON
 INTERNATIONAL

Non Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 55
 Delmar, NY 12054